

QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

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	Answers
<p>1. COUNCILLOR SIMON HOARE</p> <p>To ask the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Business & Customer Services if he will outline what, if any, plans he has to rationalise the County Council's property holdings as a means of helping to deliver financial savings and the Medium Term Financial Plan.</p>	<p>COUCILLOR NICK CARTER, CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS & CUSTOMER SERVICES</p> <p>The County Councils Medium Term Financial Plan includes savings generated as a result of its asset rationalisation programme. The Asset Rationalisation Programme takes advantage of the termination of a number of existing leases to reduce the size of our property portfolio, predominantly offices. Approximately £180,000 was saved in 2011/12 and a further £599,000 in 12/13. The MTFP expects to deliver £2.2m of savings through the Asset Rationalisation Programme.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Could I thank Councillor Carter for his reply. I just wondered if he is in a position to say anything at all about the situation and the status of the buildings which were highlighted in terms of optimisation for our property portfolio and raising capital as we move forward.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I cannot say anything definite about particular buildings although I would say that nothing will be ruled out or as we proceed with various options to shrink our costs and make things more efficient. If that means that there is a viable, sensible plan to vacate and move to another place that is more logical or efficient as a future home then we will obviously look. You can rest assured Chairman, and the Council can rest assured that this particular line of thinking has been developed from time to time over previous years and over previous administrations and it has never stacked up properly, however that is not to say that it should not be looked at afresh maybe with different pairs of eyes and with different criteria involved and that will be the case but there is no definite thinking as yet.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p data-bbox="203 212 842 240">2. COUNCILLOR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW</p> <p data-bbox="203 320 857 387">Could the Cabinet Member please give an update on the Reading Scheme?</p>	<p data-bbox="887 212 2045 279">COUNCILLOR MELINDA TILLEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES</p> <p data-bbox="887 320 2045 467">The Oxfordshire Reading Scheme is now approaching the end of its first year. The programme has been divided into a number of ‘waves’ with 45 schools participating in Wave 1 and 11 schools signed up so far in Wave 2 and who are now being trained. Schools who are interested can still apply.</p> <p data-bbox="887 507 2045 834">Children taking part in the programme were assessed at the start of the programme and data is now coming in from schools as the outcomes are measured for those who have finished. Early indications show an average reading age gain of 13.3 months after only four months on the programme: higher than the original trials suggested. The programme not only improves children’s reading but is also having a very positive impact, in terms of improving their writing, comprehension, engagement with others in the classroom and ability to make confident choices for themselves. Children now consider themselves readers and are developing their love of reading.</p> <p data-bbox="887 874 2045 978">Complementing the Reading Programme is the volunteering strand which started in schools after Easter. We now have 90 trained volunteers (30 obtained through the Oxford Mail Recruitment Campaign from 100 applicants).</p> <p data-bbox="887 1018 2045 1417">The National Literacy Trust (NLT) has trained volunteer co-ordinators in schools to train and support the volunteers. Each volunteer is trained to work with and support a child through one to one reading sessions, twice a week, to help foster a love of books and of reading. Volunteers read with and discuss books with the child over a 10 week programme, designed by the NLT and our own Library Service, where fiction, non-fiction and poetry are included. The volunteer reading programme has been actively supported by the Library Service, helping with resources, planning and ideas and thanks need to go to them for their continued support. Children are counting the days until their next reading session and one child is determined to use the words ‘hazardous’ and ‘juddering’ in his next written story.</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>The public facing campaign, fully supported by the Oxford Mail continues to run exciting events and competitions. One volunteer remarked on how her child has really come out of her shell in just four weeks, partly due to discovering Mo Willems' picture book Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!, now requested at every session. The US author recently ran a session at the Oxford Story Museum, which 100 children from three schools taking part in the reading campaign attended. The event was jointly run by the Story Museum and the National Literacy Trust.</p> <p>More events are planned over the summer. For example, parent training sessions are taking place at the Oxford Central Library in June, there is a Phillip Pullman competition and a series of celebratory events at fire stations around the county are planned where parents, children and volunteers can come together.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>I would like to thank the Cabinet Member for her comprehensive response and follow it up by asking if the Cabinet Member has any further plans regarding literacy and numeracy in the County?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>All indications are that the reading scheme is more of a success than I ever thought possible after two years. At one school I was in recently, the teacher told me that her children have improved seventeen months in ten weeks and that all her KS1's were now readers. I have also managed to secure quite a large sum of money from Schools Forum to deliver a numeracy campaign so that is my next move. We are coming with numeracy next and hopefully when the tenders come back we will be able to select someone who can do a really good job so I am really quite pleased with that. And just to give you forewarning after that I would like to do science.</p>
<p>3. COUNCILLOR JOHN SANDERS</p> <p>How much in total on average, including management fees, does it cost to fill a pot hole?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The cost of a standard defect/pothole remains the same across all the road network maintained by Oxfordshire County Council. There is a standard payment value for each defect. The set rate for a standard pothole up to 1m2 £61.39.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>Does the cost of filling a pothole vary depending on whether the pothole is in the City or outside, and if so by how much and how long on average does it take to fill a pothole in each of the 5 Districts?</p>	<p>This is very difficult to answer as there are many factors that will affect the time taken to fill a pot hole including weather conditions, method used, traffic management requirements and distances travelled to the defect.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>The reason for my question was that there is a great deal of concern about potholes throughout the County and I know it is a boring subject to people with the transport portfolio but to everyone else it really is important and I was disappointed there was no breakdown by district. There is a 6% budget allocated to Oxford side streets but 1/3rd of the government extra road maintenance grant at the moment is already allocated to repairing road edges which means repairing roads outside Oxford. Here is my question. Can we have assurance that the remaining £2.1m will be equitably distributed and not based on road miles but on road use?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>It is a complex situation because it has got to be based on road mileage, it has got to be based on road use and it has actually got to be based on the condition of the roads so there is no straightforward yes or no.</p>
<p>4. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>How will Oxfordshire benefit from the Olympic legacy?</p>	<p>COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games were incredibly successful for the UK as a whole. Partnerships and engagement, extending across the whole of the county, are ensuring that the benefit of the Games and its legacy across Oxfordshire will be seen in a wide range of areas.</p> <p>Oxfordshire's sportsmen and women played their part in historic Games, with a</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>medal tally of two golds, two silvers and three bronzes.</p> <p>Economic Benefit</p> <p>Estimates¹ are that the total economic impact to the UK's GDP will be £16.2bn (2012 prices) spread over 12 years, 12% of that coming from tourism. The vast proportion of that economic benefit will be in London. The gain in South East over that period will be at least 9% of that. Overall, projections say that the Games will generate a net increase in tourist visits of 10.8 million between 2005 and 2017, although tourist figures in 2012 were slightly down on the preceding year (as expected).</p> <p>More locally around 57 Oxfordshire firms won and benefited from contracts as part of the Summer Olympics. Firms like STC, which provided telecommunications services for the opening and closing ceremonies, and Heyfordian Travel which provided transport between venues.</p> <p>Social Benefit</p> <p>The Games have increased interest in volunteering and community across the county.</p> <p>Oxfordshire Sports Partnership and Oxford Inspires have achieved a number of projects that have projects recognised as London 2012 Inspire projects. These projects are developing sporting and community-based development opportunities for people in the county.</p> <p>Culturally</p> <p>Oxford University has created a Legacy Fellowship, an artist fellowship intended to bring together art and sport.</p>

¹ Research by Oxford Economics for Lloyds Banking Group, http://www.lloydsbankinggroup.com/media/pdfs/lbg/2012/Eco_impact_report.pdf

Questions	Answers
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>This is a County Council meeting and I would like to know what the County Council is doing to make sure that Oxford benefits from the Olympic legacy. As far as I can see the County seems to be doing absolutely nothing, we do not even put any money into the so called Oxfordshire Sports Partnership as far as I can work out. Do you agree that this is a deplorable state of affairs?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>You have got to remember who is responsible for sports activities in the County - it is the District Councils. If you have a problem with the City Council in that they are not providing enough sports facilities, please contact them. It has been fantastic in Oxfordshire; everybody has got behind the Olympics.</p>
<p>5. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>I assume you agree that your Cabinet should be deeply ashamed of the fact that we are <i>still</i> the <i>worst local authority in the country</i> for delayed transfers of care from hospital (151 out of 151!). Why it is still so bad and what are you doing about it?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR JUDITH HEATHCOAT, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE</p> <p>Thank you Cllr Pressel for your question:</p> <p>I share your concern about our reported performance regarding the number of hospital delays in Oxfordshire. We are working very hard and jointly with the NHS to try to improve the situation.</p> <p>There are approximately 50,000 emergency admissions to the Oxford University Trust each year which means nearly 1,000 people are discharged from hospital each week. The average length of stay in a hospital in Oxfordshire is about 4.5 days, a bit less than the national average of 5 days. At least half of the people who are delayed in Oxfordshire are waiting for a bed to become available in another hospital setting, which does not apply in all authorities.</p> <p>As you will be aware we have experienced increased numbers of referrals of older people across the health and social care system recently. In the last year the number of people coming in to hospital in an emergency has gone up by 10%. This is a national trend that is putting further pressure on our systems in Oxfordshire. Together with the NHS we have put in more resources to tackle this</p>

Questions	Answers						
	<p>problem – developing a new crisis response service, more social worker time, additional care home places and home care packages, round the clock support at home and specialist re-ablement services - but despite our best efforts the number of delays remains stubbornly high. I will be closely monitoring progress in this area, but please be reassured that the staff across the system are working flat out to get people home as quickly and safely as possible.</p>						
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>We get the same answer time after time, year after year to this question – it is time to come up with something new. You do say in this answer ‘despite our best efforts the number of delays remains stubbornly high’, so I repeat my question – Why is this and what are you going to do about it?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>“It is interesting that it is the same answer time after time. The tone of the supplementary question to me suggests that Councillor Pressel is unaware that I, as do others before me, continue to care and realise that this is a multi-agency problem. Doesn’t she understand that perhaps the answer she is being given is therefore the right one! She is mistaken in her belief that this is an easy problem to solve and is misleading on what is a very complex issue. A&E departments are so terribly busy and people are attending here when they should go to the GPs. The GP contracts brought in by the Labour Party means that people do not have access to their GPs are weekends.”</p>						
<p>6. COUNCILLOR STEWART LILLY</p> <p>Can the Cabinet member please update me as to how matters are progressing to ensure that 90% of the County’s population should be enjoying the benefits of faster broadband cover over the next 2 years?</p>	<p>COUCILLOR NICK CARTER, CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS & CUSTOMER SERVICES</p> <p>The County Council’s Better Broadband Programme has been making progress in the competitive dialogue process for the countywide infrastructure investment. It is expected that contract finalisation and public announcements will take place towards the end of July or early August 2013. The headline milestone dates and future target dates for the next steps in the programme are listed in the table below.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="887 1283 2033 1437"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="887 1283 1391 1321">Date completed (or expected*)</th> <th data-bbox="1397 1283 2033 1321">Programme Milestone</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="887 1326 1391 1398">August 2012</td> <td data-bbox="1397 1326 2033 1398">Approval received from BDUK to commence project</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="887 1402 1391 1437">August 2012</td> <td data-bbox="1397 1402 2033 1437">Procurement Exercise begins</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Date completed (or expected*)	Programme Milestone	August 2012	Approval received from BDUK to commence project	August 2012	Procurement Exercise begins
Date completed (or expected*)	Programme Milestone						
August 2012	Approval received from BDUK to commence project						
August 2012	Procurement Exercise begins						

Questions	Answers	
	November 2012 – May 2013	Active Dialogue with Suppliers
	June 2013	Enter final stage of negotiations
	July 2013	Bid evaluation and preferred supplier selected
	End of July – Early August 2013	Contract award and announcement
	August 2013 – January 2014	Implementation Planning and Surveying
	January 2014	Works begin for the Roll-Out (Phase one commences)
	Cont.	Phases commence every 3 months
	Early 2016	Completion of all phases of work (approx. 7-8 in total)
	2016-2023	OCC monitors infrastructure for continued delivery to the agreed standard
	<p><i>*future dates are indicative</i></p> <p>The programme is confident that it will achieve its objectives of 90% coverage to ‘Superfast Broadband’ speeds in excess of 24Mbps and a minimum of ‘Basic Broadband’ of 2 Mbps for 100% of the county. The completion of the roll-out of this infrastructure work will take place in a number of phases and will be completed in early 2016.</p>	
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>I would Like to thank Councillor Carter for his very comprehensive response and hopefully when the aspects which were referred too earlier this morning are signed, sealed and delivered with the appropriate contractor would it be possible to publish some form of phasing timetable for Oxfordshire area by area. and I feel obviously for the Educational prowess as Oxfordshire has in its University and school and much more as for the science</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Yes I think the general answer to Councillor Lilly is if it is at all possible to do it, it will be done in the fastest possible timescale because I appreciate that there is substantial frustration out there. The contract at the turn of this month will be at the stage that we start to press really hard for a kind of understanding of the County to tie in with the priorities that apply to each of the different areas and communities and we can then start a new communication plan with all those new communities and indeed business communities to keep them properly up to speed.</p>	

Questions	Answers
areas like science?	
<p>7. COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS</p> <p>The Care Staff who provide home care to Oxfordshire people with severe learning disabilities are being required by Southern Health, their employer, to take substantial pay cuts of up to 15%. Southern Health say that the Commissioners, which include Oxfordshire County Council, are pressing them to reduce their charges or they will use other providers who will make the cuts.</p> <p>Would the Leader be clear:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Is the Oxfordshire County Council applying such pressure? 2) What are the reductions in pay and other changes in conditions which are being demanded? 3) If the demands are successfully imposed it is clear that staff will not only be very angry but also demoralised. What is the research evidence about the effect of having a humiliated and demoralised staffing sector on the service to patients? 	<p>COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The County Council is not applying pressure on Southern Health. The reality is that providers need to be competitive in order to win business, and they need to work out how to run their businesses in order to do this. Oxfordshire has 15 providers who have been through a rigorous quality and cost assessment and who hold framework contracts for the provision of learning disability services. The Council can only contract with providers who win business on a fair and transparent basis. 2) As far as we are aware, the proposed changes mean that the basic salary of staff will remain the same (and in many cases increase) but that staff will no longer be paid enhancements when they work unsociable hours. Staff will also see a reduction in annual leave but will retain their entitlement to NHS Pensions, to sickness and pay benefits and access to training. There may have been some further negotiation on the offer during consultation but this is a matter for Southern Health and the Council does not have these details. 3) Our understanding is that the majority of staff are likely to accept the proposals and we do not believe the workforce is likely to be angry and demoralised. Staff will still be well remunerated within the social care sector (the changes do not apply to the health professionals who work for Southern Health). The County Council carries out regular and in-depth quality monitoring reviews of all learning disability services, and this includes monitoring of staff turnover, use of agency staff and complaints, as well as the experience of service users and carers. Any indication of a reduction in quality of service will be identified and addressed through this process.

Questions	Answers
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Have the County Council been in any form of correspondence with Southern Health about the salaries of their staff. In your response you say that there is no pressure. Can you confirm that there is no correspondence whatsoever about the staffing levels and their remuneration with the people who work for Southern Health?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>In my original response I said the County Council is not applying any pressure. However, I have to make sure that there has not been any correspondence so it will have to be a written answer to that question because there may have been some general correspondence, but certainly I can assure Councillor Williams we will not put Southern Health under any pressure regarding their contracts.</p>
<p>8. COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS</p> <p>Would the Portfolio Holder agree with the recent report from ADASS that the cuts presently in the pipeline directed at Adult Social Care for this and all other local authority providers cannot be made without damaging the service. Would she agree with the findings of the report that the scale of the cuts is such that they cannot be absorbed by efficiency saving and that the scale of cuts will impact directly on the service.</p> <p>Given that Oxford County Council does not stand high in the league of service providers would she agree with the ADASS analysis that the largest impact will come in authorities that have traditionally been low spenders such as this authority?</p> <p>Could the Portfolio holder indicate how the</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR JUDITH HEATHCOAT, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE</p> <p>Thank you for your question. You were not a member of the previous Council so you may be unfamiliar with the strategy that we have followed to achieve genuine efficiency savings and limit the impact on those using our services and those caring for them. We have sought to reduce demand by intervening early and providing a range of community services that support people at home rather than in care homes. We have also sought to achieve reductions in the cost of care by challenging high prices whilst insisting on high quality. We have worked with many providers to identify ways in which their costs could be reduced such as by using assistive technology which reduces the cost of providing care but does not affect the quality of care provided. Our efforts were acknowledged in a review of 152 local authorities by think-tank Demos on behalf of disability charity SCOPE, which ranked Oxfordshire County Council as third-best for how budgetary decisions least impacted on direct services for the disabled.</p> <p>The County Council agreed a medium term service and resource plan in February which continues with this strategy. There will be full discussion later in the year (culminating in the budget meeting next February) on any new proposals that are required in the light of the County Council's overall financial position. However, I welcome the announcement by the Secretary of State for Health last week that</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>scale of the cuts in Oxfordshire will impact on Adult Social Care?</p>	<p>there will be further resources from the NHS to help health and social care to work better together to reduce demand across the system.</p> <p>I have provided details of our relative spending in response to your later question. I do want to highlight here that although we are a relatively low spender on adult social care as a whole we spend about average on older people despite the low level of deprivation in Oxfordshire.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Thank you for accepting that I am a new member of Council and do need to learn the ropes. Council I ask is it possible that you would send me a complete item by item breakdown of your departmental spending for the forthcoming year.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>It is in the budget what each Councillor receives so the breakdown is there.</p>
<p>9. COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS</p> <p>Would the Portfolio holder give an indication of the present levels of air pollution and the list of specific sites earmarked for monitoring within the County of Oxfordshire?</p> <p>Could the list indicate clearly where EU levels of air pollution are being met and where this is not the case.</p> <p>Would the Portfolio holder confirm that there may be penalties set against the County Council by the UK Government if EU air pollution standards are not met?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO-SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Air quality data and monitoring are the responsibility of the City and District Councils, not the County Council. The County Council works closely with the City and District Councils in respect of the development and implementation of Air Quality Action Plans in so far as they relate to the duties and responsibilities of the County Council.</p> <p>It is my understanding that the UK Government has, to date, never been in the position of having been the subject of action by the Commission in respect of air pollution standards. The Government has published guidance as to how any fine that might be imposed would be dealt with.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>I hope that the Cabinet Member accepts that the reason I asked this question is because I asked a very similar question at the City Council two Councils ago and I was assured by the portfolio holders each day that the information was forthcoming. The last Council meeting had to apologise because it had not circulated that information. My question is this; if you think it is important that the City do have some responsibilities for the environment would you step in and try to enforce this issue of getting these figures about high pollution around Oxford apparent for everyone to see.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>If the City Cabinet Portfolio Member is here I will see the said person afterwards. If you would like to see me outside the meeting we can discuss the issue.</p>
<p>10. COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS</p> <p>How does Oxfordshire County Council stand in expenditure on Adult Social Care as compared to other local authorities?</p> <p>Since austerity cuts began in Oxfordshire how much has been 'saved' from the budget of Adult Social Services?</p> <p>How much more has been identified from savings in the years 2013-2015?</p> <p>How do these 'savings' compare, in</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR JUDITH HEATHCOAT, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE</p> <p>Oxfordshire is a relatively low spender on adult social care. This is not surprising given that we are a reasonably prosperous county. Compared with similar authorities our spending is just below the average. However, it is important for me to stress that spending on older people is about average for all councils and well above the average for similar authorities. I can provide Cllr Williams with more details if he is interested but we will be updating the information for 2012/13 when national figures are available in September. He may want to wait for the most up to date information.</p> <p>You have asked several questions about adult social care savings. My overall response is that adult social care savings are similar in Oxfordshire to the level of savings nationally reported by the Association of Directors of Adult Social</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>percentage terms, with the national statistics?</p> <p>Does the Cabinet Member agree with the President of ADASS that “without additional investment from that already planned the already bleak outlook (for elderly and disabled people) will become even bleaker “ and that “some of the people we have responsibility for may be affected by serious reductions in service- with more in the pipeline over the next two years”?</p> <p>How will the Council acquire the additional investment required?</p> <p>If the Council does not acquire this investment, what will be the effects on the elderly and disabled people of Oxfordshire, for who we have responsibility?</p>	<p>Services (ADASS) which is about 20%.</p> <p>The President of ADASS was looking for further investment in adult social care. Since she made that statement, the Chancellor and the Secretary of State for Health have announced that there will be extra resources from health for health and social care to use in a way which reduces demands across the system. The President of ADASS has welcomed this announcement. We believe that we have strong foundations in place within Oxfordshire to enable us to reap maximum benefit from this close working. We have excellent working relationships with the Clinical Commissioning Group through the Directors of Public Health and Social & Community Services both of whom spend part of their working week based at the Clinical Commissioning Group headquarters. The Cabinet and the Board of the Clinical Commissioning Group have both agreed a joint commissioning strategy for older people that shows our joint working. This is supported by the historic decision to create a genuinely pooled budget for older people which we believe is the first such budget in the country.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>My question to the Cabinet Member is, is the amount of money really a sticking plaster compared with the massive pressures and obviously extra spending that will come because of changes in government policies.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I would like to say I welcome the announcements that were made by the government on monies but I do think that as an authority we have agreed a medium term service and resource plan and I believe that that is a very good forward plan for the future.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>11. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</p> <p>In view of the importance of the Vale Science Zone to economic development in the County, what discussions did County Council officers have with the Department for Education about the locating of the Space Studio School in Banbury?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR MELINDA TILLEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES</p> <p>In line with its usual practice for new school proposals, the DfE asked the Council for its views about the proposed Banbury Studio School.</p> <p>A response was given in February this year and focused, as is our normal practice, to the anticipated consequences of such new provision in the immediate locality of the proposed institution.</p> <p>In addition, the DfE official with whom our officers were corresponding requested further information on the relevance of Space related curriculum to the local economy. Officers drew attention to the Vale Science Zone by sending her literature about it. DfE confirmed this was sufficient information for their purposes and an offer to discuss further if desired was not pursued prior to issuing their decision to approve the opening of the new school in September 2014.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Thank you Councillor Tilley for your answer the Studio School in Banbury plus the new school in Didcot when they are both open will add some 225 pupil places in year 10 in the first year of operation and then the same number of places in years 11-13. Does the Cabinet Member have a view on whether there is a risk to existing schools that will lose substantial amounts from their budgets? Is there as a result a risk to science provision for the remaining pupils in existing schools leading to less not more science teaching overall?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>All schools in the town and surrounding are offered science as part of the curriculum and there will be an additional sixth form offer just outside Banbury at the Warriner School. For information this Royal Partnership secondary is currently over-subscribed and accepts pupils from the Banbury area. The demand in partnership is rapidly increasing and we have anticipated pupils will drift back to Banbury in the next couple of years. Other information is that we have confirmed that additional science based opportunities are generally welcomed in the County as a whole and we are very pleased to see the Studio School there.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>12. COUNCILLOR JENNY HANNABY</p> <p>Two years ago the Chief Executive officer of the GP led Commissioning Group, stated that he was putting his head on the block, vowing to reduce the numbers of delayed transfer if care. We now know that despite extra work and enormous resources put in since that vow the numbers are still increasing. The chief executive has recently acknowledged this situation is unacceptable and is now refusing to take responsibility for the growing crisis, saying it is a shared responsibility with all parties in the County. Could the Leader of the Conservative an Independent Alliance, tell us who he thinks should be responsible for this seemingly unsolvable situation, and has he any words of comfort for the many people who find themselves through no fault if their own locked into this shocking situation.</p>	<p>COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>I share your concern about our reported performance regarding the number of hospital delays in Oxfordshire. We all understand that this problem is not about any single agency working in isolation; hence we are working very hard and jointly with the NHS to try to improve the situation.</p> <p>There are 52,000 emergency admissions to the Oxford University Trust each year. About 1,000 people are discharged from hospital each week. The average length of stay in a hospital in Oxfordshire is about 4.5 days, a bit less than the national average of 5 days. At least half of the people who are delayed in Oxfordshire are waiting for a bed to become available in another hospital setting, which does not apply in all authorities.</p> <p>As you will be aware we have experienced increased numbers of referrals of older people across the health and social care system recently. In the last year the number of people coming in to hospital in an emergency has gone up by 10%. This is a national trend that is putting pressure on our systems in Oxfordshire. Together with the NHS we have put in more resources to tackle this problem – developing a new crisis response service, more social worker time, additional care home places, round the clock support at home and specialist re-ablement services - but despite our best efforts the number of delays remains stubbornly high. I will be closely monitoring progress in this area, but please be reassured that the staff across the system are working flat out to get people home as quickly and safely as possible.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Thank you very much for your answer. I wanted to know who is going to take the lead in this ever growing crisis. I presume it is yourself, so with that presumption can I ask you to have a conversation with Oxford</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Yes.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>Health about the better use of our community hospitals. The hospital in my area at the moment will take 18 people and more but it is only staffed for 13. It is always full with 13. The question is could we have a conversation with Oxfordshire Health about better use of our community hospitals?</p>	
<p>13. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>What impact will the Coalition Government's further 10% cut in funding for local councils have on the Fire & Rescue Service and Trading Standards in Oxfordshire?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LOUISE CHAPMAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR POLICY CO-ORDINATION</p> <p>I as Cabinet Member and the Cabinet acknowledge that Oxfordshire County Council Fire and Rescue Service (OCCFRS) has a long-standing reputation of being low cost and high performing. This has recently been further supported by Sir Ken Knights review of fire services in England whereby on several occasions, OCCFRS has been cited as best practice and an example for others to follow. At less than 11 pence per day per person in the county, OCCFRS already delivers excellent value for money and is one of the most cost effective services in the Country.</p> <p>Trading Standards will continue to prioritise activities to ensure business are supported plus those who are most vulnerable in society are proactively protected on such matters as doorstep crime and consumer goods and services they receive.</p> <p>However, through income generation, partnership and collaborative working our fire service and Trading Standards will continue to challenge how they operate and work in order to release efficiencies whilst still ensuring that Oxfordshire remains one of the safest places to live.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>I thank Councillor Chapman for her reply.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>No.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>Does she intend that we will have paramedics driving fire engines and will we be merging our ambulance service with somebody else and will we be asking people to present their credit card before their fire is put out?</p>	
<p>14. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>Will the new Cabinet member say when it is likely that residents in my Isis division will again be able to bring their recycling to the Redbridge recycling centre by bicycle or on foot?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO-SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The County Council strive to ensure the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) are managed to protect the wellbeing of all visitors. We operate reasonable and proportionate measures to prevent accidents from occurring when a hazard is identified. None of Oxfordshire's HWRCs are able to allow pedestrian access because they do not have pavements that provide access nor dedicated walkways around the site. As such, we are unable to guarantee the wellbeing of visitors arriving on foot. Currently Oxfordshire's residents can bring their recycling to the Redbridge HWRC by bicycle as they are considered to be road users and form part of the flow of traffic and are able to enter and exit the site without undue risk. Pedestrian access will be considered as part of any future works or redevelopment of the site. A Household Waste Recycling Centre strategy review will be underway shortly and the Council is planning to undertake a consultation exercise in the Autumn.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Can I thank Councillor Nimmo-Smith for acting so decisively on allowing cyclist to cycle in with their recycling materials and rubbish to the Redbridge recycling centre and I am sure there will be tremendous delight amongst the cycling fraternity and fanatic ringing of bells in celebration. Will he agree that it would be a good idea if he and I got</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>It will always be a pleasure to meet with you Councillor Tanner.</p>

Questions	Answers
together soon and plan together a super doper recycling centre on Redbridge or somewhere nearby using both the resources of the County Council and City Council for the benefit of all?	
<p>15. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>Does the Cabinet member share my delight that the lower end of St Aldates road in Oxford is at long last to be reconstructed?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO-SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>I am pleased to confirm that these works are due to commence on 14 October for a duration of 5 weeks and the maintenance work will involve excavating existing material to a depth of 550mm and reinstating to existing levels. (Exact location on attached drawing and copy of consultation letter that has been sent out, including Cllr Tanner)</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Can I thank Councillor Nimmo-Smith for his reply and does he share with me the importance of improving cycle priority in this key stretch of road as we enter the main city centre of Oxford?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Yes.</p>
<p>16. COUNCILLOR JANET GODDEN</p> <p>How confident are you that you will be able to meet the income target of £18m for contribution to the Older People's pooled budget without raising existing charges or introducing new ones for older people or other client groups, and without 'reducing activity in other areas' as suggested in Para 48 of the report to Cabinet on 18 June?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR JUDITH HEATHCOAT, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE</p> <p>Officers are confident that the income target of £18m that was set in the budget agreed by the County Council will be met. This is because that target was reduced in the budget to reflect the level of income earned in the last financial year. The Monthly Monitoring Report to Cabinet will show that officers are forecasting additional expenditure on care due to increased demand and that this extra demand will result in additional income. Income is forecast to over achieve against budget by £0.5m.</p>