

These notes indicate the decisions taken at this meeting and the officers responsible for taking the agreed action. For background documentation please refer to the agenda and supporting papers available on the Council's web site ([www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk).)

If you have a query please contact Deborah Miller (Tel: 07920 084239; E-Mail: [deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk))

**COUNTY COUNCIL - TUESDAY, 7 NOVEMBER 2017**

<i>RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE AGENDA</i>	<i>DECISIONS</i>	<i>ACTION</i>
<p><b>1. Minutes</b></p> <p>To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2017 (<b>CC1</b>) and to receive information arising from them.</p>	<p>The Minutes of the Meeting were approved and signed subject to inserting the letter 'E' before Smith in Minute</p>	<p>CLO (A. Bartlett)</p>
<p><b>2. Apologies for Absence</b></p>	<p>Apologies for absence were received from councillors Dr Clarke, Griffiths, Lygo and Price.</p>	<p>CLO (A. Newman)</p>
<p><b>3. Declarations of Interest - see guidance note</b></p>	<p>There were none.</p>	
<p><b>4. Official Communications</b></p>	<p>The Chairman reported as follows:</p> <p>Council paid tribute to Former county councillors Mr Peter Jones and Janet Morgan and to the former Director of Social Services Ian White. Council observed a Minute's silence in their honour.</p> <p>Council congratulated the Director of Environment and Economy for receiving reports of outstanding service from a member of his Highways Team.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked the Council for their generous contributions to the Maggie's Centres Culture Crawl. £4 was raised for this worthy cause.</p> <p>The Chairman reminded members to let officers know whether they were able to attend her charity Dinner to be</p>	<p>All to note</p> <p>DEE</p> <p>All to note</p>

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	<p>held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2018.</p> <p>Council was encouraged to attend the member briefing following Council on the work of the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board and the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board.</p>	
<p><b>5. Appointments</b></p> <p>To make any changes to the membership of the Cabinet, scrutiny and other committees on the nomination of political groups.</p>	<p>There were none.</p>	
<p><b>6. Petitions and Public Address</b></p>	<p>Council received a Petition from Oxford Friends of the Earth requesting that the County Council</p>	<p>DEE (J. Larkcom)</p>
<p><b>7. Questions with Notice from Members of the Public</b></p>	<p>There were none.</p>	
<p><b>8. Questions with Notice from Members of the Council</b></p>	<p>27 questions with notice were asked. Details of the questions and answers and supplementary questions and answers (where asked) are set out in Annex 1 to the minutes.</p> <p>In relation to question 4 (Question to Councillor Hibbert-Biles from Councillor Howson) Councillor Hibbert-Biles gave an undertaking to provide Councillor Howson with an answer as to whether the issue of using Apprenticeship Levy money had been on the Teacher's Joint Sub-Committee Agenda and if it had not to get it put on the Agenda.</p> <p>In relation to question 5 (Question to Councillor Hibbert-Biles from Councillor Howson) Councillor Hibbert-Biles gave an undertaking to provide Councillor Howson with a</p>	<p>DCS (K. Mace)</p> <p>DCS (K. Mace)</p>

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	<p>written answer detailing whether the Council was on Track to meet the savings that were identified against this budget line across the whole of the Medium Term Financial Plan and if so whether or not the recent statutory guidance reissued by the department for Education in relation to 16–18 Education where the government is now saying that local authorities should pay more attention to the fact that the de facto leaving age has been raised to 18, that we should treat 16-18 year olds in the same way as those of statutory school age.</p> <p>In relation to question 8 (Question to Councillor Hibbert-Biles from Councillor Judy Roberts) Councillor Hibbert-Biles gave an undertaking to provide a written answer detailing how many of the 18 children that had come mid-term had accepted places and how long had these children that had arrived mid- year, how long had they been out of school before they accepted a place?</p> <p>In relation to question 8 (Question to Councillor Hudspeth from Councillor Webber) Councillor Hudspeth gave an undertaking to give consideration to stopping purchasing of papers for the member's group rooms.</p> <p>In relation to question 10 (Question to Councillor Constance from Councillor Roz Smith) Councillor Constance gave an undertaking to provide Councillor Roz Smith with a written answer detailing when the new distributor was appointed and what had happened in relation to notifying local residents.</p> <p>In relation to question 13 (Question to</p>	<p>DCS (K. Mace)</p> <p>Cllr Hudspeth</p> <p>DEE (J. Larkcom)</p> <p>DEE (J. Larkcom)</p>

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	<p>Councillor Lindsay-Gale from Councillor Buckley) Councillor Lindsay-Gale gave an undertaking to meet with Councillor Buckley to further discuss the lease and rent of Wolvercote Young People's Club.</p> <p>In relation to question 18 (Question to Councillor Constance from Councillor Johnson, Councillor Constance gave an undertaking to explore the idea of using the £48,000 spent on school travel in different way such as minibuses etc.</p> <p>In relation to question 27 (Question to Councillor Heathcoat from Councillor Bartington) Councillor Heathcoat gave an undertaking to investigate when the purchase of an AED would be actioned and respond to all members in writing.</p>	<p>DEE (J. Larkcom)</p> <p>Cllr Heathcoat</p>
<p><b>9. Report of the Cabinet</b></p> <p>Report of the Cabinet Meetings held on 19 September 2017 and 17 October 2017 (CC9).</p>	<p>Council received the report of the Cabinet.</p> <p>Councillor Brighthouse moved and Councillor Webber seconded that the Council Procedure Rules be suspended in relation to paragraph 1 of the Cabinet Report (Submission of Expression of Interest to the Housing Infrastructure Fund) so as to adjourn the meeting and to allow for a 'whole Council' discussion and question and answer session in relation to the prepared Statement from Cllr Ian Hudspeth relating to paragraph 1 and the broader issue of the Growth Deal.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council read out a statement in relation to the HIP, a copy of which is attached.</p> <p>The Motion was put to the vote and was Agreed nem con.</p>	

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	<p>In relation to paragraph 4 (Corporate Plan 2017/2021) (Question from Councillor Roz Smith to Councillor Heathcoat), Councillor Heathcoat undertook to provide Councillor Roz Smith with a written answer detailing the number of prospectus printed and the associated printing costs.</p> <p>In relation to paragraph 6 (The Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report/The Performance Audit and Quality Assurance Annual Report and the Case Review &amp; Governance Annual Report) (Question from Councillor Johnson to Councillor Harrod), Councillor Harrod undertook to provide Councillor Johnson with a written answer detailing the reason why 67% percent of children newly subject to child protection plans are as a result of neglect in Oxfordshire and why this is much higher than the national average of 45%?</p> <p>In relation to paragraph 7 (Queen Street Experimental TRO) (Question from Councillor Howson to Councillor Constance), Councillor Constance undertook to provide Councillor Howson with a written answer detailing whether the signage at the southern end of Queen Street was sufficient to warn all user that it was a shared space and whether there was any signage at the norther end to warn pedestrians that it was a shared space?</p> <p>In relation to paragraph (9) (2017/18 Financial Monitoring &amp; Business Strategy Delivery Report) (Question from Councillor Matthew to Councillor Bartholomew), Councillor Bartholomew undertook to provide Councillor Matthew with a written</p>	<p>Cllr Heathcoat</p> <p>DCS (K. Mace)</p> <p>DEE (J. Larkcom)</p> <p>DEE (J. Larkcom)</p>

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	<p>answer as to what the net proceeds were for all county council property/asset sales in the last 3 years and how that money had been utilised?</p> <p>In relation to paragraph 11) (Director of Public Health Annual Report 2016/17) (Question from Councillor Howson to Councillor Hibbert-Biles), Councillor Hibbert-Biles undertook to provide Councillor Howson with a written answer detailing why there was no mention of E-Bacc in the report?</p>	<p>DPH (V. Messenger)</p>
<p><b>10. Public Health Annual Report 2016/17</b></p> <p>Report by Strategic Director for People &amp; Director of Public Health (<b>CC10</b>).</p> <p>The annual report summarises key issues associated with the Public Health of the County. It uses science and fact to describe the health of Oxfordshire and to make recommendations for the future. It is an independent report for all organisations and individuals.</p> <p>The report covers the following areas:</p> <p>Chapter 1: The Demographic Challenge            Chapter 2: Building Healthy Communities            Chapter 3: Breaking the Cycle of Disadvantage            Chapter 4: Lifestyles and Preventing Disease Before it Starts            Chapter 5: Mental Health            Chapter 6: Fighting Killer Diseases</p> <p>The report has also been considered at the Oxfordshire Health Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee meeting on 14 September 2017 and Cabinet on 7 November 2017.</p> <p><b>Council is RECOMMENDED to receive</b></p>	<p>Recommendations Agreed nem con.</p>	<p>DPH</p>

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<i>the report and note its recommendations.</i>		
<p><b>11. Motion From Councillor Liz Brighouse</b></p> <p>“This Council notes that for most workers in local government and schools, pay and other terms and conditions are determined by the National Joint Council (NJC) for local government services.</p> <p>On average NJC basic pay has fallen by 21% in real terms since 2010. A three-year pay freeze from 2010-2012 and a 1% increase annually since leaves NJC pay as the lowest in the public sector. Differentials in pay grades are being squeezed and distorted by bottom-loaded NJC pay, settlements are needed to reflect the increased Statutory National Living Wage and rising inflation could worsen the current inequality.</p> <p>We therefore support the NJC pay claim for 2018, submitted by UNISON, GMB and Unite on behalf of council and school workers and call for the end of public sector pay restraint. NJC pay must not fall even further behind other parts of the public sector.</p> <p>Amid local government funding pressures we call on the Government to provide the additional resources to ensure local authorities can fund a decent pay rise for NJC employees and the pay spine review.</p> <p>Council resolves to ask the Leader of the Council to write:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to the LGA asking it to make urgent representations to Government to fund the NJC claim and the pay spine review; and</li> <li>• to the Prime Minister and Chancellor supporting the NJC pay claim and</li> </ul>	<p>The Motion was lost by 31 votes to 27.</p>	

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seeking the additional resources needed to fund a decent pay rise and the pay spine review;"		
<p><b>12. Motion From Councillor Kirsten Johnson</b></p> <p>“Oxfordshire’s growing population includes increasing numbers of both very young people and those of retirement age. Both groups are key users of public transport and especially buses. Public transport has proven environmental benefits in supporting the county’s move towards a low-carbon future.</p> <p>The Council calls on Cabinet to work towards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a set of principles whereby every resident has access to daily public transport. Not only would this help promote the development of communities, integrate society and allow both young and old to reside anywhere in the county, it would also be in line with the Local Transport Plan whereby “accessible bus connections will enable disabled people, the elderly and those unable to drive to travel more.”</li> <li>• creating a spider-web of bus networks within the county, with key hubs linking the strands. These hubs, serving the rural villages, would be intrinsic to connecting our towns and Oxford city. The buses would range in sizes, from minivans to full-scale buses, depending on demand.</li> </ul> <p>This Council instructs Cabinet to write to bus companies encouraging them to use</p>	<p>With the consent of Council, Councillor Johnson moved an alteration to her motion at the suggestion of Councillor Gray as shown below in bold italics/strikethrough:</p> <p>“Oxfordshire’s growing population includes increasing numbers of both very young people and those of retirement age. Both groups are key users of public transport and especially buses. Public transport has proven environmental benefits in supporting the county’s move towards a low-carbon future.</p> <p>The Council calls on Cabinet to work towards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a set of principles whereby every resident has access to daily public transport. Not only would this help promote the development of communities, integrate society and allow both young and old to reside anywhere in the county, it would also be in line with the Local Transport Plan whereby “accessible bus connections will enable disabled people, the elderly and those unable to drive to travel more.”</li> <li>• creating a spider-web of bus networks within the county, with key hubs linking the strands. These hubs, serving the rural villages, would be intrinsic to connecting our towns and Oxford city. The</li> </ul>	<p>DEE (J. Larkcom)</p>



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<p>fares from high-use runs to subsidise those of less use within the hub network. All bus services should be frequent and reliable. As franchises come to an end, tenders should be sought from companies to run inclusive networks, with profit from high-use routes subsidising low-use. Co-operative, mutual and social enterprise models should be encouraged in providing these services with new technological innovations, for example app-based hail-n-ride, can be part of the solution.”</p>	<p>buses would range in sizes, from minivans to full-scale buses, depending on demand.</p> <p>This Council <del>instructs</del> <i>asks</i> Cabinet to write to bus companies encouraging them to <del>use fares from high-use runs to subsidise those of less use within the</del> a hub network <del>in which</del> all bus services should be frequent and reliable. <del>As franchises come to an end, tenders should be sought from companies to run inclusive networks, with profit from high-use routes subsidising low-use.</del> <b><i>Differing operating models such as</i></b> Co-operative, mutual and social enterprise models should be encouraged in providing these services with new technological innovations, for example app-based hail-n-ride, can be part of the solution.”</p> <p>The Motion as amended was carried unanimously.</p>	
<p><b>13. Motion From Councillor John Sanders</b></p> <p>“This Council welcomes in principle the Government’s announcement that it intends to ban the production of diesel and petrol-driven cars by the year 2040 in order to reduce the effects of air pollution on public health. Recognising that, in the meanwhile, it is incumbent on all councils to play their part in reducing air pollution.</p> <p>This Council instructs the Cabinet to cooperate with all Oxfordshire’s district councils urgently to identify measures that will reduce such pollution. In particular, Council calls on Cabinet to propose a councillor-led inter-council Air Pollution Action Group to produce plans for zero-emission or low-emission zones in AQMAs</p>	<p>With the consent of Council, Councillor John Sanders moved an alteration to his motion at the suggestion of Councillor Johnston as shown below in bold italics/strikethrough:</p> <p>This Council welcomes in principle the Government’s announcement that it intends to ban the production of diesel and petrol-driven cars by the year 2040 in order to reduce the effects of air pollution on public health. Recognising that, in the meanwhile, it is incumbent on all councils to play their part in reducing air pollution.</p>	<p>DEE (J. Larkcom)</p>

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<p>and to restrict the access of polluting traffic in such areas.”</p>	<p>This Council instructs the Cabinet to co-operate with all Oxfordshire’s district councils urgently to identify <b>further</b> measures, <b>and build on those in the LTP4</b>, that will reduce such pollution. In particular, Council calls on Cabinet to propose a councillor-led inter-council Air Pollution Action Group to produce plans for zero-emission or low-emission zones in AQMAs and to restrict the access of polluting traffic in such areas.”</p> <p>Councillor Fatemian moved and Councillor Constance seconded the following amendment as shown in bold italics/strikethrough:</p> <p>“This Council welcomes in principle the Government’s announcement that it intends to ban the production of diesel and petrol-driven cars by the year 2040 in order to reduce the effects of air pollution on public health. Recognising that, in the meanwhile, it is incumbent on all councils to play their part in reducing air pollution.</p> <p>This Council <del>instructs</del> <b>asks</b> the Cabinet to co-operate with all Oxfordshire’s district councils urgently to identify measures that will reduce such pollution. In particular, Council calls on Cabinet to <del>propose</del> <b>investigate how</b> a councillor-led inter-council Air Pollution Action Group <del>to</del> <b>could</b> produce plans for zero-emission or low-emission zones in AQMAs and to restrict the access of polluting traffic in such areas.”</p> <p>The amendment was lost by 28 votes to 27 (the Chairman having exercised her casting vote).</p> <p>The substantive Motion was agreed</p>	

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	unanimously.	
<p><b>14. Motion From Councillor Jamila Begum Azad</b></p> <p>"We all have right to be treated without discrimination. This Council is gravely concerned with reports of significant increase in racially motivated crimes in Oxford since the EU Referendum from an average of 16 per month to an average of 23 per month. This Council takes pride in Oxfordshire's diversity and Community cohesion and condemns all acts of racism, xenophobia and homophobia and anti-religious expressions against any religion. This Council is committed to work with all our partners to challenge prejudice.</p> <p>All Hate Crimes are wrong, but that which is motivated by hatred and prejudice because of race, faith, sexual orientation or Gender identity are particularly offensive. In Britain today we are from rich mix of race, culture, beliefs, attitudes and life styles. Tackling hate crimes matters because of the damage it causes to the victim and his/her family, also effectively tackling it can help foster strong and positive relations between different section of community and support community cohesion.</p> <p>The lead from tackling hate crimes must come from local level, with professionals, the voluntary sector and communities working together to deal with local issues.</p> <p>This Council asks the Leader of Oxfordshire County Council to write to the Prime Minister with a request for an independent review of hate crime penalties open to the courts, including measures to tackle online hatred and abuse."</p>	<p>The time being 4.30 pm, this motion was considered dropped in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.1</p>	
<p><b>15. Motion From Councillor Jenny Hannaby</b></p>		

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<p>“Council agrees that the intention of Universal Credit (UC) to make benefits less complicated and to allow those in low paid work to keep more of their wages is a good idea, but believes that the evidence demonstrates that the Universal Credit process is flawed and causing unnecessary hardship to local families.</p> <p>Council notes that UC was deliberately introduced on a slow rollout so that any issues could be seen and corrected before the benefit was introduced to all claimants.</p> <p>Council further notes that the evidence of this council and others across the country is that UC is causing huge increases in rent arrears and in general debt levels amongst claimants, many of whom have never been in debt before. In addition, evidence demonstrates that most private landlords and even some housing associations are refusing to accept tenants receiving UC, leading to an increase in those registering as homeless and seeking temporary accommodation.</p> <p>Council therefore resolves to call on the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, making these points, requesting that the Government addresses these issues, and that the roll-out is halted until all problems are fixed.”</p>	<p>The time being 4.30 pm, this motion was considered dropped in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.1</p>	
<p><b>16. Motion From Councillor Emily Smith</b></p> <p>“The Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB) Annual Report highlights a 21% increase in the number of children being educated at home. Many children being electively home educated thrive academically and socially in this setting, but others do not. This Council offers some information and support to families and children who are educated at home but</p>	<p>The time being 4.30 pm, this motion was considered dropped in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.1</p>	

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<p>contact with us is voluntary and take up is inconsistent.</p> <p>Professionals have limited opportunities to identify those children who are not receiving a satisfactory education and for safeguarding concerns to be identified. Parents can refuse access to the home and the child, which poses a safeguarding risk, especially in the case of vulnerable children.</p> <p>This Council calls on the Leader of the Council to write to government requesting local authorities be given greater powers to access and assess children who are home educated, to help ensure they are receiving a satisfactory education and are safe."</p>		

**ANNEX**

Since I became Leader of the Council in 2012, Oxfordshire's economy has been centre stage. Our global reputation, strategic location, and dynamic innovation economy have paid dividends.

Thanks to this, our recovery from the recession has been striking. Since 2009, Oxfordshire has grown more quickly than any other LEP area. Between 2009 and 2015 our economy grew by over 30% in cash terms, and has the third highest output per capita.

This growth brings benefits, and opportunities, but also challenges - congestion, rising house prices, shortages of appropriate sites for growing businesses, rising demand for public services such as education and health, and a strong desire to protect our natural environment.

Unfortunately, the growth and development was not matched by infrastructure funding something Oxfordshire has suffered from for many years under Governments of all political persuasions

Over recent years we have worked closely with local and national partners to get the best deal for Oxfordshire's residents and businesses from that growth. To support the growing communities across Oxfordshire, and ensure growth works for them.

Whether skills for jobs, planning for new homes, transport between home and work, or wider infrastructure needs, we have pushed hard for government to invest in Oxfordshire's success, and recognise the significant contribution our area makes to the UK as a whole.

I am pleased that this was recognised in 2013 with the Oxfordshire City Deal, and has been taken forward through success in the Growth Fund.

The Deals did bring additional funds to Oxfordshire but not sufficient for the large-scale projects we need to continue to grow.

This summer prior to the holidays Government announced we had the opportunity to bid for funds that would deliver significant infrastructure.

At this point I would like to thank the team that worked throughout the summer to produce the Growth proposal and HIF. They were led by Peter Clark, Bev Hindle, Maggie Scott, Susan Halliwell, Robin Rogers backed up by a team that provided the information so we could put in the bids

We have been working extremely closely with our partners at the City, Districts and LEP on Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy which identifies the infrastructure required to have sustainable growth and development in Oxfordshire. It shows how much can be achieved when we are more joined up in our thinking and working together. This document was invaluable in providing the base information for our bids

In reaching a proposed deal we have some very clearly stated priorities. We need to:

- Secure the critical investment in physical and community infrastructure that residents and businesses want
- Ensure growth is sustainable and enhances quality of life
- Make sure the right types of housing are built and in the right locations.
- Keep a firm focus on productivity and skills - we want economic growth through being better and smarter, not just more of the same.
- Take a long term strategic view so that individuals, communities, businesses and Government can engage in honest conversations and be confident about decisions taken

Therefore, we are asking for:

- Committed funding for infrastructure investment
- Financial and planning freedoms to maximise the impact of development and to reinvest more of the proceeds of growth locally
- New relationships with key Government partners such as the Homes and Communities Agency
- Support for business investment and skills
- Recognition by Government in the need for a long-term pipeline of investment

The County Council then had the opportunity to bid for the Housing Infrastructure Fund.

After careful consideration, we developed 3 bids:

North of Oxford – This bid would support the delivery of 5,570 homes in Woodstock, Begbroke/Yarnton and Northern Gateway. The bid would be for £152m for transport infrastructure plus education requirements (as yet un-costed). The transport infrastructure includes development of Rapid Transit lines on an upgraded A44 and A4260 corridors, new Park & Ride and strategic cycle infrastructure.

West Oxfordshire – This bid would support the delivery of over 10,000 homes in Witney & Carterton, and around Eynsham. The bid would be for £135.4m for further

upgrades to the strategic A40 transport corridor, building on existing schemes and based on the approved A40 Long Term Strategy including development of the Rapid Transit network and additional highway capacity on the corridor.

Didcot Garden Town – The bid would support the delivery of over 22,000 homes in Didcot, Culham, Harwell and Berinsfield. The bid would be for £171m for transport improvements including Didcot Science Bridge and A4130 Dualling, a new River Crossing at Culham and Clifton Hampden Bypass. Up to £70m of cycle and other sustainable transport improvements from the Garden Town Masterplan could be considered for inclusion in the bid plan.

The government were clear that we had to prioritise the bids on which would be the best to deliver the growth on their criteria.

First priority: Didcot Garden Town

Second priority: West Oxfordshire

Third priority: North of Oxford

Today I am optimistic that we are on the brink of something more comprehensive, through an Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal - looking at our immediate needs, but also into the long term, making growth sustainable, and opportunities real, for the next generation.

The National Infrastructure Strategy, and the work of the NIC, recognises that in addition to an Industrial Strategy for the country, local areas will need robust plans.

In that context, Government invited Oxfordshire's local partners to put forward ambitious proposals around infrastructure, growth, and housing, and we rise to the challenge.

In putting forward our proposals we prioritise local infrastructure needs, sustainability and quality of life, appropriate housing development, productivity and skills, and long-term thinking.

Our ask of government is a commitment to future infrastructure funding now and in the long term, local financial and planning freedoms, a strong relationship with key government partners, and support for business innovation and skills.

In exchange, government will expect to see a commitment to delivery - of a joint spatial plan, a shared transport vision, strong governance arrangements, and strategic leadership across the Oxford-Cambridge corridor.

This would be good news for our residents - broader and better job opportunities, more affordable housing, and the right infrastructure to tackle congestion and improve their quality of life.

It would be good news for businesses too, unlocking new connections across the Oxford-Cambridge corridor, and supporting them to recruit the right people with the right skills, breaking down transport, housing, and accommodation barriers.

We also need to use this deal to boost productivity, which has grown less quickly than the economy overall, through research, innovation, aligning business needs with local education and skills, and building a thriving, resilient, local economy.

We no longer face a choice between accepting growth, or turning it away.

We face a choice between well-planned growth which delivers better outcomes, or unplanned and chaotic growth which overwhelms our infrastructure, damages our communities, and doesn't pay its way in meeting Oxfordshire's wider needs.

I think the choice is clear, and I am optimistic that we have local agreement, and are close to securing government buy-in. I look forward to being able to share more detail in the near future.

I welcome this opportunity to share details with council today and will take into account all of the comments and discussion points raised today in future meetings.

I remind council that before any deal is formally agreed then it will to pass through the democratic processes of all councils.

**Cllr Ian Hudspeth**

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