



County Council

8 September 2009

Agenda

Declarations of Interest

This note briefly summarises the position on interests which you must declare at the meeting. Please refer to the Members' Code of Conduct in Section DD of the Constitution for a fuller description.

The duty to declare ...

You must always declare any "personal interest" in a matter under consideration, ie where the matter affects (either positively or negatively):

- (i) any of the financial and other interests which you are required to notify for inclusion in the statutory Register of Members' Interests; or
- (ii) your own well-being or financial position or that of any member of your family or any person with whom you have a close association more than it would affect other people in the County.

Whose interests are included ...

"Member of your family" in (ii) above includes spouses and partners and other relatives' spouses and partners, and extends to the employment and investment interests of relatives and friends and their involvement in other bodies of various descriptions. For a full list of what "relative" covers, please see the Code of Conduct.

When and what to declare ...

The best time to make any declaration is under the agenda item "Declarations of Interest". Under the Code you must declare not later than at the start of the item concerned or (if different) as soon as the interest "becomes apparent".

In making a declaration you must state the nature of the interest.

Taking part if you have an interest ...

Having made a declaration you may still take part in the debate and vote on the matter unless your personal interest is also a "prejudicial" interest.

"Prejudicial" interests ...

A prejudicial interest is one which a member of the public knowing the relevant facts would think so significant as to be likely to affect your judgment of the public interest.

What to do if your interest is prejudicial ...

If you have a prejudicial interest in any matter under consideration, you may remain in the room but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the matter under consideration, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise.

Exceptions ...

There are a few circumstances where you may regard yourself as not having a prejudicial interest or may participate even though you may have one. These, together with other rules about participation in the case of a prejudicial interest, are set out in paragraphs 10 – 12 of the Code.

Seeking Advice ...

It is your responsibility to decide whether any of these provisions apply to you in particular circumstances, but you may wish to seek the advice of the Monitoring Officer before the meeting.

If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named on the front page, but please give as much notice as possible before the meeting.

To: **Members of the County Council**

Notice of a Meeting of the County Council

Tuesday, 8 September 2009 at 10.00 am

County Hall



Joanna Simons
Chief Executive

August 2009

Contact Officer: **Marion Holyman**
Tel: (01865) 810177; E-Mail: marion.holyman@oxfordshire.gov.uk

In order to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, notice is given that Items 3, 7 and 13 will be recorded. The purpose of recording proceedings is to provide an aide-memoire to assist the clerk of the meeting in the drafting of minutes.

Members are asked to sign the attendance book which will be available in the corridor outside the Council Chamber. A list of members present at the meeting will be compiled from this book.

A buffet luncheon will be provided.

Please note that this meeting will be suspended at 12.30 pm to allow the Extraordinary meeting of the Council, relating to the Appointment of Honorary Aldermen, to be held.

AGENDA

1. Minutes (Pages 1 - 6)

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 August 2009 (CC1) and to receive for information any matters arising from them.

2. Apologies for Absence

3. Declarations of Interest - see guidance note

Members are reminded that they must declare their interests orally at the meeting and specify (a) the nature of the interest and (b) which items on the agenda are the relevant items.

(Please note: this applies also to items where members have interests by virtue of their membership of a district council in Oxfordshire.)

4. Official Communications

5. Appointments

To make any changes to the membership of the Cabinet, scrutiny and other committees on the nomination of political groups.

6. Petitions and Public Address

7. Questions with Notice from Members of the Public

8. Reports of the Cabinet

*(a) Report of the Cabinet meetings on 21 April, 26 May, 23 June and 21 July 2009 (CC8(a))*_(Pages 7 - 14)

*(b) Report on Partnership Working in Oxfordshire (CC8(b))*_(Pages 15 - 46)

9. Annual Report of the Standards Committee (CC9) (Pages 47 - 52)

Anne Griffiths was appointed as the Independent Chairman of the Standards Committee at its meeting on 24 July. In the absence of the former Chairman due to ill health she will attend to present the Annual Report which summarises the work of the Committee over the last year.

The Council is RECOMMENDED to receive the report.

10. Annual Public Health Report II (Pages 53 - 92)

Annual Report by a Director of Public Health for Oxfordshire (jointly appointed by the NHS and the County Council) **(CC10)**.

The Cabinet RECOMMENDS Council to receive the report and to note in particular the general recommendations in the report.

11. County Council Meeting Dates 2010/11 (Pages 93 - 94)

The report of the Assistant Head of Legal & Democratic Services containing the schedule of meeting dates proposed for the 2009/10 Council year is attached for approval (**CC11**). Directors and Political Groups have been consulted on a draft schedule. The schedule has been drawn up to reflect the various rules about frequency of meetings set out in the Council's Constitution.

12. Themed Debate - Services and Resource Planning 2010/11 - 2014/15 (Pages 95 - 128)

Report by Chief Executive, Assistant Chief Executive - Strategy and Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Finance Officer (**CC12**)

The Council is RECOMMENDED to:

(a) note the report;

(b) provide advice to Cabinet on the development of the Financial Strategy.

13. Questions with Notice from Members of the Council

WOULD MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE THAT ANY AMENDMENTS TO MOTIONS WITH NOTICE MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE PROPER OFFICER IN WRITING BY 9.00 AM ON MONDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2009

MOTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

14. Motion from Councillor Jean Fooks

"This Council is fully aware of the effects of the current national economic situation, in particular pressures on Oxfordshire due to the high number of public service employees. Council also notes the projected high unemployment among young people, and that at a time of recession, vulnerable people are more than ever in need of our services.

Council recognises that this means that every pound spent by Oxfordshire County Council and its partners must "punch above its weight".

Council resolves to

(i) Encourage young people to stay in education by working with schools, FE colleges and local universities to provide imaginative and useful courses offering qualifications to help them when they enter the workplace, including valuable work experience.

(ii) Through the Oxfordshire Economic Partnership seek to maximise any initiatives in which the County can, alone or with its partners, provide jobs and spark the economic recovery. Jobs which help to minimize the effects of climate change and form the basis of recovery, such as jobs in sustainable tourism, should be the priority.

(iii) Make every effort to protect the services we provide to all our vulnerable people, including people with disabilities and mental health problems

(iv) When vacancies occur wherever possible fill those posts with permanent employees rather than agency staff

(v) Work collaboratively across political parties on the Council to ensure we all share an active role in helping to identify cost savings in the budget process, which includes ensuring that the impacts of any proposed savings are clearly understood.”

15. Motion from Councillor Liz Brighthouse

“This Council, having grave concerns about the proposals about Secondary Education in East Oxford communicated to Councillors, Parents and the Community through the media asks the Cabinet Member for School Improvement to look at all options for the improvement of Education in the area served by Oxford Community School rather than rushing into one option which may not necessarily meet the needs of young people and their parents. It further asks that these options should be the subject of consultation with all parents and young people who are or could be affected.”

16. Motion from Councillor Saj Malik

“The Council asks the Cabinet Member for School Improvement not to make changes to the structure or location of St Christopher's C.E. Primary School but to support the staff, children, parents and governors in their commitment to improve over the coming year by giving appropriate back up from the Educational Improvement Professionals employed by the Authority.”

17. Motion from Councillor Anne Purse

“Council welcomes the recent report from ATOC (Association of Train Operating Companies) to re-open branch lines, some of which are in Oxfordshire. This would give more people the option of using public transport, thus reducing the traffic congestion on our roads. Rail links would also provide vital infrastructure to possible housing

development giving access to jobs and leisure activities with minimal consequent carbon emissions."

Council resolves therefore to work together with the rail companies, Network Rail and the Department of Transport to ensure we are planning for the future in developing the next Local Transport Plan (LTP3) to include these proposals."

18. Motion from Councillor Lynda Atkins

"This Council recognises the immense contribution made by the members of the Armed Forces based in Oxfordshire who are on deployment in other countries, particularly in areas of conflict. The Council also recognises the burden these deployments place on the families of those soldiers and members of the RAF. In order to demonstrate the Council's support for our local servicemen and their families, this Council will work with each of the major Army and RAF bases in the County to provide hospitality to the families of those on deployment, in a similar way to that for dependents from the Bicester Garrison on 24th August, at a time and in a way appropriate to each Unit. A suitable budget will be identified. "

19. Motion from Councillor Larry Sanders

"This Council resolves that Oxfordshire County Council withdraw the 'expression of interest' it has sent to the DCSF with regard to closing Oxford School and St Christopher's Primary School to create a new Academy because:

- St Christopher's School is entitled to a year in which it can, with assistance, substantially improve its running and results
- Parents of St Christopher's children are overwhelmingly opposed to their young children sharing a campus with children of Secondary School age
- Giving the two Schools to a non-elected and self-perpetuating Group is a derogation of democracy
- The proposed sponsor, United Learning Trust, is under considerable stress because of the recent failures of two of its fifteen schools and its inability to keep Head Teachers from leaving at an unacceptable rate, and should not be given control of two of Oxfordshire's Schools
- Replacing Oxford School, which has no religious attachment, with a ULT-run School means that most East Oxford parents would be unable to choose a non-Church School for their children
- The new Academy would not gain new buildings because Oxford School was already in line for the necessary capital investment
- The destruction of the good buildings, some very recent, at St Christopher's would be wasteful

- The East Oxford/Cowley community would be deprived of much-needed green space and playing fields at St Christopher's and Iffley Mead Schools, a large chunk of Oxford School's land and part of the Cowley Marsh Park."

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Extraordinary County Council held at County Hall on Tuesday 25 August 2009 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 11.45 am

Present:

Councillor TONY CRABBE – in the chair

Councillors:

Alyas Ahmed	Janet Godden	David Robertson
Alan Armitage	Timothy Hallchurch MBE	Rodney Rose
Marilyn Badcock	David Harvey	John Sanders
Michael Badcock	Steve Hayward	Larry Sanders
Roger Belson	Mrs J. Heathcoat	Bill Service
Maurice Billington	Hilary Hibbert-Biles	Dave Sexon
Norman Bolster	Ray Jelf	Chip Sherwood
Ann Bonner	Peter Jones	C.H. Shouler
Liz Brighthouse	Steward Lilly	Peter Skolar
Iain Brown	Lorraine Lindsay-Gale	Roz Smith
Nick Carter	Sandy Lovatt	Val Smith
Louise Chapman	Sajjad Hussain Malik (Saj)	Richard Stevens
Jim Couchman	Kieron Mallon	Keith Strangwood
Roy Darke	Charles Mathew	John Tanner
Arash Fatemian	Keith R. Mitchell CBE	Alan Thompson
Mrs Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor	David Nimmo-Smith	Melinda Tilley
Jean Fooks	Neil Owen	David Turner
Anthony Gearing	Zoé Patrick	Carol Viney
Michael Gibbard	Susanna Pressel	
John Goddard	Anne Purse	

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

58/09 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

(Agenda Item 1)

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 16 June 2009 be approved and signed as a correct record.

59/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(Agenda Item 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Altaf-Khan, Atkins, Fulljames, Greene, Handley, Hannaby, Harbour, Hutchinson, Hudspeth, Reynolds, Seale, Stratford, N. Turner, Waine and Wilmshurst.

60/09 OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

(Agenda Item 4)

The Chairman of the Council reported that Stephen New, Facilities Manager at Knights Court, had been appointed an MBE for Services as Sqn Ldr to the Thames Valley Air Training Corps in the Military Division.

61/09 APPOINTMENTS

(Agenda Item 5)

RESOLVED:

(a) To make the following changes to membership:

Scrutiny Committee	Existing Member	Proposed Member
Adult Services	Sherwood	L Sanders
Strategy & Partnerships	L Sanders	Sherwood

(b) On the nomination of the Oxfordshire Leaders' Group, to appoint Cherwell District Councillor Barry Wood of 16 Chinalls Close, Finmere, Buckingham MK18 4BQ to the vacancy for a District Council representative on the Pension Fund Committee.

62/09 SUSPENSION OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

The Chairman proposed that the process for consideration of the following item be as set out in the Schedule of Business, to allow debate on each of the sections of the report; individual votes on each of the recommendations and to take the amendments in the relevant sections rather than in the order in which they were received. It was accordingly:

RESOLVED: to suspend the relevant parts of the Council Procedure Rules.

63/09 REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

(Agenda Item 7)

Council considered a report (CC7) that set out proposals relating to the Councils Constitution.

Councillor Mitchell moved and Councillor Robertson seconded recommendation (a) in the motion, on the structure of the Constitution.

Following debate, recommendation (a) was agreed *nem con*.

Councillor Mitchell moved and Councillor Robertson seconded recommendation (b) in the motion, relating to legislative changes.

Following debate, recommendation (b) was agreed *nem con*.

Councillor Mitchell moved and Councillor Robertson seconded recommendations (c) to (l) in the motion, relating to the Council procedures.

Councillor Patrick moved and Councillor Fooks seconded an amendment to recommendation (f)(1) in the motion.

Following debate, the amendment was lost by 40 votes to 18.

Following debate the substantive recommendations were then put to the vote and:

Recommendations (c), (d), (g)(1), (h), (i)(1), (j), (k) and (l) were agreed *nem con*.

Recommendations (g)(2) and (i)(2) were accordingly lost.

Recommendations (e)(2) and (f)(2) were agreed by 41 votes to 18.

Recommendations (e)(1) and (f)(1) were accordingly lost.

Councillor Mitchell moved and Councillor Robertson seconded recommendations (m) and (n) in the motion, relating to the Cabinet procedures.

Following debate, recommendations (m) and (n) were agreed *nem con*.

Councillor Mitchell moved and Councillor Robertson seconded recommendations (o) to (r) in the motion, relating to other changes to the Constitution.

Councillor Carter moved and Councillor Mathew seconded an amendment to the motion, adding a new recommendation (s).

Following debate, the amendment to the motion was agreed *nem con*.

Councillor Patrick moved and Councillor Fooks seconded an amendment to recommendation (o).

Following debate, the amendment to the motion was lost by 41 votes to 18.

Following debate the substantive recommendations were then put to the vote and:

Recommendation (o) was agreed by 41 votes to 18.

Recommendations (p) to (s) were agreed *nem con*.

RESOLVED:

- (a) approve the revised structure, including the changes set out in paragraph 14 of the report;
- (b) approve the changes set out in paragraphs 16 – 24 of the report in order to comply with legislation;
- (c) approve the proposal for ‘usual’ business in the morning, and themed debates and motions in the afternoon;
- (d) introduce a duty for the appropriate Director to inform the petitioner within 10 working days what action will be taken as a result of the petition;
- (e) confirm the current arrangements in relation to questions from members of the public;
- (f) confirm the current arrangements in relation to questions from members;
- (g) widen the scope of motions on notice;
- (h) (in the light of the decision at (g)) widen the scope of motions on notice to include issues involving other ‘public bodies’ listed at paragraph 33 of the report;
- (i) alternate the order of motions on the agenda by Party Group as set out in paragraphs 35 – 37 of the report, or
- (j) agree the introduction of themed debates as set out in paragraphs 38 – 42 of the report;
- (k) agree the Policy Framework as set out at Annex 2 to the report;
- (l) agree the amendments to the Virement Rules as set out at paragraph 44 of the report;
- (m) approve the proposed Question Time arrangements as set out in paragraphs 45 – 48 of the report;
- (n) adopt the amended wording for definition of ‘key decision’;
- (o) disband the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Group and amend the Scrutiny Procedure Rules accordingly;
- (p) approve the amended Financial Procedure Rules and Contract Procedure Rules;

- (q) authorise the Monitoring Officer to make the necessary amendments to the Constitution to give effect to (a) to (p) above;
- (r) instruct the Monitoring Officer to review the Constitution after 12 months of its operation; and
- (s) to ask the Monitoring Officer to bring a report back to the November County Council on the Protocol on Members' Rights and Responsibilities Section FF Para 10 with a view to strengthening member's rights to consultation and early information on emerging divisional issues and specifically including a reference to Section 106 issues in a Division.

.....in the Chair

Date of signing2009

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COUNTY COUNCIL – 8 SEPTEMBER 2009

REPORT OF THE CABINET

Cabinet Member: Leader of the Council

1. District Sustainable Community Strategies

(Cabinet, 26 May 2009)

Each district in Oxfordshire has a local strategic partnership (LSP) and has a duty to produce a Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS).

The county council is a key partner in all five district LSPs with a Cabinet member representative from the council on each LSP.

Four district LSPs have agreed their SCS and are seeking approval from individual partner organisations: Oxford City, South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse, West Oxfordshire.

Cabinet endorsed the district sustainable community strategies and committed its support to delivery of the priorities identified.

3. Oxfordshire County Council Annual Report

(Cabinet, 23 June 2009)

The Cabinet agreed the Annual Report which was intended to provide an overview of the previous year highlighting the council's achievements and successes. The Annual Report used case studies to highlight many of the County Council services, the challenges they face and how Oxfordshire County Council has responded to them.

It was noted that the Annual Report was a working draft. Additional text and detailed appendices would be added including outturn performance data for the year as it became finalised.

It was noted that the report was no longer a policy framework document so would not go to Council for approval. The report would be available on the Council web site.

4. Performance Management: 4th Quarter Progress Report against Priorities and Targets.

(Cabinet, 23 June 2009)

Cabinet noted a performance management report on the Council's Balanced Scorecard that detailed progress against priorities and targets as at Quarter Four 2008/09. The report showed over 80% of all indicators at or near to target. The indicators in the finance quadrant were at or above target at year end.

5. Partnership Governance

(Cabinet, 21 July 2009)

Cabinet considered the findings of a review of the governance arrangements of the partnerships responsible for delivery of the targets in the Oxfordshire 2030 Delivery Plan that had been commissioned by the Public Service Board. Cabinet agreed the governance principles and membership.

6. Implementing the Manifesto Pledges

(Cabinet, 21 July 2009)

Cabinet agreed a report that set out the way in which the election manifesto pledges made would be taken forward by the new administration in the short and medium term.

7. Annual Audit and Inspection Letter

(Cabinet, 21 April 2009)

Cabinet noted the Audit Commission's Annual Audit and Inspection Letter (AAIL) which drew on the most recent Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA), the findings and conclusions from the audit of the Council for 2007/08 and from any inspections undertaken since the last Annual Audit and Inspection.

Tribute was paid to the work of internal audit and Cabinet recorded their thanks for their efforts.

Cabinet Member: Deputy Leader

8. Establishment Review

(Cabinet, 23 June 2009)

Cabinet noted a report that gave an update on activity since the implementation of the Establishment Review and associated Recruitment Approval process on 1 August 2005. Details of the agreed establishment figure at 31 March 2009 in terms of Full Time Equivalents was provided, together with the detailed staffing position at 31 March 2009. The report also contained information on grant funded posts and those vacancies which are being covered by agency staff and at what cost.

Cabinet Member: Finance & Property

9. Provisional 2008/09 Revenue and Capital Outturn

(Cabinet, 23 June 2009)

Cabinet considered the 2008/09 provisional revenue and capital outturn and identified variations of actual spend against budgets. The report focused on the year end balance sheet position including the level of general balances

and reserves. The report also included proposals for the allocation of revenue carry forwards in 2009/10.

The Council's year end position for 2008/09 showed a revenue underspend of -£2.119m, a capital underspend of -£3.679m and general balances of £20.187m.

Cabinet noted the provisional revenue and capital outturn; approved the carry-forwards and virements set out in the report; approved changes to balances; agreed that the surplus in the On-Street Parking Account at the end of the 2008/09 financial year, so far as not applied to particular eligible purposes in accordance with Section 55(4) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, be carried forward in the account to the 2009/10 financial year; approved the creation of new reserves and agreed the transfer of £1.187m from balances to a new reserve to fund future efficiency savings.

10. Financial Monitoring *(Cabinet, 23 June 2009)*

The Cabinet has considered two financial monitoring reports. The report to the meeting on 23 June covered the period to 30 April 2009 and the report to the meeting on 21 July covered the period to 31 May 2009.

At the June Cabinet meeting, the Cabinet approved the requests to release the amounts carried forward from 2007/08 from balances; approved virement requests and agreed to freeze fees for Adult Learning classes at 2008/09 levels for the 2009/10 academic year.

At the July meeting, it was reported that the in-year overspend for the Directorates was forecast to be £2.743m.

The year-end forecast of general balances showed a forecast of £14.326m. After taking into account the forecast Directorate outturn, the consolidated revenue balances forecast was £11.538m.

Cabinet noted the report, approved virements and supplementary estimates as set out in the report and agreed that Directors prepare proposals for addressing the new savings targets, referred to in part 4 of the report.

11. Treasury Management Outturn *(Cabinet, 21 July 2009)*

Cabinet noted a report that set out the Council's Treasury Management Outturn financial position for the 2008/09 financial year.

The Council's external debt increased from £392.38m on 1 April 2008 to £402.38m on 31 March 2009. All new long-term debt was arranged through the Public Works Loans Board. The weighted average rate of interest paid on long-term debt during 2008/09 was 4.9578%.

Security and liquidity of cash was prioritised over returns and the council adopted a cautious approach to lending to financial institutions, temporarily suspending those on ratings watch negative from the lending list. The council also imposed a maximum lending limit of 3 months in the latter half of the financial year.

The council achieved an in-house deposit return of 5.16% and continued to use 2 external fund managers, Investec and Scottish Widows Investment Partnership (SWIP). Investec earned an average return of 7.78% and SWIP 5.43%.

The Strategic Measures interest on balances outturn was £7.516m compared to a budget of £4.935m. The additional net interest earned was as a result of higher temporary cash balances, due to capital programme slippage and higher than budgeted interest received as a result of the 'credit crunch'.

Cabinet Member: Schools Improvement

12. Strategic Review of Funding Formula for Schools

(Cabinet, 26 May 2009)

Cabinet agreed that a review should proceed on the basis outlined in the report.

13. The Cooper School, Bicester – Sixth Form Proposals

(Cabinet, 26 May 2009)

Cabinet considered a report detailing the response to formal proposals to expand the age range from 11-16 years to 11-18 years and enlarge The Cooper School, Bicester. The notice was published by the Authority on 26 March 2009 and expired following 4 weeks of formal consultation on 24 April 2009.

The proposed implementation date for the proposal was 1 September 2011.

Cabinet agreed the proposals.

14. Madley Brook Primary School

(Cabinet, 21 July 2009)

Cabinet considered a proposal to increase the admission number for Madley Brook Primary School from 30 to 45, which had been the subject of an informal consultation in Witney. Approval was given to proceed with the publications of a statutory notice for the expansion of the school.

15. Relationship between Leadership and Improving Attainment in Schools

(Cabinet, 21 April 2009)

The Cabinet considered a report by the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee setting out the findings of a review that considered whether anything specific could be done to raise attainment in Oxfordshire's schools to the level that is expected of them. The report (the first of four) addressed the subject of how the leadership of a school, including the Governing Body, headteacher, deputy head, supporting management team and the Governing Body, could affect attainment levels. The Cabinet also considered the response of the Cabinet Member for School's Improvement as set out in the schedule of addenda.

Cabinet Member: Transport

16. Witney - Cogges Link Road - Revised Project Appraisal to Fund Scheme to Completion

(Cabinet, 26 May 2009)

Cabinet agreed a revised project appraisal for the scheme following planning approval.

17. Transform Oxford – Queen Street – Project Appraisal

(Cabinet, 26 May 2009)

Oxfordshire County Council launched plans to transform the centre of Oxford's transport and pedestrian experience on 20 October 2008. Included in Stage 1 of these plans was an improvement scheme for Queen Street.

Cabinet gave approval to the financial appraisal for the Queen Street project.

Cabinet Member: Growth & Infrastructure

18. Developer Contributions to Service Infrastructure

(Cabinet, 21 July 2009)

Cabinet noted a report that summarised the developer contributions secured by the county council through the planning process for 2008/09, and identified the financial contributions negotiated, received and spent throughout the year.

The report showed that 102 planning obligations were completed in 2008/09 securing the largest annual financial contributions to the county council for future infrastructure provision. The total secured was £72.69M. The report showed the actual amount of contributions received in the year to be £5.611M with £5.884M expended.

19. Department of Communities and Local Government Consultation on Eco-Towns: North West Bicester and Financial Viability Study of the Eco-Towns Programme

(Cabinet, 21 April 2009)

Cabinet considered a report that commented on the NW Bicester proposal and also commented on financial and viability work for the eco-towns programme that was undertaken by Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) and others for CLG.

Cabinet endorsed the response set out in the report and delegated the Head of Sustainable Development in consultation with the Leader of the Council and relevant Cabinet Member to make any further detailed comments for submission to the Secretary of State.

20. Highways Adoption – Business Process Review and Informal Agency arrangements with Cherwell and West Oxfordshire District council

(Cabinet, 21 April 2009)

Cabinet considered a report highlighting one of the key recommendations from the Business Process Review (BPR) of the Council's Highway Adoption function, which was completed at the end of 2008. This related to the way in which work in this area was managed and undertaken by the County Council and an end brought to the informal agency arrangements with Cherwell and West Oxfordshire District Councils with regard to some aspects of this work, notably that covered by Section 38 of the Highways Act (Adoption by agreement with developer).

Cabinet agreed to give formal notice to Cherwell and West Oxfordshire District Councils to end the present arrangements for managing and undertaking Highway Adoption functions and to transfer those responsibilities to the County Council with details agreed by the Head of Transport in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member.

21. Planning for Spaces for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople (Partial Review of the South East Plan)

(Cabinet, 21 July 2009)

Cabinet agreed a response to Government consultation on the number of new pitches that each local authority should provide by 2016 for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople (GTTS) as recommended to it by the former South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA) as a partial review of The South East Plan (adopted May 2009).

Cabinet Member: Children, Young People & Families

22. Safeguarding and Child Protection Services in Oxfordshire: an Update following Lord Laming's Review
(Cabinet, 21 July 2009)

Cabinet considered a summary report of the findings of Lord Laming's review of Safeguarding and Child Protection services, commissioned following the death in Haringey, in 2007, of Baby Peter.

Cabinet noted the increased County Council investment and approved the proposed framework for providing Quality Assurance of the Council's Safeguarding and Child Protection activity

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Partnership Working
An update on the work of our partnerships
June 2009

ITEM CC8(b)

Introduction

The Cabinet has agreed to include a report on current developments in partnership working to each full Council meeting. This report includes information on the following partnerships:

- Oxfordshire Partnership by Cllr Keith R Mitchell
- Public Service Board by Cllr David Robertson
- Oxfordshire Children's Trust Board by Cllr Louise Chapman
- Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board by Cllr Jim Couchman
- Safer Communities Board by Cllr Judith Heathcoat
- Waste Partnership by Cllr Roger Belson
- Oxfordshire Economic Partnership by Cllr Keith Mitchell
- Environment Partnership by Cllr Roger Belson
- Oxfordshire Voluntary Sector Development Partnership
- Oxfordshire Learning and Skills Partnership by Cllr Keith Mitchell

We are currently reviewing the governance arrangements of the partnerships responsible for the delivery of the targets in the Oxfordshire 2030 Delivery Plan, which was commissioned by the Public Service Board in February 2008. The objective is to ensure that partnerships are fit for purpose and in particular to:

- rationalise partnerships to avoid unnecessary and unproductive meetings,
- clarify member roles and officer support arrangements,
- clarify the relationships and accountability between partnerships.

The Cabinet agreed the structure of the thematic partnerships at their meeting in March and a final report will be issued in July which sets out some principles for working in partnership and clarifies membership of the Oxfordshire Partnership, the Public Service Board and the Thematic Partnerships.

At the request of the Leader information has now been included on the district local strategic partnerships. The following elected members are represented:

- Cherwell Partnership: Cllr Ray Jelf
- Oxfordshire Strategic Partnership: Cllr K R Mitchell
- South Oxfordshire Partnership: Cllr Roger Belson
- Vale Strategic Partnership: Cllr Judith Heathcoat
- West Oxfordshire Strategic Partnership: Cllr David Robertson

Timescales for future reports

Informal Cabinet – 20th October

Full Council – 3rd November

Informal Cabinet – 16th March 2010

Full Council – April 2010

Claire Evans
Strategic Partnership Manager. Ext. 3966

Partnership: Oxfordshire Partnership	Date of completion: May 2009
Contact Officer: Claire Evans	Tel: 01865 323966 Email: claire.evans@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Chairman: Cllr Keith Mitchell	Cabinet Member: Cllr Keith Mitchell
Priorities for the year ahead: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the delivery plan is robust and oversee delivery of Oxfordshire 2030 objectives. • Implement the proposals in the review of governance • Support thematic partnerships to deliver Oxfordshire 2030 priorities. • Improve cross partnership communication and with the public. 	
Achievements (Outcomes rather than process) in the last quarter: Overseeing the review of the partnership structure Worked with district partnerships on a joint project looking at project management in partnership.	
Current activities: Through the Director of Public Health the partnership is developing its approach and targets for breaking the cycle of deprivation priority Facilitating further work between district and thematic partnerships to create stronger links and activity at the local level.	
Future challenges: The partnership will be implementing new governance arrangements and strengthening its relationship with thematic partnerships Agree targets and focus for work to break the cycle of deprivation in the county's most deprived communities Ensuring the delivery plan is robust and targets are set	
Are there any issues for the Oxfordshire Partnership to be aware of e.g. any areas they could add support to? n/a	
What LAA2 and Oxfordshire 2030 targets is the partnership responsible for? All	
Please list the action, delivery or other sub-groups which report to the partnership: All	
Date of last and future meeting: 25 th Feb 09/ 24 th June 09	

Partnership: Public Service Board	Date of completion: May 09
Contact Officer: Claire Phillips	Tel: 01865 323967 Email: claire.phillips@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Chairman: Cllr David Robertson	Cabinet Member: Cllr David Robertson
Priorities for the year ahead: Deliver Local Area Agreement targets Oversee implementation of the review of partnership governance Claim LAA1 reward grant and allocate partnership development pot to successful bidders	
Achievements (Outcomes rather than process) in the last quarter: The delivery period for the LAA1 targets has now ended. We are anticipating successful delivery of a number of performance targets that will bring additional funds for partnership working in the county. Confirmation of achievement of targets is pending the final performance report and audit of the data. We have successfully agreed our 'refreshed' LAA (local area agreement) with government. A number of targets in our LAA needed to be renegotiated or baselines and target levels confirmed and this was done satisfactorily with our government office.	
Current activities: The PSB (Public Service Board) will agree the new partnership governance framework June 09. Partnerships and organisations have bid for LAA1 reward grant and the PSB expects to agree a provisional shortlist of bids at its June meeting.	
Future challenges: Embedding the performance management framework and supporting thematic partnerships in their role to manage performance. We will need to renegotiate our economically affected targets with government later in the year. In the meantime we will be monitoring how performance on these targets is progressing.	
Are there any issues for the Oxfordshire Partnership to be aware of e.g. any areas they could add support to?	
What LAA2 and Oxfordshire 2030 targets is the partnership responsible for? Y All	
Please list the action, delivery or other sub-groups which report to the partnership: All thematic partnerships	
Date of last and future meeting: 23 rd March/ 10 th June	

Partnership: Oxfordshire Children and Young People's Trust	Date of completion: 18 May 2009
Contact Officer: Sarah Breton	Tel: 01865 810560 Email: sarah.breton@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Chairman: Cllr Louise Chapman	Cabinet Member: Cllr Louise Chapman
Priorities for the year ahead:	
Educational achievement for all children and young people	
Teenage pregnancy and sexual health	
Substance misuse (drugs and alcohol)	
Child and Adolescent Mental Health	
Local areas of deprivation	
Achievements (Outcomes rather than process) in the last quarter:	
Re-launch of the Children and Young People's Trust	
Agreed work programmes for the sub-groups	
Agreed establishment of Area Trust Boards	
Current activities:	
Confidential Inquiry into Teenage Pregnancy Progress Review	
Establishing the work of the Area Trust Boards	
Strengthening performance management against LAA2 targets.	
Future challenges:	
Are there any issues for the Oxfordshire Partnership to be aware of e.g. any areas they could add support to?	
What LAA2 and Oxfordshire 2030 targets is the partnership responsible for?	
NI 56 NI 62 NI 70 NI 81 NI 110 NI 111 NI 112	
NI 117 NI 72 NI 73 NI 74 NI 75 NI 83 NI 87	
NI 92 NI 93 NI 94 NI 95 NI 96 NI 97 NI 98	
NI 99 NI 100 NI 101	
Please list the action, delivery or other sub-groups which report to the partnership:	
1. Commissioning Sub-Group chaired by Alan Webb, Head of Commissioning,	

Oxfordshire PCT

2. Participation & Involvement Sub-Group, chaired by Cllr Louise Chapman
3. Performance Sub-Group chaired by Mike Simm, Head of Service for Commissioning, Performance and Quality Assurance
4. Workforce Development Sub-Group, chaired by Sian Rodway, Lead Officer, Performance
5. Area Trust Board, Central, Chaired by Andy Couldrick
6. Area Trust Board, Southern, Chaired by Jan Paine
7. Area Trust Board, Northern, Chaired by Sally Taylor

Date of last and future meeting:

13 March

22 May

Partnership: Health & Well-Being Partnership (HWBP)	Date of completion: 14-May-2009
Contact Officer: Matt Bramall	Tel: 01865 323605 or 337016 (Tue & Wed) Email: matt.bramall@oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk
Chairman: Cllr Jim Couchman and Dr Stephen Richards	Cabinet Member: Cllr Jim Couchman (and Cllr David Robertson)
Priorities for the year ahead: In addition to optimising health and well-being gain for the population of Oxfordshire and reducing health inequalities the partnership has agreed three specific priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful Ageing (formerly promoting quality of life in older age) • Promotion of mental well-being • Reduction in obesity 	
Achievements (Outcomes rather than process) in the last quarter: Initial Action Plans, prepared for two of the Board's strategic priorities, are being progressed through the Board and the HWBP Officer Group to secure greater buy-in from partners and identify specific contributions that partners can make. The third priority (promoting quality of life in older age) has been reconsidered, and as a result a clear strategy for older people has been agreed by all partners. This is seen as something of a breakthrough and a new joint commissioning post has been created to provide a lead for this new way of thinking that looks to proactively support ' <i>successful ageing</i> ' (as opposed to the traditional mindset around reactively providing older people's services).	
Current activities: Awaiting feedback from LAA Steering Group concerning bids for LAA reward grant money to resource initiatives around (some of which may be refined if they pass the first stage of the selection process). Continuing to establish baselines and devising collectible performance measures for the Action Plans associated with the HWBP Board's 3 key strategic priorities. Taking advantage of the opportunity to use MKOB (Milton Keynes Oxfordshire Buckinghamshire) Improvement Partnership consultancy to improve the functioning of the HWBP Officer Group.	
Future challenges: Improving communication horizontally between different 'thematic' partnerships so that we can influence their work streams to reduce health inequalities and break the cycle of deprivation (e.g. the activities of the Oxfordshire Housing Partnership and Oxfordshire Economic Partnership can significantly impact on the population's mental well-being).	
Are there any issues for the Oxfordshire Partnership to be aware of e.g. any areas they could add support to? Review Oxfordshire 2030 Delivery Plan targets and identify collectible measures. Lend support to the importance of getting <u>all</u> partnerships to work together on tackling inequalities and breaking the cycle of deprivation.	
What LAA2 and Oxfordshire 2030 targets is the partnership responsible for? <u>LAA2 targets</u> NI 8 Adult participation in sport – increase levels by 1%. NI 120 All-age all-cause mortality rate – reduce the gap between the best and worst-off. NI 131 Delayed transfers of care (DTC) from hospitals – reduce delays to less than 102 per week (on average). NI 135 Increase the number of carers receiving needs assessment or review and a	

specific carer's service, or advice and information.

NI 141 Increase the number of vulnerable people achieving independent living. (NB: This will become 'ours' if Supporting People comes under the auspices of HWBP Board).

Oxfordshire 2030 Delivery Plan targets

MEDIUM-TERM OBJECTIVES:

- Improve mental health and well-being in the adult population, especially among vulnerable groups and those living in areas with worse outcomes focusing in particular on employment and housing.

LONGER-TERM OBJECTIVES:

- NI 137 Increase healthy life expectancy at 65.
- Increase life expectancy at birth.
- Reduce obesity rates in the adult population.
- Shift the emphasis to prevention and work together with the public to promote health and wellbeing and self care.

Please list the action, delivery or other sub-groups which report to the partnership:

- Health & Well-Being Partnership Officer Group

Plus:

- Successful Ageing (temporarily in abeyance whilst a new group is set-up)
- Mental Well-Being Strategy Development Group
- Healthy Weight Strategy Group

In addition, the HWBP monitors four LAA2 targets each of which has its own group (or equivalent governance structure):

- Oxfordshire Sports Board
- Reducing Inequalities - Preventing CVD steering group
- Delayed Transfers of Care (from hospital) arrangements
- Carer's LAA2 Target Quarterly (Monitoring) meeting

Furthermore, the HWBP will receive periodic reports from the Joint Management Groups (JMGs) for the three areas for which there are sizable pooled budgets between the NHS and Social & Community Services, namely Older People, Mental Health and Learning Disabilities.

Date of last and future meeting:

Thursday 19 March 2009

Thursday 18 June 2009

Partnership: Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership	Date of completion: 15/5/09
Contact Officer: Ruth Whyte	Tel: 01865 258423 Email: ruth.whyte@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Chairman: Cllr Jill Dunsmore, Cabinet Member for Communities, West Oxfordshire District Council)	Cabinet Member: Cllr Judith Heathcoat
Priorities for the year ahead: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide proactive leadership in the drive to improve community safety across Oxfordshire • Ensure coordination of work by Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs), and the strategic-level Tactical Business Groups (TBGs), which focus on alcohol, drugs, young people, domestic abuse and prolific and priority offenders • Deliver a quality Strategic Intelligence Assessment (joint audit of community safety activity by the police, CDRPs, TBGs and other partner agencies, to identify priorities, ensure targeting of resources where most needed and highlight key issues for attention) • Carry out a second review of Tactical Business Groups, and include a review of the Preventing Violent Extremism agenda • Ensure delivery of LAA (local area agreement) and Sustainable Community Strategy targets, and agree remedial action where needed • Ensure the most effective use of partnership resources, including LAA1 Reward funding 	
Achievements (Outcomes rather than process) in the last quarter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission of robust bids to support community safety priorities to the Public Service Board for unallocated top-sliced LAA1 reward funding. All bids support community safety priorities in Oxfordshire 2030 • The following LAA1 stretch targets were achieved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase in the number of incidents of domestic violence reported annually to the police ○ Reduction in the rate of re-offending by adult and juvenile PPOs (priority and prolific offenders) ○ Reduction in the number of entrants aged 10-17 entering the criminal justice system ○ The Reduction in the rate of reconviction of young offenders target is awaiting final data but is also likely to be achieved • The multi-agency group tasked with tackling the fear of crime, negative perceptions and communications, with a particular remit to deliver on NI 21 (which measures public confidence in the ability of the police and local authority to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour) is established, has developed its terms of reference and a draft delivery plan; the publication of the Place Survey results will increase identification and targeting of hotspots • An Evaluation training session, run by Home Office and GO (Government Officer) 	

adviser Geoff Berry, was well attended by community safety partners in March. The aim was to ensure countywide consistency in the approach to the evaluation of projects

Current activities:

- Quarterly reporting on the actions being taken to prevent violent extremism in Oxfordshire
- Quarterly crime and anti-social behaviour performance review to include CDRP comparisons – partners will consider the variation in performance across CDRPs and identify good practice ideas and initiatives
- Tactical Business Group strategies progressing, with action plans being updated for 2009/2010

Future challenges:

- Ensuring adequate, sustainable resourcing of community safety work across Oxfordshire, from strategic, countywide level work to CDRP and neighbourhood levels
- With the partnership-supported County Community Safety Information Officer post on hold to mitigate the 20% reduction in BCU funding in 2009/2010, and a reduction in police analytical contribution, interim funding from within the directorate has been identified to provide capacity to coordinate and deliver the 2009 Strategic Intelligence Assessment, monitor community safety progress towards targets and support the data and performance needs of TBGs and CDRPs. This capacity needs to be made sustainable, to support the 2010 SIA and increasing demand for data and intelligence-based responses to crime and ASB.

Are there any issues for the Oxfordshire Partnership to be aware of e.g. any areas they could add support to?

- Securing an Area-based grant allocation for the next three years which will meet the needs of the key priorities identified by OSCP
- Encouraging greater cross-cutting awareness and collaboration so as to link safer communities issues with other thematic partnership agendas and vice versa

What LAA2 and Oxfordshire 2030 targets is the partnership responsible for?

LAA1:

- Increase the number of incidents of DV (domestic violence) reported annually to the police
- Increase the number of sanction detections for domestic violence offences
- Reduce the number of convictions resulting from charges for BCS crimes for offenders identified as Prolific and Priority Offenders
- Reduce the number of entrants aged 10-17 to the Criminal Justice System
- Reduce the rate of re-conviction of young offenders aged 10-17

LAA2:

- NI 20 Reduce the number of assaults with less serious injury
- NI 40 Number of drug users in effective treatment
- NI111 Number of new entrants to the Youth Justice System
- NI 21 Dealing with local concerns about crime and anti-social behaviour
- NI 32 reduce repeat incidents of domestic violence

Oxfordshire 2030:

- Reduce anti-social behaviour
- Reduce drug-related offending
- Reduce reoffending of PPOs (Priority & Prolific Offenders)
- Reduce the fear of crime
- Promote positive attitudes amongst young people
- Repeat offending by domestic violence perpetrators

Please list the action, delivery or other sub-groups which report to the partnership:

- OSCP Officer Group, five Tactical Business Groups, five CDPRs

Date of last and future meetings:

- Last meeting: 9/2/09
- Next meeting: 26/05/09
- Future meetings: ?/09/09 (day to be confirmed) 10/11/09; 11/02/2010

Partnership: Oxfordshire Waste Partnership	Date of completion: 14th May 2009
Contact Officer: Wayne Lewis	Tel: 01295 221903/ 07974 326829 Email: wayne.lewis@cherwell-dc.gov.uk
Chairman: Cllr John Tanner (Oxford City)	Cabinet Member: Cllr Roger Belson
<p>Priorities for the year ahead: A detailed action plan is in place. Some of the main priorities within this are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of food waste treatment facilities and the implementation of food waste collection schemes. • Improving the quality of Oxfordshire's environment through the development of joint policies and campaigns to reduce fly-tipping and litter. • A joint communications plan to encourage residents to reduce, reuse and recycle. 	
<p>Achievements (Outcomes rather than process) in the last quarter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ongoing 'Love food hate waste' campaign has proved successful. A newspaper campaign and a series of road shows have been delivered. The financial and environmental costs of food waste have been publicised and residents provided with info on food shopping, storage and making better use of their left-overs. 1,500 people have so far made pledges to reduce the amount of food they waste. • Approx 150 groups (including 31 Parish Councils) took part in voluntary litter picks across the county as part of 'Spring Clean Oxfordshire' in March 2009. Around 100 of these took part in the Oxford City based "Ox Clean" event. • Oxfordshire County Council has signed a contract for food waste treatment facilities, allowing the collection of food waste from Oxfordshire households to begin from June 09. A phased, district by district roll-out of collection schemes is planned, whilst the treatment contract will see the construction of one in-vessel composting plant at Ardley and two Anaerobic Digestions plants at Cassington and at Benson. • Final tenders have been received from the two remaining bidders for the residual waste treatment contract. These are from Viridor, for an energy from waste (efw) facility to be built at Ardley and from Waste Recycling Group, for an efw facility to be built at Sutton Courtney 	
<p>Current activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 'Love food hate waste' campaign is ongoing; with "left-overs" recipe books being distributed to residents that have pledged to support the campaign. • The OWP new financial arrangements, which incentivise district councils to reduce landfill, began operating in April 09. • OWP councils are working with Enterprise Highways to reduce litter and improve cleanliness along fast roads within the county. • Final tenders for the residual waste treatment contract are being evaluated, with a view to appointing a preferred bidder this summer and moving to contract award in November. 	
<p>Future challenges: The introduction of food waste treatment facilities and new collection schemes present the biggest current risks. Regular communication and meetings between county, district and partnership officers are being held to coordinate these activities.</p>	
<p>Are there any issues for the Oxfordshire Partnership to be aware of e.g. any areas</p>	

they could add support to?

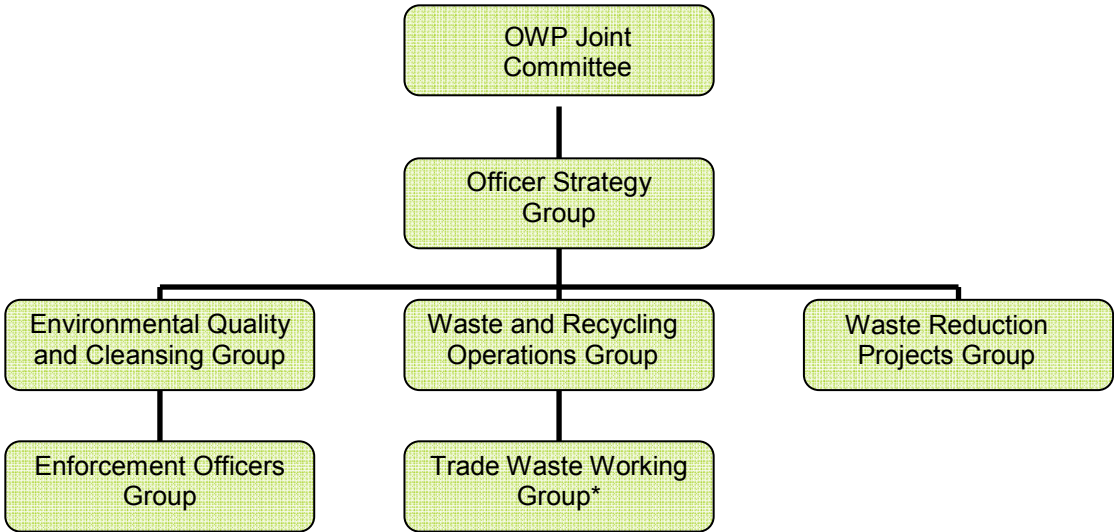
What LAA2 and Oxfordshire 2030 targets is the partnership responsible for?

NI 191: Residual household waste per household Defra	To reduce the amount of residual waste collected to 715 kg per household or less by 2010/11.
NI 192: Household waste recycled and composted	To achieve a 45% recycling & composting rate by March 2011.
NI 195: Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of graffiti, litter, detritus and fly posting)	To ensure that the percentage of relevant land and highways that is assessed as having deposits of litter and detritus that falls below an acceptable standard (below grade B) by March 2011 are 4% and 7% respectively, or less.
NI 196: Improved street and environmental cleanliness – fly tipping	To reduce the number of incidents of fly-tipping by 10% by March 2011. (from baseline no. of 6370)

Sustainable Communities Strategy – Reduce waste and increase reuse and recycling by households and businesses.

Please list the action, delivery or other sub-groups which report to the partnership:

The officer group structure supporting the partnership is given below. Additionally, OWP employs 3 partnership officers: Partnership Coordinator, Communications Officer and Clean & Green Officer.



*This is a 'task and finish' group which has been convened to take forward a number of actions within the OWP Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) Action Plan that relate to trade waste.

Date of last and future meeting:
 Last meeting 27th March 2009
 Next meeting 10th July 2009

Partnership: Oxfordshire Economic Partnership (OEP)	Date of completion: 14 May 2009
Contact Officer: Dawn Pettis	Tel: 01865 816082 Email: dawn.pettis@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Chairman: Frank Nigriello	Cabinet Member: Cllr Keith Mitchell
Priorities for the year ahead:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transform OEP's capability to drive Oxfordshire's economic priorities, providing particular support to the geographic areas of Oxfordshire Quadrant, Oxford West End and Bicester as locations for economic growth 2. Provide clear and timely intelligence about Oxfordshire's economy and the issues and opportunities facing it and supporting work on the county-wide Economic Assessment 3. Ensure the World Class Economy objective within Oxfordshire's Sustainable Community Strategy reflects OEP priorities and positions OEP as the principle organisation as the facilitator of this objective for the Oxfordshire Partnership. OEP will do this by identifying the enablers and inhibitors to business growth and engaging with the responsible agencies to increase enablement and decrease the inhibition of growth 4. Achieve agreement of relevant organisations on key initiatives that will generate substantial impact on the economy, specifically; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of programme for Promotion of Oxfordshire that defines and markets the county as a desirable business destination for high value inward investors; attracting global businesses in key sectors to set up in Oxfordshire • Delivery of Local Area Agreement (LAA) economic targets, particularly in relation to adult skills so that all targets are on course and the OEP has accountability¹ for them • Implementation of programme of work to promote tourism integrating both public and private sectors in a single coherent effort to make Oxfordshire the most attractive and easiest place to visit • Support to businesses (from pre-start up and start-up through to SME (small medium enterprises) and large enterprises) is effective and sustainable by defining the key criteria for successful start up and ensuring that the agents to deliver service against that criteria are held accountable for their performance • Lead the development of Oxfordshire Learning and Skills Partnership to improve performance in secondary schools and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of workplace learning. This will include supporting a Learning Park, Retail Academy and business engagement with a focused group of critical secondary schools in Oxfordshire (See separate Partnership report on the Oxfordshire Learning and Skills Partnership). • Continue to raise the profile of the OEP to the business community through a range of media. • Build and further develop the OEP Team in order to meet the priorities expressed in the Business Plan. 	
Achievements (Outcomes rather than process) in the last quarter:	

¹ 'Accountability' is defined in terms of OEP taking responsibility for what has and has not happened. It is not intended to mean legal liability as for example would apply under company law

- The Oxfordshire Employer Skills Survey was launched successfully at the end of February.
- A second series of Horizons & Futures events have been organised, focussing on Leadership. Events (held at Eynsham Hall) are attracting 60+ delegates from business.
- The first edition of the OEP quarterly magazine Horizons & Futures has been launched and hard copies have been posted to 850 businesses across Oxfordshire and to around 300 key stakeholders in the public and voluntary sectors. It will also be distributed widely within Oxfordshire County Council, the District Councils, surrounding local authorities and SEEDA, including to their overseas representatives in Asia and Australia.
- The OEP has led on rolling out the Job Club concept county-wide, in partnership with the Adult Learning Service, with a Job Club at Bicester opening on 11 June. The work moving forward is being embedded within the Back to Work Group under the Oxfordshire Learning & Skills Partnership.
- The OEP continues to support Cllr Keith Mitchell in his joint visits to key Oxfordshire businesses.
- Location Oxfordshire, a brand new service for the film, TV and photographic industries looking to shoot in Oxford and Oxfordshire has been set up. Initially it will be an 18 month pilot to assess demand and will be based at OFVM film oxford and is financially supported by OEP, Oxfordshire County Council, and Oxford City Council. The film office will be the first point of contact for industries seeking to film in the county and at the same time to promote new opportunities for local businesses, locations and the tourist industry. The office will also assist in promoting Oxfordshire to visitors through creating an online film trail profiling famous film locations.
- Four familiarisation Trips for Tourist/Visitor Information Centre staff and attraction/accommodation providers have recently taken place. Local businesses kindly supported the trips and offered refreshments. Feedback has been very positive from those held so far and we hope that these can become a regular event. The purpose is to inform staff about other areas of Oxfordshire so that they can cross sell destinations within Oxfordshire as an attempt to lengthen stay within the county.
- Oxfordshire presence at the leading annual business-to-business and consumer show - 'Best of Britain and Ireland', 26-29 March 2009 held at ExceL London where nearly all district areas and two businesses manned the Oxfordshire stand. The first two days were for trade with business-to-business meetings, seminars and exhibitors all profiling the rich diversity of Britain's destinations. The latter two, consumer days, enabled the public to visit and find out about the country's diversity. The show successfully promoted all that Oxfordshire has to offer and a number of enquiries are now being followed up.
- OEP have been actively involved in workshops where stakeholders could evaluate the options for the future management of the tourism function in Oxford, and potentially Oxfordshire. We are working with the city council to ensure the new destination management partnership is much more countywide and that it encourages more active business engagement.
- Achievement of LAA1 tourism target – all indicators were achieved and the value of tourism to the economy has increased. Good partnership working with districts continues.
- Two business men are now co-chairmen of the Tourism Task group and the last task group meeting was very successful and had many different businesses and organisations represented. This group will possibly merge with the Oxford Marketing Group steering group to reduce any duplication.
- Several Inward investment visits have been hosted, particularly in the Science Vale UK area linked to the European Space Agency.

- Thriving Economies grant fund is up and running and is being managed by ORCC. The funding is being applied for and to date two towns have secured funds.
- A national market towns event is being held in Faringdon in July 2009 which will help profile Oxfordshire's towns, provide best practise and provide workshops for local businesses of which OEP are organising and funding two.

Current activities:

- Developing the third series of Horizons & Futures events in the autumn to focus on Innovation. This work will be undertaken in partnership with Science Oxford.
- Planning for future editions of the OEP magazine Horizons & Futures, including work to ensure future editions pay for themselves via revenue from advertising.
- Promoting the Oxfordshire Business Database via the magazine, the web and at events.
- Developing the 'tracker' capabilities of the Oxfordshire Business Database to keep abreast of businesses that are engaging with the OEP.
- Developing a 'Business Panel' (similar to the Citizens Panel) via the Oxfordshire Business Database in order to survey businesses direct on a range of issues. This will aid the OEP in its business support programme.
- Organising a business networking event to be held at Oxford Airport in July to bring together the businesses so far engaged by Cllr Keith Mitchell jointly with the district councils and the OEP. This event will identify synergies between the businesses and inform future work around business engagement.
- Ongoing commissioning of economic impact of tourism for both county and district areas. Also the second Oxfordshire Visitor Survey will be carried out over the summer of 2009 to provide additional qualitative information.
- OEP, amongst partners, have recently commissioned a study into the economic impact and growth opportunities of Oxfordshire's cultural industries. Findings will be available July 2009.
- Finalising tourism projects for the year ahead subject to sourcing funding.
- Continuation of working with SEEDA to finalise the local area proposition work to define Oxfordshire's selling points to attract targeted inward investment
- Promoting Oxfordshire Task group is moving forward and a marketing sub group are working to create our own proposition (due to the failing so far of SEEDA's research) to begin the preparation of marketing materials
- Active involvement in the marketing group that has commissioned consultants to deliver the marketing plan for Science Vale UK.
- Setting up the inward investment enquiry service and associated databases and contacts. This requires gathering all historic data (if held) by Cherwell who previously fulfilled this function for the OEP. Also finding additional staff resources to manage the enquiries.
- Preparing information for a free slot in B4 business magazine to profile OEP more widely.

Future challenges:

- Taking account of wider work on tourism and market towns, develop a coherent and realistic strategy for business support in Oxfordshire.
- Identifying the various funding streams for work on redundancy support in Oxfordshire and encouraging collaboration, and not competition, between partners in accessing potential customers.
- Create a town's strategy and improve relations with districts and county in delivery of actions. Two market town coordinators are required and the funding needs to be found.

They would be out and about assisting the towns. This was mentioned in the recent Scrutiny Review on market towns.

- Fill the inward investment manager post as this will be a key area for OEP that needs additional resources.

Are there any issues for the Oxfordshire Partnership to be aware of e.g. any areas they could add support to?

What LAA2 and Oxfordshire 2030 targets is the partnership responsible for?

Please list the action, delivery or other sub-groups which report to the partnership:

Oxfordshire Learning & Skills Partnership

Promoting Oxfordshire Task Group (TG)

Business Support TG (recently merged with the Economic Task Force)

Tourism TG

Date of last and future meeting:

OEP Board:

14 April

9 July

20 October

Partnership: Environment Partnership	Date of completion: 11 May 2009
Contact Officer: Susie Ohlenschlager	Tel: Email: susie.ohlenschlager@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Chairman: Dr. Robin Buxton	Cabinet Member: Cllr Roger Belson
Priorities for the year ahead:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish and build on working relationship with Waste Partnership and identify shared resources and activities. 2. Focus on progress towards achieving LAA (local area agreement) targets. 3. Support each delivery group to implement their targets in the SCS (Sustainable Community Strategy), and help to seek resources where need is identified. 4. Raise profile of work of partnership and engage other thematic partnerships including the proposed Spatial Planning and Infrastructure Partnership and the Oxfordshire Economic Partnership to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maximise influence • increase their understanding of climate change – in particular, adapting to climate change and its impact on their own programmes and targets. 	
Achievements (Outcomes rather than process) in the last quarter:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our activity has focused on the Partnership review and the proposal to merge the environment and waste partnerships, which is progressing. • Engaged with Climate XChange group to consider how to support local communities to tackle climate change; this is especially relevant to delivery against NI 186 – reducing per capita CO₂ emissions. • Established working relationship with Oxfordshire PCT, and invited them to the next Partnership meeting 	
Current activities:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Working with Oxfordshire Waste Partnership to develop new role as joint partnership and identify new opportunities 2. Working with subgroups to clarify roles and work/resources needed to deliver SCS pledges and targets. 3. Identifying new stakeholders and partners e.g. Oxfordshire PCT 	
Future challenges:	
Gain commitment of individuals and organisations to ensure their active engagement and	

<p>maximise the impact of the partnership</p> <p>Identify resources to enable commitments to be met - the partnership process has not yet identified any additional funding to support these (although we have bid for LAA1 Reward funds).</p>
<p>Are there any issues for the Oxfordshire Partnership to be aware of e.g. any areas they could add support to?</p> <p>The Environment Partnership currently has no budget, and limited officer support. This limits its scope to undertake new activities and support new initiatives.</p>
<p>What LAA2 and Oxfordshire 2030 targets is the partnership responsible for?</p> <p>LAA2 targets: NI 185: CO2 Reduction from Local authority Operations NI 188: Adapting to Climate Change</p> <p>SCS pledges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce carbon emissions and improve energy and water efficiency by public sector organisations, and encourage residents and businesses to do the same. • Minimise the effects and risk of flooding • Support individuals, communities and businesses to respond to climate change and to improve efficiency in their use of energy and water. (NI 186 per reducing capita CO₂) • Protect and enhance the biodiversity of the county (NI 197 – Biodiversity)
<p>Please list the action, delivery or other sub-groups which report to the partnership:</p> <p>LAA2 Target delivery group Longer term Flood issues Group Biodiversity Action Plan Steering Group Oxfordshire Climate Action Network</p>
<p>Date of last and future meeting: 4 February 2009 20 May 2009</p>

Partnership: Oxfordshire Voluntary Sector Development Partnership (OVSDP)	Date of completion: 18 May 2009
Contact Officer: Kate Hill	Tel: 01865 251946 Email: kate.hill@ocva.org.uk
Chairman: Bishop of Dorchester, Rt Rev Colin Fletcher	Cabinet Member: n/a
Priorities for the year ahead: Putting on a strong programme of forum events and the success of the faith research project. Supporting VCS (voluntary community sector) groups through the recession. Compact Equalities Code to be written and consulted on as widely as possible and the Oxfordshire Compact to be refreshed in line with the national document.	
Achievements (Outcomes rather than process) in the last quarter: Resilience funding secured from Capacitybuilders enabled OVSDP to provide some training and other support to the local advice sector to help them cope with increased demand for services during the recession. Work has begun on the faith research. Coventry University has been selected to carry out this work and funding secured from a number of local sources to support the research. Oxford City Voluntary and Community Sector Forum event held in the evening for the first time. This event was well attended.	
Current activities: OVSDP is currently planning a workshop to look at the recession and the effect this is having on local voluntary and community sector groups. This information will feed in to the writing of a local resilience action plan to help ensure that the sector is prepared and remain strong in the future as the effects of the recession take hold. This event will also highlight a new Modernisation Fund for which OCVA is the local delivery agent. This funding is available to eligible groups to help them access expert advice. Hidden Assets research is now underway organised by Raise to help demonstrate the value and contribution of the sector in Oxfordshire to society for the first time narrowed down to this level rather than a national one and highlight any important unmet local needs within the sector.	
Future challenges: OVSDP is to take on the remit of Stronger Communities Partnership. It will re-launch at the November County Forum event as OSCA (Oxfordshire Stronger Communities Alliance) and will have new logo and branding etc. The partnership is to include 2 elected members in the membership and this will be confirmed once the county elections have taken place.	
Are there any issues for the Oxfordshire Partnership to be aware of e.g. any areas they could add support to?	
What LAA2 and Oxfordshire 2030 targets is the partnership responsible for? NI6 NI7 Community Planning	

Please list the action, delivery or other sub-groups which report to the partnership:

Voluntary Support Services Group

Date of last and future meeting:

7 April 2009, 13 July 2009

Partnership: Oxfordshire Learning and Skills Partnership	Date of completion: 14 May 2009
Contact Officer: Rosie Franklin, Learning and Skills Manager	Tel: 01865 816082 Email: rosie.franklin@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Chairman: John Knights	Cabinet Member: Keith Mitchell
Priorities for the year ahead:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of companies employing apprenticeships • Increase the take up of training in different sectors in Oxfordshire • Set up series of cluster and skills events to support the above priorities 	
Achievements (Outcomes rather than process) in the last quarter:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Oxfordshire Learning and Skills Partnership (OLSP) held its Members' meeting on March 5 attended by over 25 representatives from businesses, the voluntary sector, education and training provides business networks, the County Council and districts. • The Chairman, John Knights (LeaderShape/Institute of Directors) has set up the OLSP Steering Group comprising of businesses representatives, OCVV, the Chairs of Action Group and the OEP. The Director of Economy and Environment attends this group. • The final two of the four Action Groups have been set up and are meeting regularly - namely Action Group 1: Raising Educational Output chaired by Keith Slater (Oxfordshire Education Business Partnership) and Action Group 4: Community Learning chaired Jane Dixon, Oxfordshire County Council's Adult Learning Service (1st meeting scheduled for 27 May). The County Council is represented on all four groups. • Through Action Group 3, Back to Work, three projects are being funded by LABGI grants and are now up and running – Carterton Community Café (Oxfordshire Employment Service); Community Job Brokerage (Oxfordshire County Council Adult Learning Service and Oxfordshire PCT); and Potential at Work (led by RESTORE, Oxford Night Shelter and Refugee Resource). The responsibility of the Job Clubs is now embedded into the work of this group. The Group recently held an away-day to prioritise work priorities and develop actions to take this forward. • Action Group 2 has become the Oxfordshire Employment and Skills Board (ESB) and has developed a programme of learning events for businesses and partners. The first meeting was on May 6 and was well attended by employers including a representative from the County Council's Strategic HR Department. The Oxfordshire ESB has now gained funding from SEEDA to run a series of skills workshop and several Skillsfest events. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Oxfordshire Challenge Project funded by the LSC through the SE Skills for Growth has now started and has employed a Business Development Officer for six months to work with sector clusters to increase the uptake of training. ▪ Organised a very successful and well attended launch of the Oxfordshire Employers Skills Survey at Egrove. 	
Current activities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organise Skillsfest 09 event bringing employers and training providers together • Continue to develop the work plans for the four Action Groups 	

- Investigate funding opportunities for unemployed people in Oxfordshire through Action Group 3: - Back to Work
- Working with sector clusters to identify cluster champions, setting up promotional training events and collecting best practice case studies
- Continuing the Big Idea: Set up workshop to determine how to use Emotional Intelligence across society (starting in schools and businesses) to improve behaviours, attitudes and mindsets) and connect it to the SEAL programme
- Work with partners to further develop the West End Retail Skills Strategy

Future challenges:

The economic downturn and its effect on employers' take up of Government funded training.

Are there any issues for the Oxfordshire Partnership to be aware of e.g. any areas they could add support to?

The Big Idea: if we can get all parts of society involved it could improve productivity more than any other single initiative. Fund to support this would be welcome.

What LAA2 and Oxfordshire 2030 targets is the partnership responsible for?

NI 152 Reducing worklessness

NI 163 Increasing the number of adults with Level 2 qualifications

NI 164 Increasing the number of adults with Level 3 qualifications

Please list the action, delivery or other sub-groups which report to the partnership:

OLSP Steering Group

OLSP Action Group 1:- Raising Educational Output

OLSP Action Group 2:- Oxfordshire Employment Skills Board (ESB)

OLSP Action Group 3:- Back to Work

OLSP Action Group 4:- Community Learning

Date of last and future meeting:

Members' Meeting

5 March 2009

2 July 2009

Steering Group Meeting

7 May 09

17 Sept 09

Partnership: Cherwell Community Planning Partnership	Date of completion: 11/05/09
Contact Officer: Helen Couperthwaite	Tel: 01295 221751 Email: Helen.couperthwaite@cherwell-dc.gov.uk
Chairman: Mary Harpley	Cabinet Member: Cllr Ray Jelf represents Oxfordshire County Council
Priorities for the year ahead:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirming and implementing new Cherwell Sustainable Community Strategy • Make certain that Cherwell Community Planning Partnership can ensure the delivery of the new Cherwell Sustainable Community Strategy 	
Achievements (Outcomes rather than process) in the last quarter:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collating an evidence base for the new Cherwell Sustainable Community Strategy • First draft of the evidence base challenged by several forums including one specifically looking at rural issues • Most of Cherwell Community Planning Partnership's 'top ten' priorities (one for each theme in the current Community Plan) are green at the end of the year 	
Current activities :	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to consult prior to drafting the new Cherwell Sustainable Community Strategy • Holding a conference for those not yet engaged in the development of the new Sustainable Community Strategy on 20 May to 'reality check' findings so far • Consult on the new Cherwell Sustainable Community Strategy for 3 months over the summer • Reviewing Cherwell Community Planning Partnership itself, a sub group has been formed and has met to begin discussions on this • Reviewing the Annual Report with the Performance Champions 	
Future challenges:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening links to Oxfordshire Partnership and the Thematic Partnerships to ensure delivery of the LAA2 within Cherwell 	
Are there any issues for the Oxfordshire Partnership to be aware of e.g. any areas they could add support to?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Oxfordshire Partnership to respond to the formal consultation on the new Cherwell Sustainable Community Strategy over the summer 	
What LAA2 and Oxfordshire 2030 targets is the partnership responsible for?	
<p>Cherwell Community Planning Partnership (CCPP) makes significant contributions to the delivery of many of the LAA2 and Oxfordshire 2030 targets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LAA2 targets that specifically relate to the local level are monitored quarterly within Cherwell. This monitoring considers not only the overall Oxfordshire wide performance but also that at the Cherwell level. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NI 5 Overall/general satisfaction with local area ○ NI 8 Adult participation in sport and active recreation 	

- NI 21 Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime by the local council and police
 - NI 140 Fair treatment by local services
 - NI 154 Net additional homes provided
 - NI 155 Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)
 - NI 156 Number of households living in Temporary Accommodation
 - NI 179 Value for money
 - NI 188 Planning to adapt to climate change
 - NI 191 Residual household waste per head
 - NI 192 Household waste recycled and composted
 - NI 195 a-d Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of graffiti, litter, detritus and fly posting)
 - NI 196 Improved street and environmental cleanliness – fly tipping
- CCPPs 'top ten' priorities reflect the ten themes in the current Community Plan and are reported quarterly to the Partnership. They include a number of the LAA2 and Oxfordshire 2030 targets.
 - NI 21 Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime by the local council and police
 - NI 110 Positive activities for young people
 - NI 155 Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)
 - NI 164 Working age population qualified to at least level 3 or higher
 - NI 186 per capita CO2 emissions in local authority area
 - Cardio vascular disease project in Banbury which improves health outcomes and reduces health inequalities supports the strategic objective; 'healthy and thriving communities', and the pledge 'promote healthy lifestyles including the increase in physical activity'
 - Contribute to the creation of new jobs in the District supports the strategic objective; 'world class economy', and the pledge 'create the conditions for everyone to have access to jobs'
 - Deliver improved community information in rural communities supports the strategic objective 'healthy and thriving communities', and the pledge 'defend access to local services particularly in rural communities'
- CCPP was fully briefed on Oxfordshire 2030 as it developed. During the formal consultation stage it discussed the content of Oxfordshire 2030 during one of its scheduled meetings and held a special meeting to discuss it in detail. The Partnership gave very detailed feedback to Oxfordshire Partnership.
 - CCPP was engaged in the process to determine the indicators to be included in LAA2.
 - Due regard has been given to Oxfordshire 2030 and LAA2 in the development of the new Cherwell Sustainable Community Strategy.

Please list the action, delivery or other sub-groups which report to the partnership:
Under review

Date of last and future meeting:

Last – 4 April 2009

Next – 11 June 2009

Partnership: Oxford Strategic Partnership (OSP)	Date of completion: 14 th May 2009
Contact Officer: Sebastian Johnson	Tel: 01865 252317 Email: srjohnson@oxford.gov.uk
Chair: Jackie Wilderspin	Cabinet Member: Cllr Keith Mitchell
Priorities for the year ahead:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing and ensuring delivery of action plans for the five flagship issues in the SCS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Affordable Housing ○ Health and Social Inclusion ○ Climate Change ○ Improving the Public Realm ○ Safer Stronger and More Cohesive City • Agreeing revised and updated terms of reference 	
Achievements (Outcomes rather than process) in the last quarter:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successfully ran seminar exploring key issues with respect to the public realm in the whole of the city (supported by Progress through partnership funding) • Created working group to develop public realm action plan • Safer, stronger and more cohesive city action plan presented to OSP 	
Current activities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing action plans with focus on Public Realm • Monitoring already agreed action plans with focus on affordable housing and the recommendations of the affordable housing select committee • Planning and running workshop discussion on the economy of the city at the OSP meeting on 11th June • OSP is the primary reference group in the development of the City Regeneration Framework 	
Future challenges:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring of action plans • Links between thematic partnerships and the OSP 	
Are there any issues for the Oxfordshire Partnership to be aware of e.g. any areas they could add support to?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving links between District LSPs and Thematic Partnerships 	
What LAA2 and Oxfordshire 2030 targets is the partnership responsible for?	
Please list the action, delivery or other sub-groups which report to the partnership:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSP Health and Social Inclusion Sub Group • OSP Public Realm Working Group • Affordable Housing Select Committee panel (to be re-formed to review implementation of recommendations in 4Q2009) • Oxford Safer Communities Partnership (as part of the safer, stronger, more cohesive city action plan) 	

Date of last and future meeting:

Last meeting: 5th March 2009

Next meeting: 11th June 2009

Partnership: South Oxfordshire Partnership	Date of completion: 11 May 2009
Contact Officer: Emma Morris	Tel: 01491 823612 Email: emma.morris@southoxon.gov.uk
Chairman: Rt Reverend Colin Fletcher, Bishop of Dorchester	Cabinet Member: Cllr Roger Belson (OCC)
Priorities for the year ahead: Elect new members and implement terms of reference Develop and implement new performance framework Develop and implement a joint communications plan with other Oxfordshire LSPs Develop a health and well being plan for South Oxfordshire Improve support for community-led planning Contribute to the review of partners' key strategies that contribute to the delivery of the aims and priorities in the SCS for South Oxfordshire Pilot approaches to place-based working	
Achievements (Outcomes rather than process) in the last quarter: End of year performance against targets (08/09): BCS crime down by 10.4% Over 42% of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting Rapid response service achieved 10.8 hours average time for removal of fly tipping 136 out of a target 142 affordable homes delivered in adverse economic conditions South Oxfordshire Sustainable Community Strategy agreed and published	
Current activities: Communications project Performance framework	
Future challenges:	
Are there any issues for the Oxfordshire Partnership to be aware of e.g. any areas they could add support to? Developing formal links between district LSPs and Oxfordshire thematic partnerships	
What LAA2 and Oxfordshire 2030 targets is the partnership responsible for?	
Please list the action, delivery or other sub-groups which report to the partnership: South Oxfordshire Community Safety Partnership	
Date of last and future meeting: 22 April 2009/15 July 2009	

Partnership: Vale	Date of completion: 070509
Contact Officer: Toby Warren	Tel: 01235 547695 Email: toby.warren@whitehorsedc.gov.uk
Chairman: John Robertson	Cabinet Member: Cllr Judith Heathcoat
<p>Priorities for the year ahead:</p> <p>At its meeting on 4th December the Partnership Board agreed that the following actions should be priorities for the coming year:</p> <p>S1.3 Support and develop initiatives that break the cycle of deprivation by helping to improve the health and wellbeing of residents who are economically and socially disadvantaged.</p> <p>S4.1 Encourage community cohesion (building understanding between people of different ages, circumstances and backgrounds) by supporting activity that celebrates diversity, tackles hate crime and builds mutual understanding (eg inter-faith and inter-generational work).</p> <p>Ec1.1 Identify and highlight local skills needs by organising an employers' skills forum to gain a better understanding of the skills they require and work with education and training providers to resolve skills related issues.</p>	
<p>Achievements (Outcomes rather than process) in the last quarter:</p> <p>Positive outcomes being achieved at Dean Court as a result of a co-ordinated rather than a fragmented approach. Dean Court is a fairly large housing estate. There are lots of students living there and therefore there are car parking issues. Residents felt it had lost its sense of community and many residents felt socially isolated. The police have acted on the parking issues. The Partnership helped to set up a group last year which is now a Community Action Group. There are now regular youth activities and coffee mornings for older people.</p>	
<p>Current activities:</p> <p>Tackling deprivation group planning South Abingdon Community Fun Day on 25th July as a means of engaging local residents and encouraging community cohesion</p>	
<p>Future challenges:</p> <p>Effective performance management Elected member and community engagement and accountability</p>	
<p>Are there any issues for the Oxfordshire Partnership to be aware of e.g. any areas they could add support to?</p>	

What LAA2 and Oxfordshire 2030 targets is the partnership responsible for?
Please list the action, delivery or other sub-groups which report to the partnership:
Date of last and future meeting: 5 March 18 June

Partnership: West Oxfordshire Strategic Partnership	Date of completion: 12 th May 2009
Contact Officer: Dene Robson	Tel: 01993 861481 Email: dene.robson@westoxon.gov.uk
Chairman: David Neudegg (WODC)	Cabinet Member: David Robertson
Priorities for the year ahead:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To find ways to improve outcomes for local people • To foster joint action between stakeholders in the community • To provide a forum for debate and shared commitment • To develop, implement and monitor Shaping Futures, the Sustainable Community Strategy for West Oxfordshire 	
Achievements (Outcomes rather than process) in the last quarter:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadened membership as result of new Terms of Reference to ensure better representation of community and priorities in Shaping Futures • ‘Too Wasted’ DVD launched in schools and parent workshops – evaluation suggests has contributed to 27 per cent reduction in youth related crime • Feasibility study for CCTV in Carterton completed and scheme launches this summer • Established a district-focussed Health and Well-being Group and a wood-fuel network 	
Current activities:	
<p>To achieve the actions set out in Shaping Futures Delivery Plan 2009/10, under 9 key priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To keep towns and villages economically prosperous and vibrant • To tackle the specific challenges of accessing services and facilities in West Oxfordshire • To help young people move from childhood to adulthood • To support individuals and young families who want to stay in the area where they grew up • To maintain and improve the health and wellbeing of all residents in West Oxfordshire • To campaign to improve the transport infrastructure including public transport • To reduce crime and nuisance and the fear of crime to improve the quality of life in our neighbourhoods • To support older people to maintain their independence and health • To keep West Oxfordshire clean and beautiful while protecting the environment and trying to reduce the causes and effects of climate change <p>Also to continue developing the partnership to ensure it is ‘fit for purpose’, utilising funding available through the Progress through Partnership initiative. Activities this year include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of membership and governance • Facilitated development session with Steering Group to build a ‘team’ dynamic • Communication project (jointly with all LSP’s in Oxfordshire) 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance Management development (jointly with other LSP's in Oxfordshire)
<p>Future challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful achievement of actions in Delivery Plan • Update / review plans in light of changing economic climate • Development of appropriate performance management framework • Strengthen links to Oxfordshire Partnership and Thematic partnerships, particularly around performance management
<p>Are there any issues for the Oxfordshire Partnership to be aware of e.g. any areas they could add support to?</p> <p>The review of partnerships still needs further work in clarifying the role of District LSP's, particularly in relation to LAA targets and indicators. This includes allocation of the LAA reward grant when awarded.</p>
<p>What LAA2 and Oxfordshire 2030 targets is the partnership responsible for?</p> <p>WOSP is not acknowledged as having direct responsibility for any LAA indicators or Ox2030 targets, although it has a clear contribution to many of them. The proposed workshop in September to link the District LSP's and Thematic partnerships will be an important step in acknowledging / coordinating this</p>
<p>Please list the action, delivery or other sub-groups which report to the partnership:</p> <p>West Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership Several other task and thematic groups are being established, including Environment, Economy, Wood-fuel Network, Health and Well-being, financial inclusion</p>
<p>Date of last and future meeting:</p> <p>12th March 2009 (last) 26th June 2009 (future)</p>

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE 2008/09



Introduction

The Standards Committee was set up in November 2001 as part of the ethical framework introduced by the Local Government Act 2000. Its areas of responsibility include:

- To advise the Council on the adoption of and any revisions to the Code of Conduct for Oxfordshire County Council, to monitor its operation, and to assist councillors and co-opted members to observe its provisions;
- To promote high standards of conduct by councillors and co-opted members;
- To deal with reports from the Monitoring Officer or an Ethical Standards Officer of the Standards Board on their investigations into allegations of breaches of the Code of Conduct.

Since 8 May 2008 the Standards Committee is also responsible for the local consideration of allegations of breaches of the Code of Conduct. The following three Sub-Committees have been set up to carry out this responsibility:

- Initial Assessment Panel – to carry out the initial assessment of misconduct allegations;
- Review Panel – To review a decision of the Initial Assessment Panel to take no action in respect of an allegation;
- Standards Hearing Panel – To determine any matters referred to it under the provisions of the Local Authorities (Code of Conduct) (Local Determination) Regulations 2003 as amended.

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the Committee's activities over the last year.

Membership

I am saddened to report that the Deputy Chairman, Mr Roger Cowdrey has resigned leaving three independent members. I would wish to place on record my thanks for his support. His experience and balanced approach to the issues discussed has been particularly welcomed and well received. We wish him well in his future activities. For my own part as Chairman, it is a personal regret that due to ill-health I will have to stand down as Chairman of the Standards Committee, an experience which has been both exhilarating and rewarding.

Consultation on a Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members and Officers

The Committee considered a consultation paper, issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in October 2008, seeking views on issues relating to amendments to the Code of Conduct for Members and the introduction of a Code of Conduct for Employees.

The consultation paper invited views on proposals for revising the model code of conduct for local authority members, principally to clarify its application to members' conduct in their non-official capacity and on changes to the general principles which govern the conduct of local authority members.

The Standards Committee agreed a response to the questions posed by the DCLG and are awaiting a formal response.

Complaints and the 'local filter'

As referred to above the Standards Board for England no longer receive complaints centrally. It is the responsibility of the Standards Committee to receive and make initial assessments of new misconduct allegations relating to this authority, to consider requests to review decisions to take no action and to conduct hearings to determine complaints which have been investigated. This is known as the 'local filter'. The Standards Board expects in future to investigate only the very serious cases, very complex cases and cases which, if investigated locally, would lead to severe disruption of business.

The Standards Board are monitoring the new local arrangements and the authority will be required to report information on cases received and cases investigated to it on a regular basis.

The Use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Policy – Members of the County Council

The Committee considered and commented on a revision to the use of ICT Policy for Members of the County Council. The Policy was amended in light of their comments.

Training

Training has been provided for Members of the Committee on their role and this was carried out with the District Councils. Extensive training has been provided for Members of the Standards Committee, not only when meeting as a Committee but also attending training carried out in

conjunction with colleagues from District Councils, which has been of significant benefit.

Work Programme

In April 2006, the Standards Committee agreed to ask the Audit Commission to undertake a full ethical governance audit to assess how well the authority was meeting the ethical agenda.

The Commission targeted its work on the Council's compliance with statutory requirements and its behaviours, culture and values. Its aim was to:

- Provide the Council with an independent evaluation of its ethical arrangements;
- Establish a baseline position so the Council could measure future progress;
- Identify key improvement opportunities; and
- Help the Council develop an action plan to deliver improvements and set the next two to four years' work programme for the Standards Committee.

The Commission considered in its audit:

- Whether the Council was complying with Part III of the Local Government Act 2000;
- How the Council ensured the Standards Committee was working effectively;
- The extent to which members and officers understood and were aware of ethical issues and their responsibilities under the respective codes of conduct; and
- Whether training on ethical issues was satisfactory.

The Committee considered the Audit Commission's audit report 'Ethical Governance – Voluntary Improvement

Study' at its meeting in April 2007. Last year's annual report outlined the findings of the final report. The Audit Commission's main conclusion was that the Council was proactive in developing and upholding high standards of ethical governance. This and the positive leadership and contributions provided by the Monitoring Officer had led to the high standards of ethical governance found during the audit.

The comparative analysis of the Council's survey results against those from other local authorities was positive. Following workshops in the few areas where the Council appeared to be underperforming against the national comparators a number of action points were agreed at the workshops and the Commission translated these into an action plan which has been incorporated into the Committee's work programme.

The Committee has reviewed its rolling three year work programme of issues it wishes to consider to 2011 arising from the Monitoring Officer's annual report, the action plan in the Audit Commission's report on the findings from its full ethical governance audit and issues it has raised itself at meetings of the Committee.

Standards Committee

During this significant period of change, I have been impressed by the outstanding confidence and dedication of all staff supporting the Standards Committee. I have also been impressed by the way the Councillors have responded to training and requirements for information. It has to be said that there have been no complaints, which the Standards Committee have been called upon to

consider, which speaks highly of the probity of Members of this Council.

Work of the Council

I, like other Independent Members, have attended as an observer a number of meetings of the Council. I have been impressed by the moderation and cordiality which have characterised exchanges between Members. This says a great deal for the culture of respect that applies within this Authority. If there is one criticism I have, it is not to do with the conduct of Councillors or the Business Programme undertaken by them it is in the acoustics in the Council Chamber. This, in my view, makes it difficult for members of the public in the public gallery to hear precisely what is going on.

Conclusion

Standards of conduct have remained high in the Council and promoting awareness and understanding of the new Code of Conduct through training seminars has an important role to play in maintaining the high standards. Setting and prioritising a work programme enables the Committee to focus on specific issues, such as training and guidance, as well as continuing to monitor standards within the authority. Finally, whilst there have been no cases under the new responsibilities for receiving and assessing allegations of breaches of the Authority's Code of Conduct the Committee has continued to ensure that it is in a state of preparedness should any such case arise.

Robert Elmore

Independent Chairman of the Standards Committee

July 2009

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Final version: 30 March 2009 (Amended 19 May 2009)

**DIRECTOR OF
PUBLIC HEALTH
FOR OXFORDSHIRE**

**ANNUAL REPORT
III**

Reporting on 2008-2009

Recommendations for 2009-2010

SUMMARY

This is the third Annual Report by a Director of Public Health for Oxfordshire (jointly appointed by the NHS and the County Council). The recommendations are made for all organisations in Oxfordshire and for the public.

The aims are simple:

1. To report on progress made in the last year and set out challenges for the next year
2. To galvanise action on five main threats to the future health, wellbeing and prosperity of Oxfordshire

The five main long-term threats are:

- Breaking the cycle of deprivation
- An ageing population – the “demographic time bomb”
- Mental health and wellbeing: avoiding a Cinderella service
- The rising tide of obesity
- Fighting killer infections

There is an emphasis throughout this report on 2 important issues:

- The impact of the credit crunch and the recession
- The importance of carers

Progress will be monitored in future reports. Your comments are welcome as long-term success will depend on achieving wide consensus across many organisations.

Please direct comments to: ruth.fenning@oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk

I hope you enjoy the report and act upon it.

Dr Jonathan McWilliam
Director of Public Health for Oxfordshire
March 2009

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INTRODUCTION

What is the purpose of a Director of Public Health's Annual Report?

The purpose of a Director of Public Health is to improve the health and wellbeing of the people of Oxfordshire. This is done by reporting publicly and independently on trends and gaps in the health and wellbeing of the population in Oxfordshire and by making recommendations for improvement to a wide range of organisations.

The role of the Director of Public Health is to be an independent advocate for the health of the people of Oxfordshire.

The Director of Public Health's Annual Report is the main way by which Directors of Public Health make their conclusions known to the public.

This is the third Annual Report by a Director of Public Health appointed jointly by local government and the NHS. This report attempts to build on the momentum generated by the first two which were generously received by a wide range of audiences.

What is the thrust of this particular Annual Report?

This report aims to keep the spotlight firmly on the five main long term threats to public health by reporting on progress made in the last year and by making recommendations for next year. The main threats are:

- Breaking the cycle of deprivation
- An ageing population – the “demographic time bomb”
- Mental health and wellbeing: avoiding a Cinderella service
- The rising tide of obesity
- Fighting killer infections

There is an emphasis throughout this report on two critically important areas:

- The impact of the credit crunch and the recession
- The importance of carers

Public Health – everyone's business

Good health and wellbeing are not created in a vacuum. Good health is closely related to a wide range of factors such as employment, quality of neighbourhoods, quality of schools and having a part to play in society. These factors are, in turn, linked to issues of housing, skills and employment and all contribute to the general economic prosperity of the county. **In addition, to make a difference, it is necessary to focus on the same topics for a number of decades to make sustained change.** For these reasons, the recommendations made in this report are

long-term, wide-ranging and are not confined to traditional areas such as health services and social care.

The Contents of this Report

The first chapter takes an overview of general progress made during the last year. The following five chapters concentrate on progress made on the five major challenges for health in Oxfordshire. Recommendations for improvement are made at the end of each chapter.

Progress against recommendations will be reported each year and, in this way, this document has been designed as a tool to be used. I hope you enjoy it and act on it.

Dr Jonathan McWilliam
Director of Public Health for Oxfordshire

March 2009

CHAPTER 1: Progress Report for 2008/9: A Public Health Balance Sheet

This section highlights the year's main highs and lows for Public Health in Oxfordshire. The chapters which follow deal with the 5 main long term threats in detail.

Credits on the Balance sheet: Evidence of improving public health.

1) Obesity Falls in Schoolchildren

This year's cohort of school children has slightly lower levels of obesity than last year's. Oxfordshire's results were slightly better than national results (see Chapter 5).

2) Adults exercise more

Our best measurements show that exercise levels in adults have crept up by a percentage point over the year. If this becomes a trend it will result in significant benefits to health.

3) Hospital Infections are falling

Infections caused by Clostridium Difficile (C.Diff) have continued to fall during the year thanks to tighter control and better basic hygiene. Levels of Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) were held at last year's levels. (See Chapter 6)

4) Oxfordshire is Prepared for a Flu Pandemic

A recent audit showed that Oxfordshire is judged as well prepared for a flu pandemic. This is a tribute to all organisations working closely together, nonetheless there is still room for improvement.

5) Immunisation services have been overhauled

Immunisation is probably the most effective public health intervention of all. During the year the computer system managing immunisations has been overhauled. We now have much more accurate information and can target children who have missed some immunisations. Extra nurses have been brought into the County to help and private schools are now fully included.

6) We have a credible Alcohol Strategy (at last)

A much improved alcohol strategy was launched during the year which targets Oxfordshire's priorities such as young people drinking. This is good news. Progress will need to be monitored closely as alcohol problems are on the brink of becoming a 6th main gap in the county's public health. A close watch will be kept to monitor progress during 2009/10. Two main issues need to be resolved, firstly clarification of the role of the Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) in championing alcohol issues and secondly better information on health risks for the adult frequent drinker.

7) Lining up the battleships

Good public health requires focus, stability, a long term vision and **the concerted action of organisations and individuals**. In last year's report joining up the efforts of

all organisations was likened to aligning scattered battleships into a single fleet with a single purpose.

Good progress has been made to line up the battleships better during 2008/09. Examples include:

- Publication of 'Oxfordshire 20:30' as a multi-agency strategy.
- Deepening of financial agreements between PCT and the County Council.
- Stronger partnerships between District Councils and the Public Health Directorate.
- The work of the Health & Wellbeing Partnership to prioritise older people, obesity and the mental health.
- The Children's Trust beginning to grapple with deprivation.
- The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee acting as watchdog for ambulance services and for the demographic challenges faced by Oxfordshire.
- The PCT and County Council agreed to 'pool' £45 million to spend jointly on mental health services.

This work is vital. It will however be under threat during 2009/10. This could act as a threat to the public health during 2009/10 and will need to be monitored closely because of the recession. **The recession will squeeze public sector spending and this in turn will tend to make organisations retreat behind financial barricades and narrow their concerns to 'core business' rather than 'joint business'.**

Debits on the Balance sheet: Evidence of worsening Public Health

1) Inequalities Widen

Each year we compare death rates in our most deprived and least deprived wards in Oxfordshire. The 'gap' between the most deprived and least deprived gives us a useful measure: the 'inequalities gap'. We aim to narrow this gap year on year by improving the health of the most deprived. During 2008/09 the gap has widened slightly. This isn't the easiest indicator to interpret, but it does show that we have no room for complacency in the fight against inequality in our County.

2) The credit crunch and the recession

We have yet to see the full impact of the recession. Each chapter of this report points out the likely effects on health and wellbeing in Oxfordshire. Previous recessions indicate that in the end it is the most vulnerable who suffer the most and who bear the longest lasting effects. As pointed out above the resulting squeeze in public spending will reduce the room for manoeuvre of public bodies and this in turn will tend to put a brake on the creative joint work so necessary for good public health. **Traditionally services aimed at preventing problems, promoting health and detecting early disease have been the first to be squeezed.** We will need a strong resolve to ensure this does not happen over the next 5 years.

3) Teenage Pregnancy levels rise

The latest figures show that Oxfordshire's teenage pregnancy rates have risen and continue to worsen. The county average is low, but there are clear 'hotspots' where rates are high (see Chapter 3). We have invested in new services and have targeted the hotspots but we still need to do more to solve the problem.

4) Persisting Inequalities in GCSE results

We have yet to make a lasting difference to the inequalities which our GCSE results show up starkly. Good work has begun but Chapter 3 highlights in detail the challenges we still face. Results in parts of Oxford City and in students from some black and ethnic minority communities are particularly concerning.

5) Focus on deprivation in parts of Oxford City and Banbury

The problems listed above all point to a single conclusion: we must target our efforts to reverse the longstanding pockets of deprivation found in Oxfordshire, particularly in Banbury and Oxford City.

Chapter 2: Older People and the Demographic Time Bomb: The Need to go Further, Faster

Why does it matter?

The growth in the number of older people in Oxfordshire is now universally accepted as one of the major challenges to the wellbeing of this county. The reasons for this are well worth repeating. They are:

1. The **number** of older people is increasing, particularly over 85s.
2. The **proportion** of older people in the population is increasing. The working population will be increasingly stretched to fund public services for the retired.
3. The increase will be uneven across the county. By 2029 people aged 85+ will increase in number by around 150% in Cherwell, Vale and West Oxfordshire, by around 125% in South Oxfordshire and by around 70% in Oxford City. (See the table below).
4. The impact on services will be severe. The current range of services we provide will simply not be affordable. The recession will make matters worse.
5. Because the proportion of younger people in Britain is falling compared with older people, demand for informal care by older people is predicted to exceed supply within the next ten years – by 2017.

Population numbers and projections are set out in the table below:

Table 1: Population Projections for Older People in Oxfordshire 2004-2029

Geographical Area	AGE 65+			AGE 80+			AGE 85+		
	Pop in 2004 (1,000s)	Pop in 2029 (1,000s)	%age Increase 2004 to 2029	Pop in 2004 (1,000s)	Pop in 2029 (1,000s)	%age Increase 2004 to 2029	Pop in 2004 (1,000s)	Pop in 2029 (1,000s)	%age Increase 2004 to 2029
Cherwell	18.8	34.9	85.6%	5.1	11.1	117.6%	2.2	5.5	150.0%
Oxford City	17.2	23.0	33.7%	5.4	7.5	38.9%	2.3	3.9	69.6%
South Oxfordshire	20.5	32.5	58.5%	5.8	11.5	98.3%	2.6	5.8	123.1%
Vale of White Horse	18.8	29.4	56.4%	5.2	10.6	103.8%	2.2	5.4	145.5%
West Oxfordshire	16.2	28.0	72.8%	4.7	10.1	114.9%	2.1	5.2	147.6%
Oxfordshire	91.5	147.8	61.5%	26.2	50.8	93.9%	11.4	25.8	126.3%

Source: Office for National Statistics: Sub-national population projections based on 2004 mid-year estimates these show what the population will be in the future, given the current trends

What is the solution?: The 5 point blueprint

The blueprint for Oxfordshire must contain these five elements:

1. Bringing all statutory services together to move in a single direction, increase clout and give better value.
2. Encouraging prevention through:
 - Preventing illness before it starts (e.g. via stop-smoking services)

- Preventing unnecessary admission for people with existing problems
 - Reducing unnecessary referrals to hospital and finding community alternatives
3. Reducing unnecessary treatments once in hospital
 4. Valuing and supporting informal carers
 5. Helping local communities to help themselves

Overview of Progress Made in the last 2 years

OPINION: Progress has been made during 2007/09, but compared with the size of the problem: progress is still too slow and lacks sufficient senior-level focus.

It is fair to acknowledge that this is a difficult and thorny issue. There are no easy off-the-shelf solutions to be found elsewhere in the country and soundings taken from neighbouring counties show that few have strong enough relationships to attempt this work. In Oxfordshire we have certainly reached the starting line, as the following facts show:

1. The Health and Wellbeing Partnership has selected this topic as one of its three main priorities.
2. Work has begun, though slowly, to group together the work of statutory and voluntary sectors on older people. We have begun to get all our eggs into one basket.
3. Making budgetary provision for demographic growth is becoming routine in the County Council and the PCT.
4. The County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Social Care Scrutiny Committees have worked together to produce an important review of demographic issues across the county. This review underlines the fact that we have no choice but to seek radical change. This report (produced by a cross-party group of County and District Councillors) usefully underlined the main problems. These included:
 - The need to understand and value older people in the communities where they live.
 - The huge contribution made by informal carers.
 - The need to prevent ill health and maintain independent living.
 - The need to improve access to services and their financial underpinnings.
 - Above all the need for statutory and voluntary agencies to work together in partnership.
5. The PCT and County Council have worked well during 2008/09 to avoid disputes about the large joint budgets they hold for continuing care. The development of trust through risk-sharing agreements for our joint budgets will be critical to joining up our services.

Insufficient progress

Despite the difficulties and barriers we need to make increasingly speedy and focused progress as time is not on our side. Progress is needed in the following areas:

1. Clarifying the 'map' of services for older people, both statutory and voluntary. We currently have an 'alphabet soup' of programmes and initiatives. These are all interconnected but do not have a common driving force behind them. We need to clarify existing work so that we can **set a clear local direction for the County.**
2. Because we do not yet have an absolutely clear view of the direction we wish to go in we have been unable to **set clear outcome measures** for older people. This needs to be a priority.
3. We have made some progress in **grouping together preventative services** but more focus is needed to bring together a coherent programme of work.
4. Tentative work has begun to try to **support communities to use their own resources** to help older people. This work also needs to be brought together as a tightly managed workstream.
5. **Support for Carers.** The main gaps are highlighted in the following section.

The importance of carers and their need to be better supported

Down the ages vulnerable older people have turned for support first to their families and friends. When this fails, charities and the state have stepped in with varying degrees of success - as Almshouses, the Poor Laws and Workhouses attest.

Recent years have seen the State value carers explicitly through a series of Carers Acts (1995, 2000, 2004) and a clutch of White Papers and Policy Documents. These Acts have clarified the rights of carers and placed duties on local government to assist carers directly. This has been done for two main reasons:

1. A humanitarian response to the plight of many carers
2. A pragmatic response - carers are rightly seen to be shoring up social and health care services and budgets. It is in the interest of everyone to strengthen the protection and support they receive.

The truth is simple: without carers, current health services and social services would collapse.

In Oxfordshire in 2009 the Institute of Public Care estimated that there are 56,000 carers of all ages (around one in 10 of the population) rising to 64,000 by 2029 in line with the demographic time bomb. In addition Wittenberg estimated that the demand for informal care by older people specifically will exceed supply by 2017¹. **Thus we are facing a 'time bomb within a time bomb': our most vulnerable older people are increasing in number as our capacity to care for them dwindles.**

¹ ¹ *Wittenberg et al 2007 and Pickard et al 2007*

For these reasons, caring for our carers really is a top priority. So what can be done? A number of immediate gaps in supporting carers for older people are evident. The first step to improving matters during 2009/2010 should be to clarify and improve the NHS's contribution. The PCT lacks a comprehensive carers' strategy to add into joint work across the County. A strategy would include:

- Strengthening the GP's role in identifying carers and championing their needs
- identifying current money spent and investment over time in support of carers
- strengthening the NHS's contribution to the Joint Carer's Strategy

Recommendations

Recommendation 1

The Health and Wellbeing partnership, through the Director for Social and Commissioning Services and PCT Director of Commissioning, should produce a clear map of services for older people in Oxfordshire and a clear strategic direction for each component of those services by the end of March 2010.

Recommendation 2

The Health and Wellbeing Partnership, through the Director of Social Services and PCT Director of Commissioning, should have agreed clear outcome measures for each component of older people's services by the end of December 2009. These should include specific outcome measures for:

- approaching old age in good health with minimum disability
- early detection and early treatment of diseases and disability
- the support of wider society for older people including support for carers
- specific health and social care services
- end of life care
- use of a community's own resources

Recommendation 3

During 2009/10 Oxfordshire County Council and Oxfordshire PCT should appoint a senior, dedicated, joint commissioner for older people and healthy ageing.

Recommendation 4

Oxfordshire PCT, through its Medical Director and Director of Public Health, should review and improve its strategic work on carers as highlighted within the text above. This should include the identification of direct support for carers, strengthening the role of general practice, clarification of investment and making a full contribution to the existing carers' strategy for Oxfordshire. Progress should be evident and quantifiable by March 2010.

CHAPTER 3: Breaking the Cycle of Deprivation

Why does it matter?

There remain areas of stubborn inequality in this county where poor life prospects and poor health are handed down from one generation to the next.

Statistics show that there are specific areas of the County which experience poor school attainment, excessive ill health, higher crime rates, higher levels of teenage pregnancy, higher unemployment and, ultimately, an early death.

The longer term impact of the credit crunch and recession will fall most heavily in these areas.

Paying for these problems through additional public services adds to the drain on the public purse for the whole county: **This is an issue of concern for everyone.**

Tackling the Issues:

The Oxfordshire Approach. We have agreed to tackle this problem on two fronts

1. A county wide approach to breaking the cycle of deprivation in children, young people and families led by the Children's Trust, focussing on **Banbury, Oxford City, Abingdon/Berinsfield and affected rural areas.**
2. A specific focus on the most deprived wards of **Oxford City and Banbury** involving all organisations led by the Oxfordshire Partnership.

Overview of Progress Made in the last 2 years

OPINION: The problem has been recognised, some promising action has begun, but we have not yet made a lasting difference.

1. Breaking the cycle of deprivation in children, young people and families

Examples of useful initiatives begun during the last year include the following:

- The County Council's drive to improve school results among children continues. This includes efforts to target extra help to children who are less well off (e.g. those in receipt of free school meals), and those at risk of doing less well when they transfer from primary to secondary school.
- Increased investment in child health services for schools, focused on teenage pregnancy hot spots. This is the equivalent of seven new school health nurses.

- Increased investment in services for vulnerable young people who are at risk of offending; equivalent to one and a half new health workers attached to three youth offending teams.
- A Confidential Inquiry was held to improve understanding of poor performance in teenage pregnancy. The main result of this has been more direct focus on enduring hot spots in Oxford City and Banbury.
- A recent restructure within the Children, Young People and Families Directorate of Oxfordshire County Council has led to the setting up of three new multidisciplinary service 'hubs' for the county (North, Central and South). These aim to get better results and improve partnership working (for example, between schools, youth workers, school health nurses and health visitors) and to fine-tune services more closely to local needs.

The Facts about children and deprivation in detail

It is vital that we measure these indicators in detail each year to monitor progress. .

Measure 1: National Comparisons: the Child Wellbeing Index

The Child Wellbeing Index was published in January 2009 (www.communities.co.uk). It compares local authorities in England and looks at data covering health, education, crime, housing, the environment, overall wealth and children in need. Each local authority is given an overall score and ranked. The results are as follows:

- **Oxfordshire is 18th best out of a hundred and forty-nine councils**
- West Oxfordshire is 15th best among 354 district councils
- Vale of White Horse is 26th best among 354 district councils
- South Oxfordshire is 33rd best among 354 district councils
- **Cherwell is a 140th out of 354 district councils**
- **Oxford City is 259th out of 354 district councils**

If this data is read together with the child poverty data which follows, the stark difficulties facing Oxfordshire become apparent.

The difficulties we face are:

1. The county average is good, **sufficiently good to mask inequalities** unless they are looked for carefully, and sufficiently good to deny Oxfordshire additional funding for deprivation.
2. **There are marked differences across the County** with West Oxfordshire, Vale and South Oxfordshire scoring in the top ten per cent of all districts nationally while Cherwell occupies a middle-ranking position and Oxford City languishes in the bottom third of districts. This position should not be tolerated within a county as affluent as Oxfordshire.
3. If we look very closely, **even these good scores hide some very small pockets of rural deprivation.**

4. Going into more detail, looking at the child poverty data below, it can be seen that there are **ten small areas roughly within the bottom ten per cent of all areas in England with high child poverty.** Nine of these are in Oxford City and one is in Banbury.

Throughout this section, again and again, our attention will be drawn to the need to focus and re-focus efforts on deprived areas of Oxford City and Banbury.

Measure 2: National Comparisons: child poverty

The data in the table below ranks small areas in England using uptake of a variety of state benefits as a measure of child poverty.

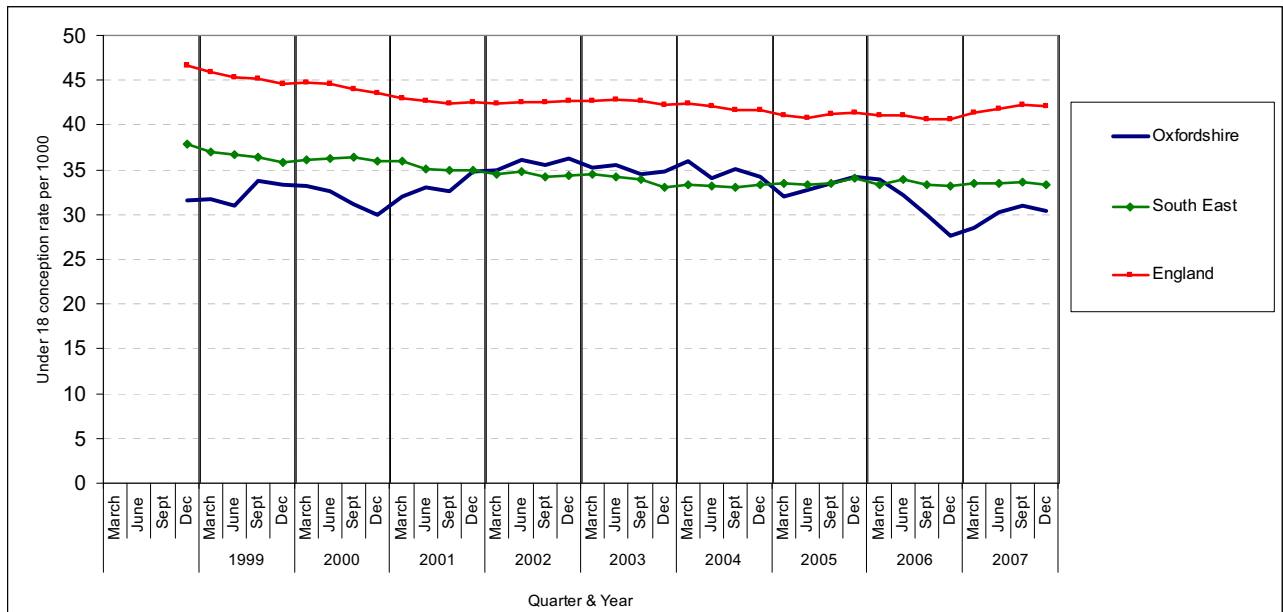
Table 2. Deprived Small Areas within Oxfordshire in terms of income deprivation compared with All Small Areas in England: 2007			
DISTRICT NAME	AREA NAME	DEPRIVATION RANK OF ALL AREAS IN ENGLAND (where 1 is most deprived and 32,482 least deprived)	RANK AS %age OF ALL AREAS IN ENGLAND
Oxford	Barton & Sandhills	1012	3.1% from bottom
Oxford	Cowley Marsh	2283	7.0% from bottom
Oxford	Northfield Brook	2440	7.5% from bottom
Oxford	St. Mary's	2579	7.9% from bottom
Oxford	Rose Hill and Iffley	2700	8.3% from bottom
Oxford	Churchill	2851	8.8% from bottom
Cherwell	Banbury, Grimsbury and Castle	3018	9.3% from bottom
Oxford	St. Clement's	3059	9.4% from bottom
Oxford	Blackbird Leys	3122	9.6% from bottom
Oxford	Northfield Brook	3334	10.3%

This table demonstrates vivid inequalities in this county with high levels of deprivation in Oxford City and Banbury.

Measure 3: Teenage conceptions

Information on teenage conceptions is reported as the rate of conceptions per 1000 women aged 15 – 17 years². This enables us to compare ourselves against national and regional trends and against our statistical neighbours.

Figure 3 Quarterly teenage pregnancy rates in Oxfordshire, the South East Region and England, 1999-2007



Source: Teenage Pregnancy Unit

This chart shows that overall levels of teenage pregnancy are lower than the national and regional average. Results in 2006 were good but 2007 has shown increased rates once again. Oxfordshire remains a national outlier for poor performance because our rate of improvement is too slow.

Teenage Pregnancy Hot Spots

Once again, relatively low county averages mask smaller ‘hotspots’. It is not difficult to identify and target these hotspots. It is no surprise that parts of deprived Banbury and Oxford City have the highest rates although Witney also gives cause for concern. The table below shows the small areas in the county with the highest rates of teenage conception.

² The teenage conception rate is calculated by dividing the number of conceptions in young women aged under 18 years by the number of young women aged 15 – 17 years, multiplied by 1000.

Figure 4. Oxfordshire wards with highest teenage conception rate (more than 60 conceptions per 1000 women aged 15 – 17 years)

Locality	Wardname	2004-06 rate
Banbury	Banbury Grimsbury and Castle	113.59
Oxford	Lye Valley	93.33
Oxford	Littlemore	90.30
Banbury	Banbury Neithrop	86.96
Oxford	Northfield Brook	83.54
Oxford	St Mary's	80.19
Oxford	Iffley Fields	78.69
Banbury	Banbury Ruscote	74.47
Oxford	Cowley	74.07
Oxford	Cowley Marsh	69.77
Witney	Witney Central	69.77
Banbury	Banbury Hardwick	69.07
Oxford	Rose Hill and Iffley	68.05
Brize Norton	Brize Norton and Shilton	63.83
Oxford	Blackbird Leys	63.38

Source: NHS Oxfordshire Decision Support

Measure 4: Breastfeeding

Breastfeeding is key to giving children a good start in life. If we were to reduce the gaps between the best and the worst wards in the county it would make a valuable contribution to breaking the cycle of deprivation. The table below shows progress made in 2007/08

Figure 5 Breastfeeding Initiation rates in Oxfordshire 2003-04 to 2007-08

Locality	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008
All Wards	76.0%	75.3%	78.2%	77.2%	78.1%
30 least deprived	80.6%	76.4%	81.7%	78.3%	81.9%
30 most deprived	68.9%	69.7%	71.4%	76.7%	72.6%
Inequality gap	11.7%	6.7%	10.3%	1.6%	9.3%

Source: NHS Oxfordshire Decision Support

The 'inequality gap' has widened by almost 8% in one year. This represents inadequate progress.

Measure 5: Smoking in Pregnancy

Minimising the number of pregnant smokers is important for the health of mother and baby. Narrowing the gap between the best and worst wards is critical. The figures for the last year are shown below.

Figure 6 Rates of Smoking in Pregnancy in Oxfordshire, 2003/06 – 2005/08

Locality	2003/2006	2004/2007	2005/2008
All Wards	9.6%	10.8%	10.1%
30 least deprived	5.5%	7.8%	6%
30 most deprived	14.2%	13.8%	14.9%
Inequality gap	8.8%	6.0%	8.9%

Source: NHS Oxfordshire Decision Support

Despite considerable targeting the ‘inequality gap’ has widened slightly. Renewed efforts are required in this area.

Measure 6: Obesity

Chapter 5 is dedicated to obesity and contains more detail. The table below shows Oxfordshire’s progress in fighting obesity in school children with national figures in brackets.

Figure 7 Percentage of Oxfordshire children in Reception Class and Year 6 who are overweight or obese, 2007 and 2008, compared to national rates (in brackets)

	2007		2008	
	Reception	Yr 6	Reception	Yr 6
Overweight	12% (13%)	13% (14%)	11.1% (13%)	13.9% (14.3%)
Obese	8% (10%)	15% (17%)	7.2% (9.6%)	15.4% (18.3%)

Source: NHS Oxfordshire Decision Support

Overall Oxfordshire has outperformed national figures by a greater margin than in the previous year. The proportion of overweight and obese children in reception year fell. This is an encouraging result.

Measure 7: Educational Attainment

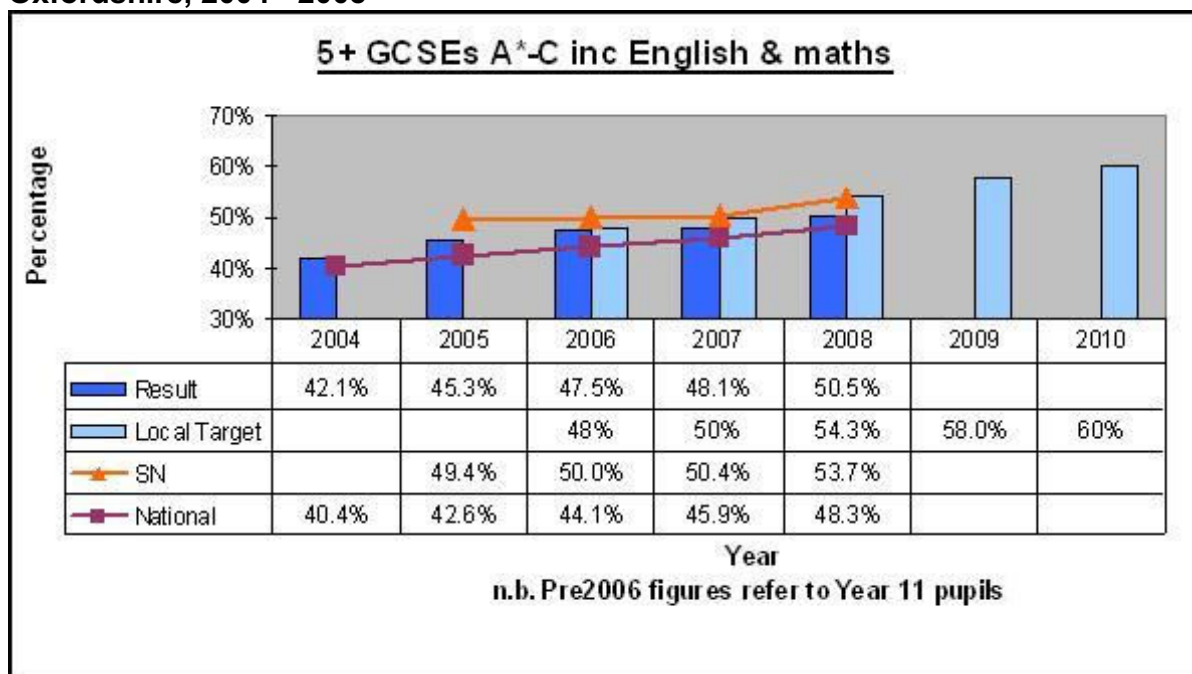
It is important that educational attainment is carefully monitored each year. Educational attainment is a useful summary indicator of underlying problems in a society. **All organisations have some responsibility for remedying this situation**

In this section the main comparator used is GCSEs achieved by our 15-16 year olds at Key Stage 4 (KS4) of the National Curriculum. The specific measure is National Indicator NI 75 - the number of pupils achieving five or more GCSEs at A*-C including English & Maths (5+ GCSEs A*-C inc E & M).

a. Overall attainment compared with the national average

2008 data shows that there has been a gradual improvement in Oxfordshire since 2005. The proportion of pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs A*-C inc E & M in Oxfordshire increased by 2.4% this year. Overall performance has increased above the national rates of improvement for the past four years. However 2008 performance remains well below the local target of 54.3% and given our relative prosperity, we should be performing better. This indicator remains a cause for concern. We need to monitor this situation closely and look for improvement in September 2009. In precise terms, the percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSE A*-C inc E & M has improved from 48.1% in 2007 to 50.5% in 2008. At the same time, the national rate increased from 45.9% in 2007 to 48.3% in 2008.

Figure 8 Percentage of students achieving 5+ GCSEs A*-C inc E&M in Oxfordshire, 2004 - 2008



Source: Oxfordshire County Council Performance Team

b. Comparison with statistical neighbours

This information allows us to bench mark the attainment of our young people against similar local authorities. Oxfordshire performs poorly in comparison to similar counties. The gap between Oxfordshire and its statistical neighbours decreased steadily from 4.1% in 2002 to 2.3% in 2007. However in 2008 this gap has widened to 3.2%. Effort will be required to prevent further deterioration and turn the situation around.

c. Inequalities in attainment between schools

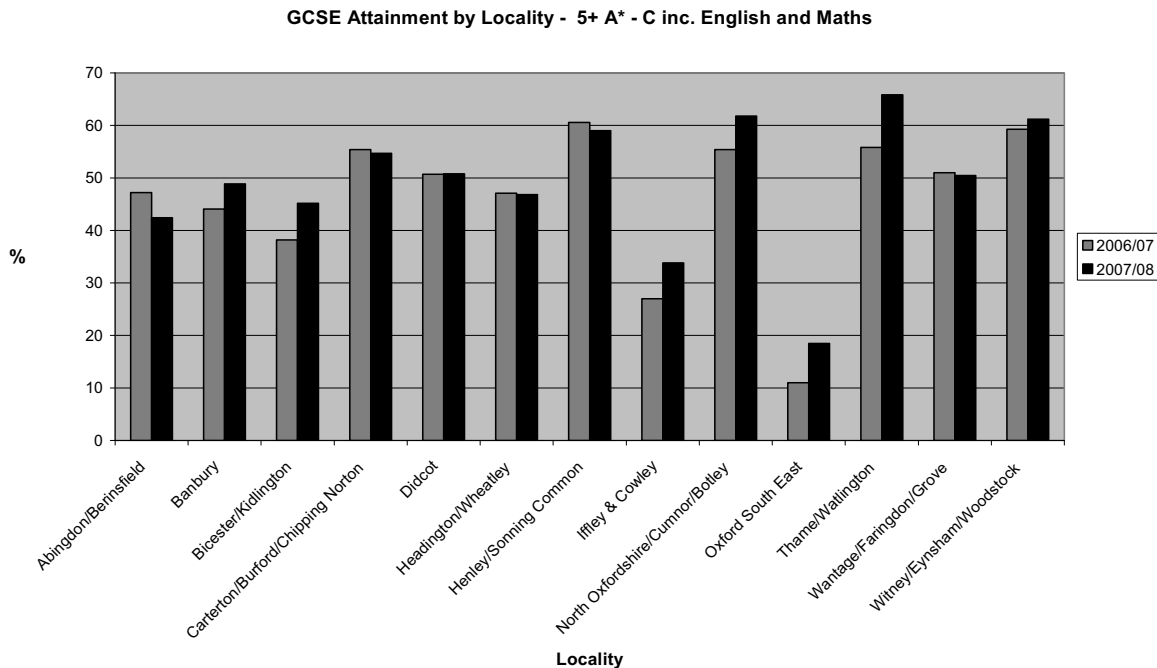
The range of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs A*-C inc E & M in 2008 varied widely across the county. A familiar picture of lower levels of attainment in schools in deprived areas, particularly in Oxford City, is apparent. For example, in 2008 almost 73% of pupils at Bartholomew's School in Eynsham achieved 5 or more GCSEs A*-C inc E & M (an excellent result) compared with only 18.5% at Peers School in Oxford City. In 13 (38%) schools less than 50% of pupils achieved 5 or more GCSEs A*-C inc E & M. 12 schools (35%) were below the national average and 14 schools (41%) were below the county average for achievement of 5+ A* - C inc E & M

These results need to be used to target services and resources by all organisations until matters improve.

d. Inequalities in attainment by locality

The overall shape of GCSE results achieved by pupils across the 13 children’s localities in 2008 is similar to 2007, although Banbury and Oxford South East have seen a very welcome increase in the percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more A*-C grades by 5% and 7% respectively. It is too early to say whether this result is part of a sustained improvement but this may be one of the first fruits of targeting effort to improve attainment in deprived localities. **GCSE results achieved by pupils in Oxford South East and Iffley/Cowley localities remains markedly lower than the rest of the county.** The picture in the chart below shows very variable performance across localities. While some have done well, there has been no improvement or a fall in results in 6 localities. This is worrying given the national trend towards better results.

Figure 9 GCSE attainment in Oxfordshire by locality, 2006-07 and 2007-08

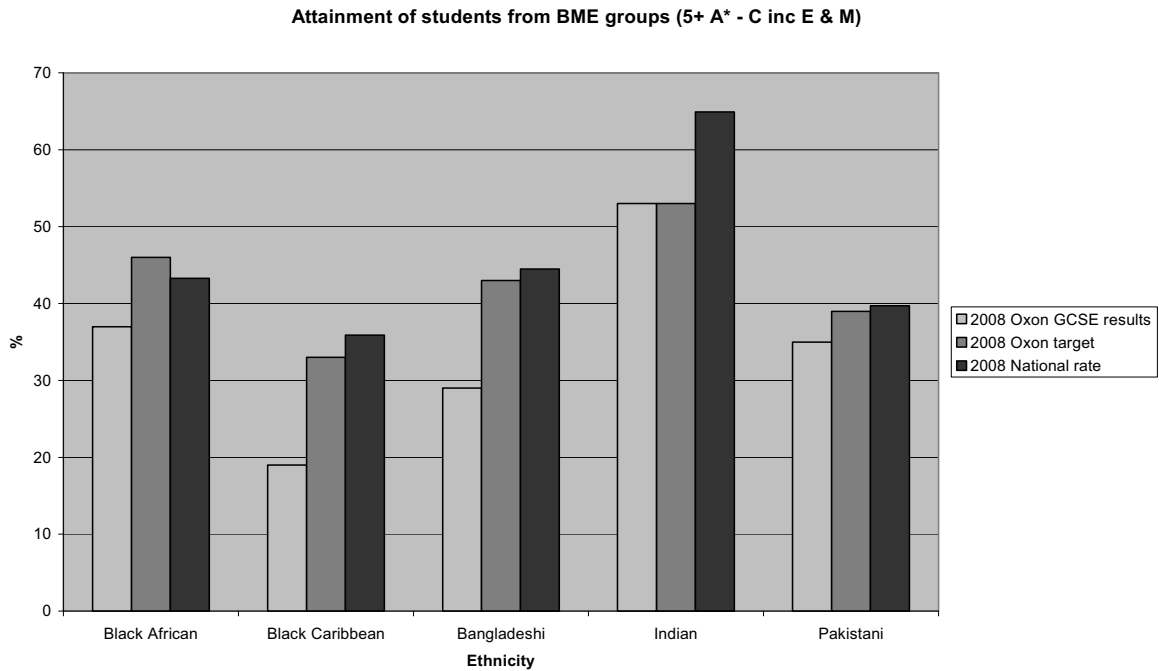


Source: Oxfordshire County Council Performance Team

e. Attainment in black and minority ethnic groups

We perform poorly on this measure in Oxfordshire. The chart below shows that for all pupils in Black and Minority Ethnic groups results in 2008 were worse than the national average. Only pupils from the Indian ethnic group met the Oxfordshire target. Active measures are being taken to improve this position. We will need to look critically at 2009 figures and take further action as a priority if needed.

Figure 10 GCSE targets and attainment in Oxfordshire for Black and Minority Ethnic Groups, 2008



Source: Oxfordshire County Council Performance Team

Recommendations for breaking the cycle of deprivation in children, young people and families

Recommendation 1

The Oxfordshire Children's Trust through the Director of Children, Young People and Families should draw together all existing work on 'deprivation and narrowing the gap' into a single comprehensive workstream.

This workstream should be highly visible in 4 places:

1. As a major section of the new Children & Young People's Plan to be produced during 2009/10.
2. As a major workstream of the Children's Trust commissioning sub-group.
3. As a major workstream of each of the new North, Central and South Partnerships.
4. In the PCT's Operational Plan for 2010/11 which should be identical with the Children & Young People's Plan.

Recommendation 2

Oxfordshire PCT and Oxfordshire County Council should take active steps to merge their commissioning of all children's services, through the Director for Children, Young People and Families and the PCT Director of Commissioning. The ultimate goal should be unification of all children's service commissioning under the umbrella of the Children's Trust. Concrete progress should be made by March 2010.

Recommendation 3

The Director of Public Health should take steps to improve the targeting of breastfeeding services so as to close the inequality gap by March 2010.

2. Breaking the cycle of deprivation: focus on Banbury and Oxford.

In last year's DPH Annual Report the case was made for agencies to pool resources and work together to tackle deprivation in specific parts of Oxford City and Banbury and recommendations were made to suggest how this might be done. It was felt to be particularly important for county and district local authorities, the Police and the PCT to work together with local people.

Only by combining our resources in this way do we have a chance of rooting out once and for all these pockets of deprivation in our county.

Overall Progress made since last year

OPINION: Progress has been slow but promising.

A very wide range of organisations and partnerships have accepted in principle that we must all focus on deprived parts of Banbury and the City. Detailed preparatory work has been carried out in both Cherwell and Oxford City and good contributions have been made by local authorities, the police and the PCT.

Despite this progress, we have now spent almost a year in conversation on this topic and we have yet to see concrete action on the ground. We are renowned for our ability to talk and analyse in Oxfordshire, but the jury is still out on whether we can carry this through into action. This will be particularly challenging as budgets tighten because of the recession.

The Oxfordshire Partnership wrestled with this issue in February 2009 and the following important points were discussed.

1. Do we have the necessary political will to focus the attention of all organisations within all areas of the county?
2. Focussing on any individual 'place' is always difficult for organisations because it cuts across the normal way of doing business. In other words it cuts across the current silos.
3. We do not have an agreed way of tackling these issues in partnership across the county and we do not have a ready made governance structure to support decision making.

Following a positive debate, the Oxfordshire Partnership charged the '5 Chiefs' (the Chief Executives of County Council, City Council, Cherwell District Council, Primary Care Trust and Police Chief Superintendent BCU Commander for Oxfordshire) to work together to find solutions to these problems and bring forward positive action to the next meeting in June 2009. In addition the Director of Public Health was charged with supporting this effort.

Recommendation for breaking the cycle of deprivation with a focus on Banbury and Oxford

Recommendation 1

The Oxfordshire Partnership should ensure that a positive way forward is found to tackle this issue by holding to account Oxfordshire PCT, Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford City Council, Cherwell District Council and Thames Valley Police. This should begin in June 2009.

Chapter 4 Mental health in adults: avoiding a Cinderella service

Why Does it Matter?

Last year's report explained why mental health matters. To recap:

- Mental health problems are common: **one in six of the adult population** has a mental illness at any one time. This could happen to any one of us.
- Mental health accounts for a quarter of all disease suffered at any one time.
- Mental health problems strike at economic productivity - nationally mental health problem costs £77 billion a year
- We need to work in partnership to tackle these problems. Factors such as the quality of the physical environment, poverty, inequality, social cohesion and economic prosperity all combine to cause or exacerbate mental health problems.
- There is a high social cost to the individual, their relationships, their families, the wider society and thus the economy: mental health problems affect us all.

In addition:

- The stress caused by the credit crunch and recession is likely to bring out additional mental health problems. In addition it will add extra stress to people with existing mental health problems. Job losses may strike particularly hard for this vulnerable group.

Overview of Progress made since last year

OPINION: Real progress has been made since during the last year. It is not yet sufficient. Effort must be maintained.

The Question and Answer List below gives a snapshot of progress made.

Key Question 1 Are the PCT and County Council giving adequate recognition and priority to mental health services and prevention in Oxfordshire?

Answer *Marked improvement has been made over the last year but more focus is still needed.*

Key Question 2 Have we clarified in this county who will deal with mental health problems?

Answer *Yes, we have agreed that:*

- *The Children's' Trust will tackle children and young people's issues.*
- *The Mental Health Strategy group will tackle problems in adults of working age.*

- *The Health and Wellbeing Partnership will tackle mental wellbeing and older people's mental health issues*

Key Question 3	Are we clear about our strategic direction?
Answer	<i>Draft strategies exist for adults of working age and for mental wellbeing. Mental health in older people remains a gap</i>
Key Question 4	Have we made progress on Mental Wellbeing?
Answer	<i>Yes. Good work has taken place throughout the year and this is a priority for the Health & Wellbeing Partnership. A 3 year action plan has been agreed.</i>
Key Question 5	Have we agreed outcome measures so that we know we will have made a difference?
Answer	<i>No this remains a major gap</i>
Key Question 6	Are we clear about the coordination, organisation and governance of work on mental health?
Answer	<i>Progress has been made. There has been a significant improvement during the year.</i>
Key Question 7	Have we agreed service specifications aimed at improving outcomes?
Answer	<i>There are some but most have yet to be developed.</i>
Key Question 8	Do we have adequate senior leadership to take forward mental health issues as a whole?
Answer	<i>This report identifies this topic as a gap.</i>
Key Question 9	Are we tackling specific vulnerable groups better?
Answer	<i>A good start has been made working with the armed forces.</i>
Key Question 10	Have we aligned public sector money better?
Answer	<i>Yes significant progress has been made to create a joint NHS and County Council pooled budget of around £45 million</i>
Key Question 11	Has sufficient emphasis been given to supporting carers of people with mental health problems?
Answer	<i>This remains a gap with the NHS</i>

Comments on progress made and next steps

There is a wide consensus that 2008/09 was a good year for improving the profile of mental health issues across the county. Strategic groups working on mental health have done well to organise their work programmes better. The ground has now been cleared and foundations have been put in place.

We now need to keep the pressure on to build real service improvement and service change on these foundations.

A number of critical gaps still remain. These are:

- The need to agree clear outcome measures
- The need to improve senior leadership across the statutory sector for this care group
- The need to make real service change which makes a measurable difference to people's lives.

Last year's report warned against creating another false dawn for mental health. The dawn is now breaking and we must push through to the full daylight.

The recommendations below are designed to point the way forward to help us take these next steps.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1

Oxfordshire PCT as the lead commissioner for mental health is recommended to use its newly created post of joint mental health commissioner as the senior focal point for all aspects of adult mental health commissioning across the county during 2009/2010. This should ensure there is a smooth interface with mental health commissioning for older people. This arrangement should be agreed by the PCT Director of Commissioning and the County Council Director for Social and Community Services by September 2009.

Recommendation 2

The PCT Director of Commissioning should lead the production of clear, multiagency local outcome measures for mental health of adults of working age and the mental health of older people by the end of December 2009.

Recommendation 3

Particular emphasis should be placed on commissioning services for older people's mental health to ensure this does not fall between the two stools of work on either older people or mental health.

It is recommended that the PCT Director of Commissioning and the County Council Director for Social & Community Services ensure that there is a separate and comprehensive older people's mental health strategy agreed and signed off by the Health and Well Being Partnership as part of a strategic approach to older people in general by the end of March 2010.

Recommendation 4

Recommendations made about carers in Chapter 2 should also include those caring for people with mental health problems.

Chapter 5 The Rising Tide of Obesity

Why does it matter?

31 million adults in the UK are overweight or obese³. The number of obese people in England has tripled since the 1980's Oxfordshire is no exception. This is a long term battle we cannot afford to lose because:

- Obesity makes its impact in many ways. It causes long-term chronic diseases such as diabetes, stroke and heart disease; it causes mobility problems and saps mental well-being.
- Overweight and obesity are more common in people from lower socioeconomic and socially disadvantaged groups. Obesity makes the cycle of deprivation bite more deeply.
- In children, obesity can cause damaging psychological problems, but obese children are now also presenting with diabetes, high blood pressure and raised cholesterol levels. **In the worst case scenario, current levels of child obesity mean that today's parents could outlive their children**
- In 2007/08, 2 in 10 children measured in Oxfordshire schools (age 4-5) were either overweight or obese, this increased to 3 in 10 for children measured in year 6 (age 10-11)
- If current trends continue the annual cost to the local NHS of diseases related to obesity alone is estimated to rise by a staggering 24% in only six years.
- The increasing costs of treating this epidemic will be unaffordable in future years. Finding the money to pay for this in the public sector will be exacerbated by the long term effects of the credit crunch and recession.

Overview of Progress made in the last 2 Years

OPINION: A useful start has been made. We now need to step this up a level.

Progress has been made as follows:-

1. **Obesity is now a major priority** of the Health and Wellbeing Partnership and a County Obesity Strategy is in place.
2. **New ways of commissioning are in place:-**
 - Obese pregnant women are referred to Slimmer's World on the NHS.
 - The HENRY programme is targeting young children and families especially from deprived areas.

³ obesity is defined as a body mass index (BMI) of 30 or more. Body Mass Index is measured by weight in kilogrammes divided by height squared. Overweight is defined as BMI of 25 to 29.9

- Children aged 7-13 are being helped within their families through a new programme which is showing good results.
- GP's have referred 1,300 people for slimming on referral
- Health Trainers in Oxford and Banbury are supporting people to lose weight.
- Practice Based Commissioning GPs (GPs given budgets by the PCT to design their own services) are designing 'bespoke' weight management services in different parts of the county.

3. Partnerships are stronger

- Close partnership working between the District Councils and Oxfordshire PCT through the Oxfordshire Sports Partnership has drawn together local & regional funding to invest £1.2 million in physical activity over the next three years. The 'Get Oxfordshire Active' project (launched in January 2009) aims to increase adult participation in sport and active recreation by 1% each year.

4. Planning is improving

- A new plan to improve breastfeeding is almost complete, targeting disadvantaged areas.

The Importance of Measurements

Accurate measures of obesity in Oxfordshire show that we have no room for complacency. The figures for children in the 2007/2008 school year are:

- One in 14 children in reception year (aged 4-5) are obese rising to nearly 1 in 7 in year 6 (aged 10-11)
- Overall Oxfordshire has performed better than the country as a whole with encouraging slight falls in overweight and obese school children in the reception year

The full picture is set out below comparing National figures with Oxfordshire's.

Figure 11 Overweight and Obese Children in Oxfordshire and National 2006-08

	Overweight		Obese	
	Reception	Year 6	Reception	Year 6
2006/2007				
National	13%	14%	10%	17%
Oxfordshire	12%	13%	8%	15%
2007/2008				
National	13%	14%	10%	19%
Oxfordshire	11%	14%	7%	15%

Source: NHS Oxfordshire, Decision Support

We now have an accurate measure of obesity in children but we still have no accurate method of measuring levels of obesity in adult population. This is a serious gap.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1

The Health and Wellbeing Partnership should evaluate progress against the County Obesity Strategy by December 2009.

Recommendation 2

All public sector organisations should identify an obesity champion by December 2009. This would strengthen the multi-agency work that is needed across the County. This should be coordinated by Oxfordshire PCT through the Director of Public Health.

Recommendation 3

The Health and Wellbeing Partnership should ensure that true levels of obesity can be measured in Oxfordshire's adults by the end of March 2010. This work should be led by Oxfordshire PCT.

Chapter 6 Fighting Killer Diseases

Why does it matter?

Infectious diseases are set to make a come back in the Western world.

Old diseases are creeping back in new guises (TB), new diseases take us by surprise such as hospital superbugs, MRSA and Clostridium difficile (C.diff), and at the same time carelessness and complacency are making antibiotics less effective.

The more traditional methods of controlling disease need to be strengthened These are:

- Good surveillance and information
- Early identification and swift action
- Basic cleanliness, hand washing and good food hygiene.

This chapter reports on progress made against the biggest challenges currently facing Oxfordshire.

Overview of progress made in the last two years

OPINION: We are now better organised and have had some success (MRSA, C.diff and preparedness for the Flu Pandemic). But this topic requires constant vigilance and readiness.

Specific Diseases

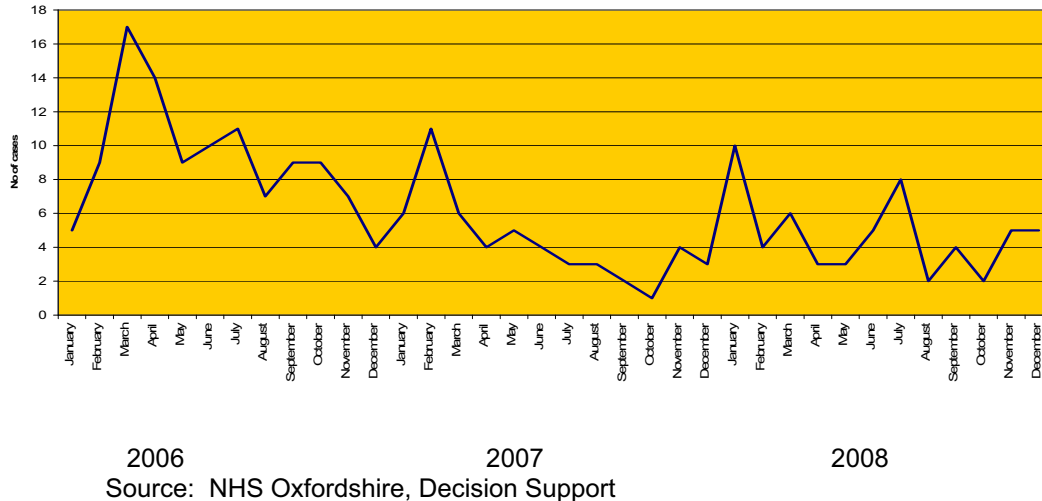
1. The Healthcare Associated Infections Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) and Clostridium difficile (C.diff)

a. Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA)

MRSA is a bacterium commonly found on the skin. If it gains entry into the blood stream, (e.g. during surgery or other invasive procedures) it can cause blood poisoning. It can be difficult to treat as it is resistant to commonly used antibiotics.

This important yet preventable cause of sickness and death has been a central focus of infection control in hospitals over recent years. In 2008 our local Trusts maintained the substantial reduction seen from 2006 to 2007 but have not improved on this substantially. Further efforts are ongoing in the Trusts and in the coming year screening of patients on admission will allow us to detect the bacteria, treat it, and avoid spread. Increasing attention is also being given to MRSA infection occurring outside hospital through detailed investigation of all cases of blood poisoning and through taking measures to decrease the risk.

Figure 12. MRSA Blood Poisoning Monthly Reports for Oxfordshire Jan 2006-Dec 2008



Source: NHS Oxfordshire, Decision Support

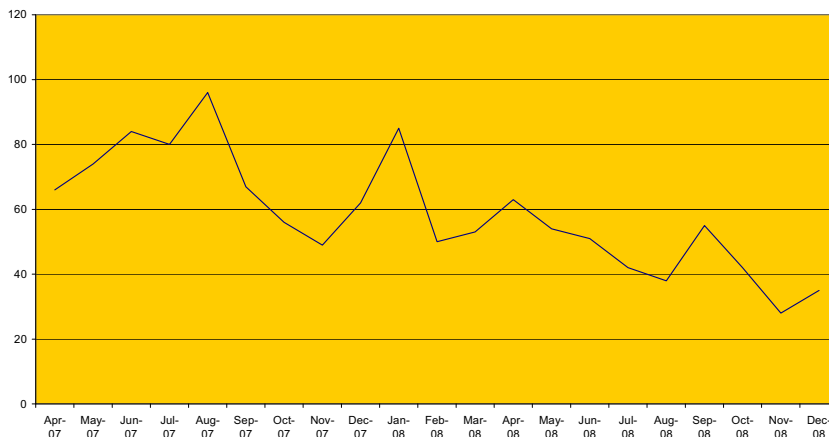
b. Clostridium difficile (C.diff)

Clostridium difficile is a bacterium that causes mild to severe diarrhoea and is a potentially life threatening condition. It is transmitted by spores from the infective diarrhoea surviving in the environment for long periods of time and being ingested. Prescribing of antibiotics is usually the trigger which sets off an infection.

Rates of C. diff have reduced throughout Oxfordshire over the last 2 years. This has been achieved through a combination of improved cleanliness in hospitals, rapid isolation of cases and minimising the use of broad spectrum antibiotics. New guidance to be implemented from the Department of Health, tougher targets for acute hospitals and targeting primary care prescribing are aimed at further reducing incidence of infections.

Figure 13 C diff Monthly reports for Oxfordshire, April 2007 – Dec 2008

Oxfordshire C. diff cases April 2007- December 2008 age 2 and over



Source: NHS Oxfordshire, Decision support

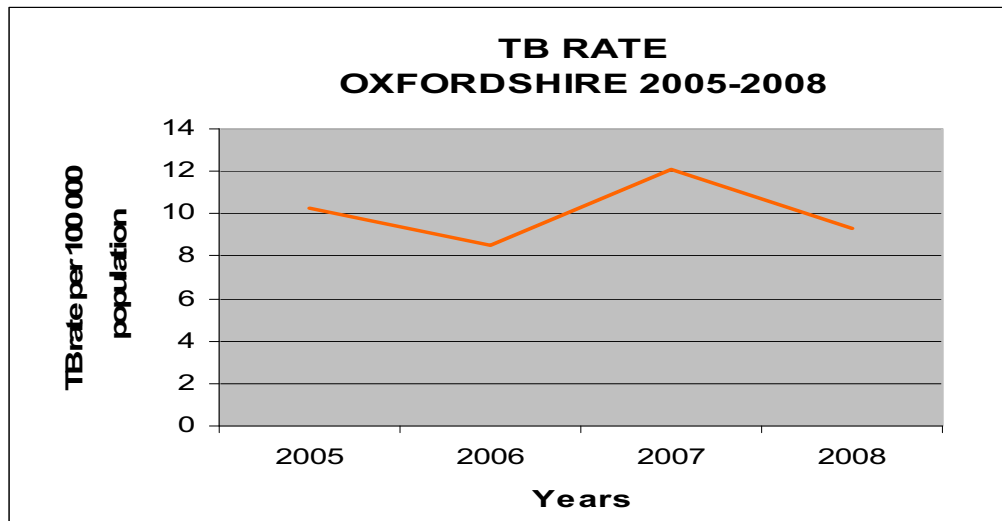
c. Tuberculosis

Investment is paying off:

Increasing levels of tuberculosis reported last year were accompanied by investment in the TB nursing service: More people completed treatment successfully in 2006 and 2007 than in previous years (around 84%)

The rate of tuberculosis in 2008 showed a decline from the unusually high levels seen in 2007. A screening programme in Oxford's homeless population in June 2008 found no evidence for TB among 187 people screened, in contrast to three patients with TB in this population identified during a similar screening in 2006. Cases of TB fell from 77 in 2007 to 59 in 2008.

Figure 14 TB rates in Oxfordshire, 2005-08



(Source NHS Oxfordshire, Decision Support)

A worrying development has been the increasing rate of drug resistance among TB cases: **This is a good example of antibiotics not working as well as they used to.** The new investment will pay for the routine use of rapid tests of antibiotic resistance in cases of infectious TB. We can then isolate these cases and give them the correct treatment.

A further improvement has been the increasing screening of at-risk babies before discharge from the John Radcliffe Hospital. This will increase the number of children vaccinated and give protection more quickly.

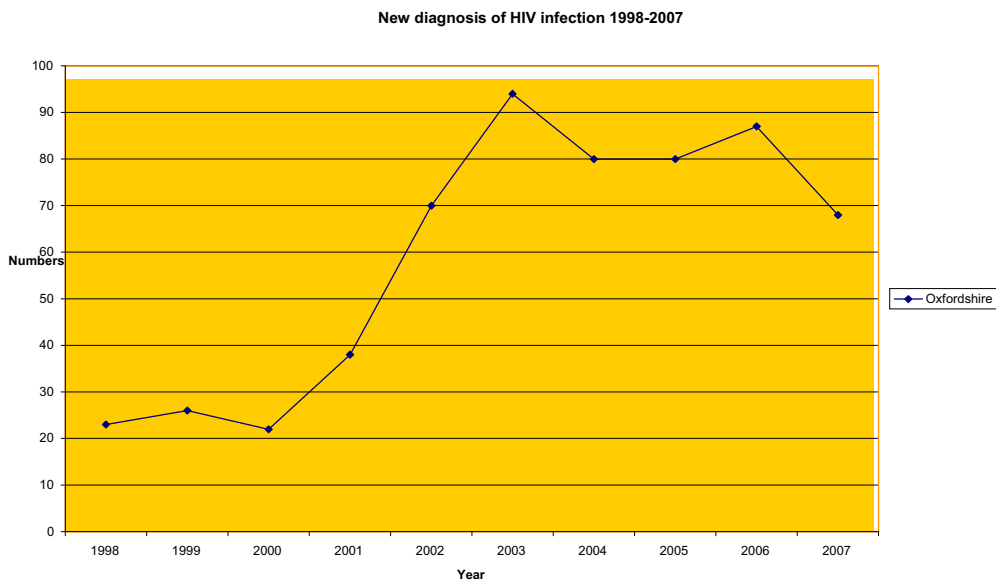
2. HIV & AIDS

HIV remains a significant disease both nationally and locally. During 2007, the local picture mirrored the national picture which shows that:

- An estimated 77,400 people were living with HIV in the UK at the end of 2007, of **whom over a quarter (28%) were unaware of their infection.**
- During 2007 there were 7734 new diagnoses of HIV.
- New HIV diagnoses among men who have sex with men continue to increase and over four-fifths of these infections were probably acquired in the UK.
- **The estimated number of people infected through heterosexual contact within the UK has increased** from 540 new diagnoses in 2003 to 960 in 2007.
- **Almost a third (31%) of persons newly diagnosed with HIV were diagnosed late**, that is at a point after which therapy should have begun.
- In Oxfordshire the number of new diagnoses of HIV infection showed a welcome fall.

It is imperative that the public continue to be made aware of the facts about this disease and that complacency is not allowed to creep in.

Figure 15 New diagnoses of HIV infection in Oxfordshire, 1998 - 2007



(Source: NHS Oxfordshire, Decision Support)

3. Measles & Mumps: The vital role of vaccination

We have become complacent about diseases such as measles and mumps, these are serious illnesses and sometimes they can kill.

Measles causes death in approximately one out of every 2,500 to 5000 cases. The disease can also cause inflammation of the brain, meningitis or encephalitis in 1 in 1000 cases. More commonly, measles can cause ear infections and pneumonia. Children under one year of age are particularly vulnerable to the complications of measles making it vital that at least 95% of children have two doses of the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine (MMR). Without this intervention Oxfordshire would have, on average, 8,000 cases per year and 1 to 2 deaths. Two doses of MMR vaccine can give 99% protection to those immunised (as well as 100% protection to the whole population if a high coverage is achieved).

Relatively high rates of vaccination in Oxfordshire have protected our population from measles in 2008. There were high levels of disease in England and Wales, with around 1300 cases but only one case was confirmed in Oxfordshire. During the year we have pressed forward to increase vaccination levels locally. Our General Practices and Community Nurses are working hard to catch children who have missed vaccinations so that we increase their protection.

In contrast mumps made a comeback in Oxfordshire during the year. There were two outbreaks; one affecting 62 University students and the other 17 children and staff at a primary school. Both of these outbreaks demonstrated the impact of poorer coverage among people moving into Oxfordshire compared with those who spent their early childhood in the county and had received immunisations locally. This underlines the need for constant vigilance and the importance of checking the history of people moving into the area and offering them immunisation to fill any gaps. The PCT is working with GP's to check vaccination status of patients registered in Oxfordshire so that newly registered patients are routinely offered the immunisations they need.

4. Infectious Gastroenteritis

We can reduce the numbers of all these diseases by going back to basics

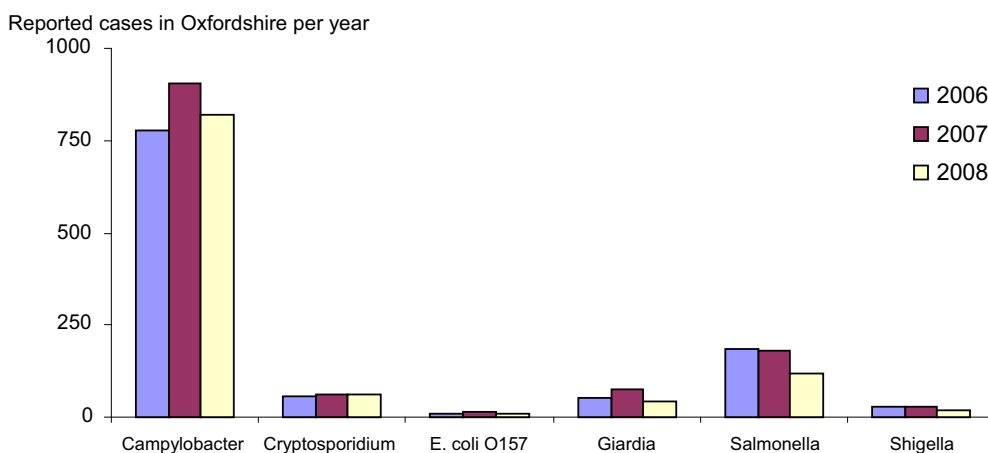
- **hand washing**
- **food hygiene**
- **isolation**
- **exclusion from work while infected**
- **thorough cleaning**

There were over 1,000 reported cases of infectious gastroenteritis in 2008. Interventions to control these diseases at local and national levels have been particularly effective for *Salmonella* which continues to decrease and *Cryptosporidium*

where large outbreaks are no longer found. The food hygiene work of local authority environmental health departments is key to winning this fight.

The number of cases of *Campylobacter* gastroenteritis reached high levels with 822 cases confirmed in Oxfordshire, but the real figure may be 8 times that many because only a fraction of cases are reported. We estimate that over 6,500 people suffered from this infection in the county in 2008, with young children being particularly affected. The best way to prevent this infection is to ensure that chicken is always well cooked and that raw chicken is not allowed to contact other foods.

Figure 16 Infectious gastroenteritis reports in Oxfordshire, 2006 to 2008



(Source: NHS Oxfordshire, Decision Support)

5. Hepatitis C infection

Hepatitis C virus is a blood borne virus that causes hepatitis and may rarely lead to severe liver disease and even liver cancer.

Hepatitis C is caught through contact with infected blood. This includes injecting drug use and skin piercing procedures such as tattooing. The virus can also spread from an infected mother to their child during pregnancy or delivery. In addition, people from countries where routine testing of blood donors does not happen may also be at an increased risk.

The PCT is planning to improve the prevention of new infections of hepatitis C by raising awareness and improving measures to identify and treat those people with the disease who do not realise they have it. This is a current gap in Oxfordshire which needs to be filled.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1

The Director of Public Health and the local Health Protection Agency must work closely together to maintain surveillance of communicable diseases during 2009/10, and take appropriate steps to control these diseases.

Recommendation 2

Oxfordshire PCT must be ready and prepared to make investment as required in infection control services and health protection, throughout 2009/10 and into 2010/11. This should include a review of hepatitis C infection as a priority.

Recommendation 3

During 2009/10 the work to separate PCT into commissioning functions and a provider arm (e.g. community hospitals, district nurses, health visitors, family planning services etc) must include high standards of infection control and emergency planning and emergency response and must include a properly constituted infection control service.

Recommendation 4

The Director of Public Health should report on killer infections and infectious disease in the DPH annual report in April 2010.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to colleagues across the County for their generosity of time and talents in the preparation of this report

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Linda Watson
Alan Webb
Jackie Wilderspin
Andrea Young

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MEETING DATES APRIL 2010 - MARCH 2011

ITEM CC11

Year/ Month	S/ S	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	S/ S	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	S/ S	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	S/ S	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	S/ S	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	S/ S	Year/ Month
2010 APR			3		1	2 Good Friday	3/4	5 Easter Monday	6 CC	7 CMDSI CMDCY CMDAS	8	9	10/ 11	12 PLAN	13	14	15	16	17/ 18	19	20 CA CMD - L DL FP	21 AU	22 TDC CMDGI	23	24/ 25	26	27 AS	28	29 DOC	30		2010 APR
MAY		3	4 CMDSI CMDCY CMDAS	5	6	7	8/9	10 SSC CMDSSC	11	12	13 GI	14	15/ 16	17	18 CA CMD - L DL FP	19	20 HOSC	21	22/ 23	24 PLAN	25 CH	26	27 SYP	28	29/ 30	31						MAY
JUN			1 CMDSI CMDCY CMDAS	2	3 TDC CMDGI	4 PF	5/6	7	8 AS	9	10 TJC	11	12/ 13	14	15 CC	16	17 EMJCC	18 SP	19/ 20	21	22 CA CMD - L DL FP	23	24 ST	25 FIRCC	26/ 27	28 PLAN	29	30 AU			JUN	
JUL					1	2	3/4	5 SSC CMDSSC	6 CMDSI CMDCY CMDAS	7 AS	8 HOSC	9	10/ 11	12 PLAN	13 CH	14	15 TDC CMDGI	16	17/ 18	19	20 CA CMD - L DL FP	21	22 SYP	23	24/ 25	26	27	28	29 GI	30	31/ 1	JUL
AUG	1 / 2	2	3	4	5	6	7/8	9	10	11	12	13	14/ 15	16	17	18	19	20	21/ 22	23	24	25	26	27	28/ 29	30 Bank Holiday	31				AUG	
SEPT				1	2 TDC CMDGI	3 PF	4/5	6 SSC CMDSSC	7 CMDSI CMDCY CMDAS AS	8	9 EMJCC	10	11/ 12	13 PLAN	14 CC	15	16 HOSC	17 SP	18/ 19	20	21 CA CMD - L DL FP	22	23 GI	24 FIRCC	25/ 26	27	28 CH	29 AU	30 SYP			SEP

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KEY

	Time
CC Council	10.00am
CA Cabinet	2.00pm
CMD: Cabinet member Decision	
L Leader	4.00pm
DL Deputy Leader	4.00pm
FP Finance & Proptry	
SI Schools	12.00pm
CY Children Young People & Families	12.00pm or on the rising of CMDSI
AS Adult Services	12.00pm or on the rising of CMDSI
TDC Transport Decisions Committee	10.00am
GI Growth & Infrastructure	On the rising of TDC
SSC Safer, Stronger Communities	On the rising of SSCSC

	Time
Scutiny Committees	
SYP Strategy & Partnerships	10.00am
GI Growth & Infrastructure	10.00am
AS Adult Services	10.00am
CH Children's Services	10.00am
SSC Safer, Stronger Communities	10.00am
HOSC Oxfordshire Joint Health	10.00am

= schools holidays

	Time
Council Committees	
AU Audit	11.00am
PLAN Planning & Regulation	2.00pm
PF Pension Fund	10.00am
ST Standards	10.00am
DOC Democracy & Organisation	time varies

	Time
Consultative Bodies	
TJC Teachers Joint Committee	2.00pm
EMJCC Employees Joint	2.00pm
FIRCC Fire Services Joint	
SP Supporting people Commissioning Body	10.30am

MEETING DATES APRIL 2010 - MARCH 2011

ITEM CC11

OCT					1	2/3	4	5	6	7	8	9/10	11	12	13	14	15	16/17	18	19	20	21	22	23/24	25	26	27	28	29	30/31	OCT
								CMDSI CMDCY CMDAS		TDC CMDGI						DOC				CA CMD - L DL FP				PLAN	AS						
NOV	1	2	3	4	5	6/7	8	9	10	11	12	13/14	15	16	17	18	19	20/21	22	23	24	25	26	27/28	29	30					NOV
		CC	CMDSI CMDCY CMDAS	TJC			SSC CMDSSC	CH		HOSC					AU	SYP				CA CMD - L DL FP		TDC CMDGI									
DEC			1	2	3	4/5	6	7	8	9	10	11/12	13	14	15	16	17	18/19	20	21	22	23	24	25/26	27	28	29	30	31		DEC
				GI	PF		PLAN	CMDSI CMDCY CMDAS AS		ST EMJCC	SP		SSC CMDSSC	CH		SYP	FIRCC			CA CMD - L DL FP											
JAN 2011	3	4	5	6	7	8/9	10	11	12	13	14	15/16	17	18	19	20	21	22/23	24	25	26	27	28	29/30	31						2011 JAN
		CMDSI CMDCY CMDAS		TDC CMDGI				CC		SYP			PLAN	CA CMD - L DL FP	AU	HOSC															
FEB		1	2	3	4	5/6	7	8	9	10	11	12/13	14	15	16	17	18	19/20	21	22	23	24	25	26/27	28						MAR
		CMDSI CMDCY CMDAS		TJC				CC		TDC CMDGI			SSC CMDSSC	CA CMD - L DL FP	CH	GI						EMJCC									
MAR		1	2	3	4	5/6	7	8	9	10	11	12/13	14	15	16	17	18	19/20	21	22	23	24	25	26/27	28	29	30	31		MAR	
		CMDSI CMDCY CMDAS	AU				PLAN	AS		HOSC				CA CMD - L DL FP		SYP	PF					TDC CMDGI	SP					FIRCC			


KEY Consultative Bodies

KEY		Time
CC	Council	10.00am
CA	Cabinet	2.00pm
CMD:	Cabinet member	
L	Leader	4.00pm
DL	Deputy Leader	4.00pm
FP	Finance & Proptry	
SI	Schools Improvement	12.00pm
CY	Children Young People & Families	12.00pm or on the rising of CMDSI
AS	Adult Services	12.00pm or on the rising of CMDSI
TDC	Transport Decisions Committee	10.00am
GI	Growth & Infrastructure	On the rising of TDC
SSC	Safer, Stronger Communities	On the rising of SSCSC

KEY		Time
Scutiny Committees		
SYP	Strategy & Partnerships	10.00am
GI	Growth & Infrastructure	10.00am
AS	Adult Services	10.00am
CH	Children's Services	10.00am
SSC	Safer, Stronger Communities	10.00am
HOSC	Oxfordshire Joint Health	10.00am

KEY		Time
Council Committees		
AU	Audit	11.00am
PLAN	Planning & Regulation	2.00pm
PF	Pension Fund	10.00am
ST	Standards	10.00am
DOC	Democracy & Organisation	time varies

KEY		Time
Consultative Bodies		
TJC	Teachers Joint Committee	2.00pm
EMJCC	Employees Joint	2.00pm
FIRCC	Fire Services Joint	
SP	Supporting people	10.30am

 = schools holidays

Division(s): N/A

ITEM CC12

COUNCIL – 8 SEPTEMBER 2009

SERVICE AND RESOURCE PLANNING 2010/11 – 2014/15

Report by Chief Executive, Assistant Chief Executive - Strategy and Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Finance Officer

Introduction

1. This report sets out for Council the key financial facts of the service and resource planning process for 2010/11 to 2014/15. Council can consider the Financial Strategy for the medium term period and provide advice to Cabinet on its development. The report presents the current Financial Strategy and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) as agreed by Council on 10 February 2009 and the assumptions on which it is based. It sets out the known and potential financial issues for 2010/11 and beyond which impact on the existing MTFP and the proposals for planning to meet these pressures, which were endorsed by Cabinet in July 2009.
2. The service and resource planning process and the MTFP cover a five-year period. They are rolled forward one year each year. This year, there is an additional year added to include 2014/15. This planning period is consistent with all other relevant plans, including the Corporate Plan, Business Plans and the Capital Programme.
3. The referencing system reintroduced to the reports last year to assist Cabinet and other members in ensuring that they have all relevant papers, has been retained. The referencing system is attached for information at Annex 1.
4. The following annexes are attached:
Annex 1: Referencing system for Service and Resource Planning papers
Annex 2: Service and Resource Planning timetable for 2010/11
Annex 3: Current Financial Strategy 2009/10 – 2013/14
Annex 4: Current MTFP 2010/11 – 2013/14
Annex 5: Assumptions behind the existing MTFP
Annex 6: Draft MTFP 2010/11 – 2014/15

Service and Resource Planning Context

5. The Corporate Plan agreed by Council in February 2009, alongside the budget and MTFP, sets out the Council's objectives of 'low taxes, real choice, value for money'. These objectives set the principles followed throughout the strategic planning process. As a Council, Oxfordshire strives to deliver improved services within existing budgets or at a reduced cost. The integrated service and resource planning processes are designed to ensure that appropriate levels of resource are in place to deliver key priorities and statutory obligations, alongside the objective of low taxes.

6. The Corporate Plan sets out the priorities and challenges for the County Council across four cross cutting themes. They provide a context for the Council's medium term service and resource planning and form the strategic objectives of Oxfordshire 2030, the long term vision for Oxfordshire's future and a plan of action for the Oxfordshire Partnership. The themes are:
 - World class economy,
 - Environment and climate change,
 - Healthy and thriving communities,
 - Better public services.

7. In June 2009, the Conservatives were re-elected to form the new administration for the next four years with the underlying objectives of low taxes, real choice and value for money remaining. In July 2009, the Cabinet considered a report on implementing the Manifesto Pledges. The manifesto was based on seven pledges. The report set out how these would be turned into service objectives, which will form the basis of planning and will be incorporated into a revision of the corporate plan. The pledges are to:
 - Freeze council tax under a Conservative Government,
 - Support our local economy,
 - Make it easier to get around Oxfordshire,
 - Promote safer and greener communities,
 - Protect our environment and heritage,
 - Improve opportunities for young people,
 - Improve services for older people.

Service and Resource Planning Process 2010/11

8. The Service & Resource Planning framework has now been operational for four years and is designed to enable managers to plan for their service within available resources over the medium term. Our approach has been commended by the Audit Commission.

9. The business plan format for the coming year has been revised with plans being much shorter to give a clear focus. Guidance was issued in July, with the requirement to complete in draft by mid September in order that financial issues and priorities over the medium term can be considered by the Star Chamber sessions as part of the planning and budget setting process.

10. Full and finalised business plans are to be completed by the end of February 2010 to reflect any changes arising from the budget which will be agreed by Council in February 2010. The intention is that the plans will be used in 2010/11 as a 'living' document against which the Financial Monitoring and Performance Monitoring reports will be based.

11. A proposed timetable for the 2010/11 service and resource planning process is attached at Annex 2.

Financial Strategy 2010/11 to 2014/15

12. A medium term Financial Strategy for the period 2009/10 to 2013/14 was agreed by the Cabinet as part of the 2009/10 budget process. This is attached for information at Annex 3. It sets out the principles behind the MTFP and provides an overarching statement about how the Council intends to conduct its finances. The strategy for 2010/11 to 2014/15 will be revised to take account of the latest information and will reflect the views of Council and Cabinet. A revised version will be reported to Cabinet in November 2009.

Estimated Financing and Planned Expenditure

13. The following table sets out the latest assessment of the changes to the financial position for 2010/11 and the medium term compared to the MTFP agreed by Council in February 2009. The current MTFP for 2010/11 to 2013/14 is set out in Annex 4 and provides the starting point for the 2010/11 service and resource planning process. A draft MTFP which incorporates the changes in the table below is set out in Annex 6.
14. Reasons and explanations for the changes in each of the assumptions for estimated funding and planned expenditure are set out in the following paragraphs.

	2010/11 £m	2011/12 £m	2012/13 £m	2013/14 £m	2014/15 £m
<u>Estimated Funding</u>					
Central Government Grant		-7.8	-8.8	-9.9	-9.9
Council Tax (precept)	-1.4	-5.7	-9.7	-10.1	-10.6
Council Tax surpluses/deficits	-0.8	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5
Total Funding	-2.2	-14.0	-19.0	-20.5	-21.0
<u>Planned Expenditure</u>					
Base budget					
Inflation					
Function changes					
Previously agreed budget changes					
Identified pressures	6.5	13.0	20.0	30.4	34.0
Savings required ¹	-16.2	-30.5	-44.4	-55.0	-55.0
Carry Forward of Savings	7.5	3.5	5.4	4.1	
Total Expenditure	-2.2	-14.0	-19.0	-20.5	-21.0

¹ See paragraph 32 – the MTFP agreed in February included an additional £5.0m of savings to be made; these savings had not been identified and are required in addition to the £55.0m shown in the table.

Estimated Financing

15. The estimated financing is the total external funding available to the Council after taking into account specific grants and income raised through fees and charges.

Central Government Grant

16. Central government grant comprises Revenue Support Grant and National Non Domestic Rates. 2010/11 will be the final year of the three year Local Government Finance Settlement for 2008/09 to 2010/11 first announced in January 2008. Whilst the grant for 2010/11 will not be confirmed until January 2010, it is not expected to change, other than to allow for any adjustment for function changes. Oxfordshire is expected to receive £106.3m in 2010/11, a 1.5% increase from 2009/10.
17. The next Comprehensive Spending Review which will set out the expected grant for the three years 2011/12 to 2013/14 was due to be published in July 2009. It is not likely to be published now until October 2010 (assuming a general election in June 2010). The MTFP currently includes annual increases of 1% beyond 2010/11, however given the current level of public sector borrowing and the need to reduce expenditure to compensate; our expectation is that there will be no increase in grant for the three year period up to 2013/14. Each 1% change in grant equates to approximately £1.1m. Furthermore, as part of the Revenue Support Grant, Oxfordshire is expected to receive £6.7m of 'Damping grant' in 2010/11. This ensures that Oxfordshire receives the minimum grant increase set by the Government. One possible outcome of the next Comprehensive Spending Review could be that this support could be reduced or it may even cease completely.

Council Tax (precept)

18. The planned Council Tax increase for 2010/11 and the medium term set out in the MTFP is 3.75%. The Taxbase, representing the number of properties Council Tax can be collected from, is assumed in the MTFP to increase by 0.5% in 2010/11 and 2011/12, and 0.75% thereafter. Since agreeing the MTFP, there has been no sign of recovery in the new house build market. With growth of only 0.39% in 2009/10, a 0.5% increase in 2010/11 now looks very unlikely. Consequently the assumption currently is that there will be no growth in 2010/11 and only 0.25% in 2011/12, the impact of this is to reduce the total funding available by £1.4m in 2010/11 rising to £2.2m in 2011/12. The actual taxbase for each of the district councils will not be confirmed until January 2010.
19. As set out in the report to Cabinet on implementing the manifesto pledges, should the Conservative Party win the next general election, a Conservative government would work with local government to freeze council tax for two years. This would be achieved by local authorities containing costs so council tax would be no greater than 2.5% and then the Government would provide

funds to reduce council tax from 2.5% to zero. For planning purposes the impact of reducing council tax increases to 2.5% for the two years 2011/12 and 2012/13 has been included in the current assumptions.

Council Tax surpluses/deficits

20. The county council's share of the district councils Collection Fund surpluses and deficits was £1.95m in 2009/10. The MTFP assumes £0.8m in 2010/11 and £1.25m in each year beyond. The lower figure for 2010/11 reflected the likelihood that in the short term the amount of bad debts from Council Tax could increase, lowering the income through the Collection Fund. Due to rising unemployment and the possibility that it may take some time to recover from the recession, this position could no longer be realistic. At this stage it is prudent to assume that there will be no surplus in 2010/11 and reduced surpluses of £0.8m in each year beyond then. The impact of this is to reduce the one-off funding available in each year. As with the taxbase, figures will not be confirmed until January 2010.

Planned Expenditure

21. The MTFP shown in Annex 4 sets out the planned expenditure for 2010/11 to 2013/14 as agreed in February 2009. The table at paragraph 14 of the report sets out the changes to planned expenditure based on the latest assumptions. The difference between the latest assumption and the MTFP are explained in the paragraphs below.

Inflation

22. As set out in Annex 5, the MTFP includes an allowance for non-pay inflation of 2.0%. The Consumer Price Index (CPI), the government's measure of inflation was 1.8% in June and July, with the Retail Price Index (RPI) at -1.4% in July up from -1.6% in June. The Bank of England's inflation report published in August 2009 stated that over the medium term (up to 2011/12); inflation rates are likely to remain below the Government target of 2%. In the longer term, coming out of the recession a period of hyper-inflation is possible.
23. In relation to pay inflation, the MTFP assumes an increase of 1.5% in 2009/10 and 2.5% each year beyond that. A final pay offer that would provide a 1.0% increase (1.25% for pay point 4 – 10) has been made and the Unions have until 11 September 2009 to accept or it will be withdrawn leaving no increase for 2009/10. An update will be given at the meeting if any further information is known. It is unlikely that an increase of 2.5% will be agreed for 2010/11 or 2011/12 given the economic climate and the low inflation forecasts.
24. The reduced need for inflation provision in the budget and medium term plan reduces costs. Assuming 0.5% for both pay and non-pay inflation in 2010/11 would provide savings of £5.5m. A further reduction of inflation provision in 2011/12 to 1.5% for both pay and non-pay inflation would provide further savings of £2.0m. Nothing specific has been included at this stage. However,

savings on the inflation provision could contribute towards meeting Directorates savings targets.

Function changes

25. Function changes relate to changes in the responsibilities of services or functions provided by the Council which are funded through Revenue Support Grant. Function changes already known and built into the MTFP for 2010/11 relate to the decreasing role and consequent decreasing funding of administering student loans within Children, Young People & Families.
26. Learning and Skills Council (LSC): The LSC is to be abolished from 1 April 2010. The County Council will take on the responsibility for distributing grant to colleges and other providers of learning in Oxfordshire for people aged 16 to 19. 2010/11 will be a transitional year as the LSC will agree the payments to each college/provider and the council will be responsible for distributing around £33.0m of cash as a result. In subsequent years the council should have more control over the funding for each local college/provider. Eight staff will be transferred from the LSC. There are concerns about the problems and pressures facing this service and about the lack of details about the practical details of the transfer. For example, the LSC has had well-reported problems with its capital spending plans that have badly affected the current budgets and future plans of many colleges. The government wants all 17 year olds to be in a learning environment by 2013 but it is not clear how the extra costs arising from this issue will be funded. Becoming responsible for colleges raises various transitional and practical issues that have not been resolved or even identified yet.
27. Concessionary Fares: At present the district councils administer the national scheme under which people who are elderly or disabled are given free travel on local bus services. In April 2009, the Department for Transport consulted about changing these arrangements. The consultation document seemed to favour a proposal to make this scheme a County Council responsibility, perhaps from April 2011. The main concern with this proposal is that it would do little to simplify the administration and financing of this scheme. The council's response to the Government consultation strongly expressed the view that we would prefer a nationally run scheme.
28. There are particular concerns about the funding for this scheme. It is currently funded by Specific grant, Revenue Support Grant and Council tax. Before the national scheme was introduced, Oxfordshire's districts ran local schemes that cost around £1.6m per year these are, in effect, funded from council tax. Spending has gone up to around £7.5m in 2008/09 as a result of the national scheme. A total of £4.5m has been added to funding for Oxfordshire districts for this purpose since 2001 (partly through formula grant and partly by specific grants). The added funding therefore was around £1.4m short of the extra costs (and this can only be funded from council tax).
29. In total, around £3.0m of the cost of concessionary fares is funded by council tax in Oxfordshire. Accurately transferring all this funding to the County

Council will be very difficult. To cover likely costs, The County Council would require additional grant of £7.5m. Specific grant is fairly easily identified and transferred. However it is difficult to withdraw formula grant from districts and transfer it precisely to counties. Further unfunded increases in costs are possible as the numbers of older people and take-up rates increase. Thus it is difficult to have any confidence that the extra funding allocated to the county council if responsibility is transferred will fully cover the extra cost, council tax implications and possible future cost increases. Transfers will be especially problematical if the 'Damping grant' arrangements continue to limit our Formula Grant increases.

30. Learning Disabilities: From April 2011 the County Council will receive funding directly from the Department of Health for Learning Disabilities (for 2009/10 and 2010/11 the transfer of specialist care funding for people with learning disabilities will be made locally from the PCT to the County Council). There is a danger that it will go into Revenue Support Grant, in which case if Oxfordshire remains below the grant floor we may not receive the full funding at the point of transition and to cope with future growth pressures on this service.

Previously Agreed Budget Changes

31. Previously agreed budget changes are either additions or reductions to budgets agreed in previous budgets as part of the MTFP. They include new funding, pressures met by compensating service reprioritisations and savings to meet the targets previously identified.
32. Planned savings of £4.8m for 2010/11 are already built into the MTFP, as well as savings of £5.0m for each year from 2011/12 to 2013/14. When the MTFP was agreed by Council in February, further savings of £2.5m in 2010/11 rising to £5.0m in 2011/12 were required but not identified. These savings are still required to be made and have been added to the new target and issued to Directorates as part of the £60.0m.
33. Details of each budget change are shown in the Service and Resource Planning – Service Analysis 2009/10 publication, which was distributed to all members, is available in all public libraries and can be found on the council's website.

Unallocated Sum Available for Council Priorities

34. The unallocated sum available for Council priorities set out in the current MTFP falls into two categories, ongoing funding and one-off funding. The sum available is a balancing figure and changes if either the total funding changes or items within the planned expenditure change.
35. In setting the budget and MTFP in February 2009, the Council agreed to the allocation of resources over the medium term to meet known pressures. This includes the identified pressures for adults' demography and the costs of

LATS² fines relating to waste. The allocation of resources over the medium term resulted in leaving only a small unallocated sum for each year. The issues throughout this report have a significant impact on the current MTFP which are to be addressed through the savings targets referred to in paragraph 46 below.

Identified Pressures

36. In setting the 2009/10 budget in February this year we were already seeing some of the implications of the recession. Before the budget was finalised reductions were built in for decreased investment income, reductions in housing growth which impact on the amount of Council Tax collected, and potential increases in pension costs. These were partially offset by increased levels of efficiencies which would be needed in future years.
37. Since the budget was agreed in February this year, the financial position has been under continuous review. Pressures relating to the medium term have already been identified which require changes to the planning assumptions. These reflect the scale of the national and global recession, changes in legislation and pressures in the cost of services. The impact of these is spread across the timeframe of business plans, but with a significant impact in 2011/12.
38. The pressures which have been identified are:
 - 39. Global recession
Impacts on Strategic Measures: Whilst CPI and RPI inflation measures are reducing, the Baxter index (which is based on construction indices and applied to developer contributions) is not falling so fast or expected to fall as far. The current MTFP assumes rates of 2.0% in 2009/10 and 2.25% in 2010/11. The latest published rate in July 2009 was 3.2%. For every 1%, the increase in costs is £0.3m. It is currently assumed that an extra £1m may be required. Furthermore interest rates received on deposits was estimated to be 1.8% in 2010/11, up from 1.3% in 2009/10. It is anticipated that the average rate of return for 2009/10 will be achieved. However this is due to some longer term deposits being made when rates were higher, ameliorating the effect of the lower rates currently being offered. The average rate of deposits made in the first four months of the financial year was 0.80%. Assuming that the rate of deposit remains more in line with the base rate, the amount of income earned on deposits in 2010/11 could be £0.5m lower than budgeted.
 - 40. The MTFP already includes £6m in 2011/12 for the possible increased costs of pensions following the next triennial valuation due to take place in April 2010. The position based on an assessment in June 2009 showed that the cost could be £2.5m higher than already assumed which is included in the identified pressures of £60.0m. This would take the employers' contribution

² Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme – the allowance set for the council on the amount of waste it can send to landfill

rate from 19.3% of pay, to around 28%. The stock market valuations are likely to increase overall by the date of the valuation so the position may improve.

Government legislation

41. As referred to in Paragraphs 27-29 above, should the transfer of concessionary fares to county councils happen, there is a real possibility that there would be a shortfall in funding currently estimated to be £3.0m.
42. The national budget in April 2009 announced further increases in landfill tax of £8 per tonne for each year from 2011, this is estimated to cost an additional £1.5m each year, reaching £6.0m by 2014/15.
43. The Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) legislation to address climate change and energy saving was passed in October 2008. However, the details and financial implications of the scheme were only announced in the spring 2009. It is a compulsory, auction-based cap and trade scheme for large, non energy-intensive businesses and organisations. It applies to large businesses and public sector organisations whose annual electricity consumption is over 6,000 MWh (Megawatt Hours). There is still some uncertainty about the cost as the performance of the council will be measured against other organisations. The first allowances will go on sale in April 2011, but no caps will be imposed until 2013, which is when the auctioning of allowances begins. At this stage it is estimated that the cost during the first three years could be £0.1m in 2010/11 rising to £0.2m in 2012/13. Beyond then, when trading commences, the costs could be much more significant. It is currently estimated that costs could be £1.0m in 2013/14 rising to £1.5m in 2014/15 although this will all depend upon the Council's performance on carbon reduction.

Directorate pressures

44. In previous years budgets there have been pressures in Directorates' which the Council made a decision to fund. As referred to earlier, in setting the budget and MTFP in February 2009, identified pressures were built in. However, there are likely to be some further pressures which arise that will need to be managed. Over the medium term, it is estimated that pressures required to be funded could be £5.0m in 2010/11 rising to a total of £22.3m by 2014/15.
45. The Financial Monitoring Report based on the position to the end of July shows that the current forecast for 2009/10 is a potential overspend of £4.0m. The position will almost certainly change before the year end; however the forecast is higher than that reported this time last year for 2008/09. There are some issues emerging in 2009/10 which will have implications for the 2010/11 budget particularly around children's social care and asylum seekers.

Savings Required

46. The paragraphs above show total pressures of £60.0m, £21.0m relating to reduced funding, £34.0m relating to pressures and £5.0m relating to previously agreed budget changes in the MTFP. The level of reduced funding

will be a real reduction in the level of expenditure, however, the remaining savings identified will be recycled to fund the continuing or new pressures.

47. To ensure that pressures identified can be managed across the medium term, savings targets have been calculated which rise to the total of £60.0m. Given the scale of the pressures identified, additional savings targets for directorates have already been agreed by Cabinet in July 2009 so that there is adequate time for plans to be worked up.
48. The targets for each directorate have been calculated using a combination of budget criteria and are set out in the table below and have been agreed by CCMT. Directorates will be developing business improvement & efficiency plans which will provide a top down framework for business planning and determine how the targets are allocated. These will need to be communicated to business plan owners so they can be taken into account in the draft business plans.

Directorate	2010/11 £000	2011/12 £000	2012/13 £000	2013/14 £000	TOTAL £000
Children, Young People & Families	4,377	3,906	3,240	2,477	14,000
Social & Community Services	8,128	7,254	6,018	4,600	26,000
Environment & Economy	3,439	3,069	2,546	1,946	11,000
Community Safety & Shared Services	1,563	1,395	1,157	885	5,000
Corporate Core	1,250	1,116	926	708	4,000
TOTAL	18,757	16,740	13,887	10,616	60,000

Other Resources

Area Based Grant

49. Area Based Grant (ABG) introduced in 2008/09 is a non-ringfenced general grant comprising a pool of previous specific grants. Allocations for the three years of 2008/09 to 2010/11 were announced in 2008 as part of the three year Local Government Finance Settlement. The indicative allocation for 2010/11 is £42.694m. The principle behind ABG is to allow partnerships greater flexibility to allocate resources to priority areas of work as identified in the Sustainable Community Strategy/ Local Area Agreement. Oxfordshire's Public Service Board has agreed that the County Council shall passport Area Based Grant (ABG) to services in 2010/11 (in addition to 2009/10). However, spending plans shall be discussed with partnerships and published to ensure

transparency, opportunity for challenge and to seek opportunities to join up resources most effectively.

50. The PSB has agreed the process to enable partnerships to comment on the allocation of Area Based Grant for 2010/11. Those in receipt of ABG funding streams (mainly county council but also some to district councils) are currently pulling together details of plans for the next financial year. Partnerships will be provided with these details, as relevant to their thematic area at the end of August. Partnerships will then have a chance to comment on the plans and feed these into the budget setting processes this autumn.

Local Authority Business Growth Incentive (LABGI) scheme

51. Details of the proposed first payment from the new LABGI scheme were issued in July 2009. Currently, a payment of £0.439m is proposed for Oxfordshire. This is in line with expectations given that only £50m is being distributed in this year and in 2010/11, a total of £100m over the two years. The new scheme is much smaller in scale than the previous scheme which produced £1 billion of payments over three years. Oxfordshire has been recognised as a region for LABGI purposes (instead of being grouped with Berkshire, Milton Keynes and the Berkshire unitary authorities as set out in the consultation proposals) with half of the proceeds for the region being given to the county council and half to the districts pro rata to their populations.
52. In 2010/11 a second payment from the new LABGI scheme is expected. As another £50m is due to be distributed, the county council might therefore expect to get a similar amount as in 2009/10, £0.4m. However, the sum will depend on the amount of business rates collected in 2008/09 and, with the onset of the recession; figures are very speculative. The payment for 2010/11 will not be announced until July 2010.
53. As part of the budget agreed by Council in February 2009, a specific reserve was created for LABGI funding. Spending plans will be influenced by the recession and will be determined by the work of the Oxfordshire Economic Partnership Economic Task Force. It is recommended that the payment for 2009/10 is added to the reserve with details of planned use coming forward through the Service & Resource Planning process.

Local Area Agreement 1 (LAA1) Reward Grant

54. Reward from LAA1 is expected in 2009/10 and 2010/11. Subject to audit, the total reward grant is expected to be in the region of £9m. The Public Service Board (PSB) previously agreed that 50% of the Performance Reward Grant (PRG) achieved will be top sliced to support bids for new partnership projects. Bids against this element have been agreed provisionally by the PSB and were evaluated on the basis that the projects; supported the economy or reduced deprivation, particularly in Oxfordshire's most vulnerable communities. The remaining 50% has been agreed to go directly to the partners delivering targets, according to specific formulae for each target. The

amount payable to the Council (excluding schools) is estimated at £0.64m. All of this relates to achievement of targets where the lead Directorate is Children, Young People & Families. PRG will be payable in two equal instalments during 2009/10 and 2010/11 and each instalment will also be split equally between capital and revenue grant. The estimated grant expected in 2010/11 therefore is £0.32m of which £0.16m is revenue grant.

Balances

55. The Provisional Outturn Report set out that balances at 31 March 2009 were £20.187m. The estimated position at 1 April 2009 as set out in the Service & Resource Planning Report to Cabinet in January 2009 was £19.0m. As balances are £1.187m higher than planned at the year end, it was proposed and agreed to put this into a reserve for funding efficiency savings in 2009/10.
56. In setting the 2009/10 budget the risk assessed level of balances was calculated to be £12.5m. As balances were higher than the risk assessed sum, £5.1m was utilised as part of the budget. This adjustment (plus that in the paragraph above) takes balances at the beginning of 2009/10 to £14.5m. It is estimated that up to £2.0m could be called from balances in year giving a year end position of £12.5m as per the risk assessment.
57. The forecast on balances over the medium term remains unchanged from that set out in Service & Resource Planning Report to Cabinet in January 2009 shown below.

	2009/10 £m	2010/11 £m	2011/12 £m	2012/13 £m	2013/14 £m
Estimated Balances at start of year	19.0	12.5	12.5	11.7	11.5
Budgeted addition to Balances per MTFP	0.9	2.0	2.2	1.8	2.0
Budgeted use of Balances per MTFP	-5.4		-1.0		
Total Balances at start of year	14.5	14.5	13.7	13.5	13.5
Estimated Use of Balances	-2.0	-2.0	-2.0	-2.0	-2.0
Estimated Balances at end of year	12.5	12.5	11.7	11.5	11.5

Risk Assessment

58. The financial strategy states that balances should be maintained at a level commensurate with risk. A systematic and formalised approach of assessing risk relating to the budget is used to determine the appropriate level of

balances. This showed that balances in the region of £12.5m were appropriate to the risks identified in the 2009/10 budget. Further work will be required as part of the budget setting process to identify risks in the budget proposed for 2010/11. The table above assumes that a similar level of balances will be required, although this may need to be amended.

Capital Strategy and Capital Programme

Capital Strategy

59. The Capital Strategy is a high level strategy document which sets out an overview of the Council's capital needs, the Council's financial plan for capital and what the Council will do in terms of capital investment.
60. Significant progress has been made in the delivery of the capital programme during 2008/09. The timing of the Corporate Asset Management Plan (AMP) and Capital Strategy was integrated into the wider service and resource planning process. More realistic planning of the Capital Programme was achieved through the review of project delivery timetables in Capital Challenge Panels. These improvements had a direct impact on the Council's use of resources for capital which stands at 90% for the 2008/09 outturn. A new capital governance structure has also been put in place recently to progress the ambitious capital agenda with wider engagement of Cabinet and senior officers.
61. In terms of the Capital Strategy, the priority for 2009/10 is to deliver a Capital Resources Allocation Model (CRAM) based on the corporate priorities set out in the Corporate Plan. The model will be used as a catalyst to drive the priorities for capital investment and to ensure optimum use of limited financial resources.
62. Elected members and senior officers will be involved in its development to achieve corporate buy-in to the strategic investment categories (key result areas). It is expected that the capital budget setting process for 2010/11 will utilise the first draft of this model to bring additional challenge to the use of resources within the existing capital programme and to strengthen the alignment of programme priorities to corporate objectives. This is particularly important when the current economic situation has considerable negative impact on the level and timing of capital resources.
63. An updated corporate Capital Strategy and AMP will be reported to Strategy and Partnerships and Growth and Infrastructure Scrutiny Committees in December. They will then be reported to Cabinet in January, along with any comments from the Scrutiny Committees and form part of the budget proposals for onward recommendation to Council in February.

Capital Programme

64. The capital programme for 2009/10 to 2013/14, which was approved by Council in February 2009, was updated in August to reflect the projected spend in 2009/10, as well as changes to phasing of schemes, implications of the 2008/09 final accounts and revisions to available finance.
65. Over the period of the programme there is a deficit of £6.080m compared to a surplus of £0.855m in the programme agreed by Council in February 2009. The change reflects a decrease in the valuation of capital receipts within the agreed disposal programme.

Financial and Legal Implications

66. This report sets out the Service and Resource Planning process for 2010/11, although it is mostly concerned with finance and the implications are set out in the main body of the report. The Council is required under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to set a budget requirement for the authority and an amount of Council Tax. This first report forms an initial basis for those requirements that will lead to the budget requirement and Council Tax being agreed in February 2010.

RECOMMENDATION

67. **The Council is RECOMMENDED to:**
 - (a) **note the report and;**
 - (b) **provide advice to Cabinet on the development of the Financial Strategy.**

JOANNA SIMONS
Chief Executive

STEPHEN CAPALDI
Assistant Chief Executive - Strategy

SUE SCANE
Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Finance Officer

Background papers: Nil

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August 2009

ANNEX 1**Referencing System for Service & Resource Planning papers**

Section		Title of Section	Date
A		Cabinet Papers	
	A1.	Service & Resource Planning 2010/11 to 2014/15 – initial report including timetable	15 Sept 09
	A2.	Service & Resource Planning 2010/11 to 2014/15 – update on budget issues	24 Nov 09
	A3.	Service & Resource Planning 2010/11 to 2014/15 – update including Review of Charges	15 Dec 09
	A4.	Service & Resource Planning 2010/11 to 2014/15 – including proposed Revenue Budget & Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Programme to 2014/15 for recommendation to Council	19 Jan 09
B		Star Chamber Papers (Not available to Non-Cabinet members)	
	B1.	Children, Young People & Families Star Chamber	29 Sep 09
	B2.	Community Safety Star Chamber	16 Oct 09
	B3.	Social & Community Services Star Chamber	2 Oct 09
	B4.	Corporate Core Star Chamber	21 Oct 09
	B5.	Environment & Economy Star Chamber	28 Sep 09
C		Scrutiny Papers	
	C1.	Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee	30 Nov 09
	C2.	Adult Services Scrutiny Committee	2 Dec 09
	C3.	Children's Services Scrutiny Committee	8 Dec 09
	C4.	Growth and Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee	9 Dec 09
	C5.	Corporate Governance Scrutiny Committee	17 Dec 09
	C6.	Corporate Governance Scrutiny Committee	14 Jan 10

Section		Title of Section	Date
D	D1.	County Council Papers Revenue Budget & Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Programme 2010/11 to 2014/15	09 Feb 10
E		Service & Resource Planning Factsheets E1. Service & Resource Planning Factsheet 1 (15 Sept Cabinet Report) E2. Service & Resource Planning Factsheet 2 (24 Nov Cabinet Report) E3. Service & Resource Planning Factsheet 3 (15 Dec Cabinet Report) E4. Service & Resource Planning Factsheet 4 (19 Jan Cabinet Report)	16 Sept 09 25 Nov 09 16 Dec 09 20 Jan 10

Service and Resource Planning Timetable for 2010/11

Date	For/From	Action/Event
15 September	Cabinet	Service & Resource Planning 2010/11 - 2014/15 Report setting out the key issues for the Revenue Budget for 2010/11 and medium term and updated Financial Strategy 2010/11 - 2014/15 and Capital Strategy 2010/11 - 2014/15
Mid November	Members	Seminar on "Setting the Council's Budget for 2010/11"
24 November	Cabinet	Service & Resource Planning 2010/11 - 2014/15 Report providing an update on budget and service planning issues
23 and 27 November	Scrutiny Committee Members	Briefings to explain format and general content of report to December Scrutiny Committee meetings. Specific scrutiny area meetings are also being arranged.
Late November/ Early December	Communities & Local Government	Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement announced
30 November 2 December 8 December 9 December	Scrutiny Committees: Safer and Stronger Communities Adult Services Children's Services Growth & Infrastructure	Consider and comment upon the identified budget priorities and pressures and the choices as to how these could be funded for their programme area
17 December	Strategy and Partnerships	Also considers Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan.
15 December	Cabinet	Service & Resource Planning 2010/11 - 2014/15 Report providing an update on budget and service planning issues and Local Government Finance Provisional Settlement and the Review of Charges
11 January	Planning & Regulation Committee	Consider the Review of Charges Report
14 January	Corporate Governance Scrutiny Committee	Offer overall view to assist Cabinet in finalising their proposed Revenue Budget for 2010/11, MTFP and Capital programme for 2010/11 - 2014/15 and Review of Charges
Mid January	Members	Budget Seminar
19 January	Cabinet	Cabinet proposes Revenue Budget for 2010/11, MTFP and Capital Programme for 2010/11 - 2014/15 for recommendation to Council and finalises Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan (in light of Scrutiny comments) Cabinet will also propose Corporate Plan for recommendation to Council
22 January (tbc)	Unions	Briefing on Cabinet's budget proposals
Late January	Communities & Local Government	Final Local Government Finance Settlement

Date	For/From	Action/Event
22 January	Cabinet, CCMT, Head of Finance & Procurement	Deadline for Publication of Opposition and other groups' Budgets 2010/11 and MTFP proposals
3 February	Members	Chief Finance Officer issues commentary on Cabinet's proposed Revenue Budget for 2010/11, MTFP and Capital Programme for 2010/11 - 2014/15 plus the Opposition and other groups' proposed budget for 2010/11, MTFP and Capital Programme for 2010/11 - 2014/15
9 February	Council	<p>Considers Cabinet, Opposition and other groups' proposals and recommendations on Revenue Budget for 2010/11, MTFP and Capital Programme for 2010/11 - 2014/15</p> <p>Agrees Treasury Management Strategy, Corporate Asset Management Plan & Capital Strategy and Corporate Plan 2010/11 - 2014/15</p>

Medium Term Financial Strategy 2009/10 to 2013/14

1. Introduction

The County Council first approved a Financial Strategy in October 2002. A major review and revision was carried out in 2005/06, and the Strategy for 2009/10 – 2013/14 represents an annual refresh of that version, ensuring that it is kept up to date and relevant. It now covers a five-year period in alignment with the Council's other major plans.

The Financial Strategy for the period 2008/09 to 2012/13 agreed by the Cabinet as part of the 2008/09 budget process set out the principles behind the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). These principles were:

- The target of savings will be £5m for each year 2008/09 and 2012/13, to provide headroom to allocate to non-discretionary pressures which are unavoidable and political priorities.
- Policy choice pressures coming from Directorates should be met by compensating savings from each Directorate.
- Additional one-off income should be allocated to one-off pressures.
- Revenue balances will be maintained at a level commensurate with identified risks.

2. Background

Since the Strategy was last updated there have been a number of changes which impact on the organisation of the County Council's finances.

In early 2007 it was agreed that the Financial Management Implementation Plan, which was put in place as a result of issues identified in 2004, was substantially complete. This has been reflected in the Council's Use of Resources assessments which show significant improvements in all areas of financial management and control, with an overall score of 3 achieved for 2007. To identify further improvements a fresh review is being undertaken in 2008. The CIPFA Financial Management Model is being used to assess the current position and provide evidence for a new action plan. This will be implemented in 2009/10.

With effect from 1 June 2008, there were organisational changes, with the reinstatement of the post of Head of Finance and Procurement who is the deputy S151 officer. This post reports to the Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Finance Officer who reports directly to the Chief Executive and is a full member of the County Council Management Team (CCMT).

Financial and management accounting transferred to the Shared Services Centre in December 2007. The centre, which is now fully operational, encompasses the majority of the transactional finance work of the County Council, as well as the operational human resources work. This project will deliver savings by bringing together staff and through improved working with the SAP System, as well as improving standardisation and the control environment. The project remains on target achieve savings set out in the

business case, though currently forecasts estimate slippage of around nine months in achieving the full savings. This forecast is fairly cautious and the plan remains to eliminate this slippage and deliver the savings in accordance with the business case timetable.

3. Financial Context

3.1.1. Oxfordshire has a gross revenue budget in 2008/09 of £865m, a net budget of £366m, and a capital programme of £110m. It held balances of £22.4m at the end of the 2007/08 financial year (this represents around 2.6% of gross revenue expenditure). The financial strategy states that balances will be maintained at a level commensurate with risks which have been assessed at around £11.5m for 2008/09. The MTFP plans for balances at around this level but the position will be reviewed annually.

3.1.2. Since 2004/05 our Council Tax has risen by an average of 4.6% a year. The table below shows the actual increases up to 2008/09 and the proposed increases thereafter up to 2012/13. The Cabinet elected in May 2005 pledged to decrease the rate of increase in Council Tax over the period of the Medium Term Plan. The proposal was to reduce the level of increase by 0.125% each year, reducing the increase to 4.0% by 2008/09. However, the Cabinet met this pledge earlier than planned, giving a council tax increase of 4.0% in 2007/08, and reducing further the increase to 3.875% in 2008/09. The Medium Term Plan agreed in February 2008 includes a planned increase of 3.875% each year from 2009/10 to 2012/13.

Year	Increase
2004/05	6.25%
2005/06	4.5%
2006/07	4.375%
2007/08	4.0%
2008/09	3.875%
2009/10	3.875%
2010/11	3.875%
2011/12	3.875%
2012/13	3.875%

3.1.3. The Government made changes to the funding arrangements of Local Authorities from 2006/07, which included the introduction of the Dedicated Schools Grant. The impact on Oxfordshire has been to move us into the grant floor. This means that we receive only the minimum grant increases determined by the Government.

3.1.4. In 2008/09, Oxfordshire received £11.5m of damping grant, required to bring us up to the minimum level. This reduces over time as our formula grant catches up with the minimum increases with damping grant of £9.0m in 2009/10 and £6.7m in 2010/11.

3.1.5. Being on the grant floor has significant impacts on our Capital spending proposals. Whilst there is still an element of supported borrowing within the

grant mechanism, the impact of the grant floor means that any additional allocation of supported credit approval is in effect not supported through increased grant, and requires additional council tax to fund.

- 3.1.6. The Council's MTFP has built in the costs of funding supported borrowing at an increasing cost rising from £35.2m in 2008/09 to £39.7m in 2012/13. As part of the budget process for 2008/09, the Council choose not to fund in full the increased cost of borrowing associated with the Transport capital allocations above those already included in the MTFP. The result was to reduce the borrowing totalling £6.5m over three years from 2008/09 to 2010/11. For each year decisions will be required about the affordability of the capital programme, as this is essentially funded through the Council Tax, and reduces investment in other areas.

4. How we are managing our finances

4.1 Council wide context

- 4.1.1. The Council has adopted a One Team approach, which is driven through the Corporate Plan and Service & Resource planning process to deliver the key, strategic and operational priorities for Oxfordshire. For these reasons we have committed ourselves to:

- maintaining our balances at a level commensurate to our risks
- ensuring that we extract efficiency savings and provide investment to reduce future costs
- challenging the organisation to meet the government target of 3% efficiency savings for reinvestment in organisational priorities
- streamlining our embedded approach to service and resource planning
- exploring the potential for leveraging in private sector investment, for example in property and IT. This includes assessing the potential for Private Finance Initiative funding in appropriate cases
- exploiting new opportunities for additional funding, such as Local Authority Agreements, building the Government's confidence in our performance so that we can obtain new grant.
- tightening financial management and control where this is needed

4.2 Building Balances

- 4.2.1 A key part of the original strategy was to achieve an increased level of balances by 2006. This was achieved and our balances reached 2% of net budget by 2005/06. This was achieved whilst still increasing our stability and making some significant investment in our infrastructure. The Council has since recognised that the level of balances needs to reflect the risks faced by the authority, and not be measured by an arbitrary percentage. Since

2006/07 it therefore sought to ensure that the balances are adequate to support the identified risks based on an annual risk assessment.

- 4.2.2 The Council has achieved a secure and robust level of balances that ensures it to be effective and sure-footed when it comes to managing its resources and responding to unexpected pressures. An overall assessment of all the financial risks currently facing the Council in 2008/09 is around £11.5m.

Action: We will:

- Maintain balances at a level commensurate to the identified risks over the period 2009/10 to 2013/14.

4.3 Creating Headroom

- 4.3.1 We set ourselves a target of creating headroom in the budget to meet unavoidable pressures and target resources to priority areas. The target of £5m per annum has been achieved through service efficiency savings since the Cabinet introduced the policy in 2006/07, this provides resources to target to priority areas.

- 4.3.2 A Change Fund was created as part of the budget setting for 2007/08, which oversees major change projects throughout the organisation and is managed by an officer and member Change Management Board. There is an ongoing budget which is maintained at £0.5m. The Council has also invested £7m in revitalising SAP since over a 4-year period up to 2007/08 including the introduction of e-procurement.

- 4.3.3 We have reviewed our outturn and carry forward arrangements in light of the underspend in 2007/08. Requests which can not be demonstrated to be an acceptable use or where there is no clear timetable for spend have not been approved. The carry forwards which are not approved will be added to balances.

Action: We will:

- Ensure savings are achieved to create headroom in the budget.
- Ensure that the Change Fund is retained to provide pump-priming resources for change management initiatives.

4.4 Efficiencies

- 4.4.1 The Executive first created a policy requirement for efficiency gains in 2002. Since 2003/04 we have had an annual efficiencies target. We planned for cumulative savings of £23.9m between 2003/04 and 2008/09, and a further planned £4.8m in 2009/10. We have found cumulative Gershon Efficiency savings of £29.1m during the three year period ending in March this year and so we have comfortably met the target of £24.3m.

- 4.4.2 The government announced as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) in October 2007 that local government was tasked with achieving 3% efficiency savings targets over the period of the review up to 2010/11, all of which will need to be cashable.

Action: We will:

- Continuously improve our services through efficiency gains.
- Continue to identify claimable efficiency savings to meet the value for money indicator in 2008/09 and thereafter, led by the Service & Resource Planning Group.

4.5 Re-examining our service priorities

4.5.1 In 2006/07 CCMT established and implemented a framework designed to integrate service and resource planning for all services. This process is now well embedded in the organisation and 2009/10 will be the fourth year the framework is applied. The process uses business plans to set out service activities linked to outputs, outcomes and resources, information on the budget and staffing, information on performance indicators and benchmarking and service developments linked to the four long themes. The business planning process is key to determining the service priorities.

Action: We will:

- Produce business plans for each service area which set out clearly defined outputs and outcomes, performance and benchmarking information and service developments linked to the four long themes.

4.6 Budget management

4.6.1 With the integration of the Service and Resource Planning processes the Council is clear about the priorities it has for Service Delivery, and where it needs to focus its resources in order to achieve its desired outcomes.

4.6.2 Since 2005/06 bids for growth have not been automatically allowed, but directorates have been required to produce a financial plan of how resources can be better directed internally to absorb pressures. Some £14.3m of internal pressures were met within existing budgets for 2008/09.

Action: We will:

- Continue to ensure that there is an effective integrated Service and Resource Planning process.
- Continue to review our budget process and budget management arrangements for 2009/10 and subsequent years to maximise effective use of resources and create headroom for our priorities.

4.7 Procurement

4.7.1 The Council has put into place a procurement strategy designed to ensure value for money and economies of scale. Procurement capacity has been built up by using procurement savings to fund additional posts to strengthen expertise and capacity. Building on the Procurement Strategy established in 2003/4, the County Procurement Team (CPT) is today directly influencing at least £150 million of expenditure each year across all areas of the council

and to date (2007/8) has saved in excess of £4.5m in immediate cash savings plus helped avoid a huge amount of other costs and mitigated significant commercial risks on major acquisitions.

4.7.2 The Council has invested in an e-procurement system based on SAP and after the first year of full operation this system is helping to maintain appropriate levels of financial control over higher volume expenditure areas and to help develop procurement plans for specific categories of spend. Government Procurement Cards have been introduced as a low transaction cost process to cater for infrequent and low volume low value spend, complementing the e-procurement solution. The overall scope and progress of CPT and all aspects of de-centralised procurement is monitored and directed by the member chaired Strategic Procurement Board. In July 2007 we redrafted and simplified the procurement strategy and have adopted both a Procurement Policy and Associated Protocols for delivering an effective Procurement service to the County.

Action: We will:

- Continue to invest in our procurement strategy in 2009/10 so that we can maximise corporate value for money and achieve identifiable savings.

4.8 Fundamental Reviews/Strategy and Performance Reviews

4.8.1 The rolling programme of Fundamental Reviews, has from early in 2008, been supplemented by Strategy and Performance reviews. In 2007/08 there were Fundamental Reviews of ICT, Cultural Services and Day Centres. The reviews seek to test whether the existing service arrangements are fit for purpose identifying opportunities for change in service provision, and enabling these key services to remain within agreed budgets and contribute towards achieving the efficiency savings target. Strategy & Performance reviews provide an opportunity to look in more depth at strategy and performance issues in key service areas. Four reviews have taken place in 2008, Transport and Waste in Environment & Economy and Community Services and Adults in Social & Community Services.

Action: We will:

- Continue to review services through Fundamental Reviews or Strategy and Performance reviews, and seek to identify opportunities for change by challenging historical methods of service provision.

4.9 Investing in our Services

4.9.1 We have identified that it is important to invest in our services in order to achieve improvements. We have set out our achievements. We need to continue to exploit opportunities for leveraging in investment from a variety of sources.

4.9.2 We have successfully worked in partnership with both public and private partnerships and continue to search for opportunities to do so. Most notably we have achieved success with the Osbourne Group and SEEDA to fund the

Oxfordshire Castle project and with private partners to implement the Oxfordshire County Network.

4.9.3 We have taken advantage of the opportunities offered by the Government's relaxation of prudential guidelines to maximise our borrowing from 2004/05, in order to address our capital priorities and to invest to save. The Council has agreed a capital programme of £25m for backlog maintenance on the Council's buildings covering the period 2005/06 to 2010/11. Funding will be through prudential borrowing with schools covering the costs of the additional borrowing. In Social & Community Services, loans to Foster Carers, Kinship Carers and Adopters are to be met through prudential borrowing and the savings come from the Social & Community Services revenue budget from 2006/07. Further use of prudential borrowing has been agreed to provide the extra capacity required for people with Learning Disabilities and for the funding of the Better Offices Programme from 2007/08. In 2008/09 Council agreed to funding £25m of investment over the next ten years through prudential borrowing in order to help address the unmet capital needs of the authority relating to non-schools and non transport services.

Action: We will:

- We continue to explore the opportunities offered through PFI, Public/Private Partnership and Prudential Guidelines.

4.10. Financial Administration and Management Information

4.10.1 Significant improvements were achieved through the Financial Management Implementation Plan. More consistent processes for the use of SAP as the prime financial record and as the basis for budget monitoring and control are now in place and underpin the Shared Services arrangements.

Action: We will:

- Implement the recommendations of the 2008 review of financial management;
- Identify and follow up further improvements in our budget monitoring process;
- Pro – actively engage officers, members and public in the Service and Resource Planning Process through clear and effective communications and training;
- Seek ways of improving performance management information and making this more accessible;
- Extract efficiency savings from procurement, Shared Services and by ensuring that we maximise the benefits of our investment in SAP and ICT.

5 Delivering Change

- 5.1 We are focused on improving our performance. The Corporate Core are responsible for leading and initiating the changes we need to get the best out of all our resources – our finance, our ICT and our staff. We have developed and embedded integrated service and resource planning in our processes over the past three years and we are committed to reviewing the way in which we deliver our services. This financial strategy provides an overarching view of how we are managing our finances to maximise our opportunities for change and development leading to continuous improvement.

Joanna Simons
Chief Executive

Sue Scane
Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Finance Officer

Summary Medium Term Financial Plan 2010/11 to 2013/14

	2010/11 £000	2011/12 £000	2012/13 £000	2013/14 £000
Budget				
Base Budget	379,170	391,147	404,785	419,269
Inflation	9,004	9,373	9,692	10,008
Function Changes	-74			
Previously Agreed Budget Changes	5,074	6,480	3,241	-3,708
Additional Efficiencies and Savings	-2,500	-2,500		
One off Sum Available to allocate				2,941
Sum Available to allocate to Council Priorities	473	285	1,551	5,861
Budget Requirement	391,147	404,785	419,269	434,371
Financing				
Total Formula Grant*	106,321	107,384	108,458	109,543
Council Tax (precept)	284,026	296,151	309,561	323,578
Council Tax Surpluses	800	1,250	1,250	1,250
Total Council Tax	284,826	297,401	310,811	324,828
Total Financing	391,147	404,785	419,269	434,371
Council Tax Calculation				
Council Tax Base	242,133	243,344	245,169	247,008
Council Tax (Band D equivalent)	£1,173.02	£1,217.01	£1,262.64	£1,309.99
Increase in Council Tax (Precept)	4.3%	4.3%	4.5%	4.5%
Increase in Council Tax (Band D)	3.75%	3.75%	3.75%	3.75%
Increase in Budget	3.2%	3.5%	3.6%	3.6%

* Revenue Support Grant and Business Rates.

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ANNEX 5**Assumptions behind the Medium Term Financial Plan****Planned Expenditure**

1. The Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) allows for inflation, the effects of budget changes, efficiencies and savings and other allowed variations agreed in previous years. An analysis of the additional resources planned in 2010/11 for each Directorate and for the Strategic Measures budget is shown below.

Directorate	2009/10 Budget	Indicative Inflation	Function Changes	Previously Agreed Budget Changes	Current 2010/11 Budget
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Children, Young People & Families	98,277	2,372	-74	673	101,248
Social & Community Services	166,800	4,012	0	1,672	172,484
Environment & Economy	68,631	1,647	0	287	70,565
Community Safety & Shared Services	29,908	743	0	-2,442	28,209
Corporate Core	9,426	229	0	117	9,772
Strategic Measures	33,078	0	0	4,767	37,845
Additional Efficiency Savings	0	0	0	-2,500	-2,500
Area Based Grant	-26,950	0	0	0	-26,950
Sum Available to Allocate	0	0	0	0	473
TOTAL	379,170	9,004	-74	5,074	391,146

Inflation

2. The MTFP allows for inflation at 2.5% on pay, 2.0% on non-pay, and 3.0% for Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) budgets. Contracts such as Isis Accord and Home to School Transport, where above average inflation applies have also been allocated a higher rate of 3.0%. In some cases where contract inflation is above the 3.0% allowance, a further allocation has been agreed as a budget change.
3. A two-year pay award was agreed for teachers from September 2008, providing a 2.45% increase each year. The Green Book (local government workers) pay award for 2009/10 is out for consultation with the Unions. The final pay offer is a 1.0% increase (1.25% for pay point 4-10) and the Unions have until the 11 September to accept or their will be no increase for 2009/10.

Ongoing Budget Changes, Allowed Variations and Efficiencies & Savings

4. The MTFP allows for the ongoing effect of the budget changes and other variations agreed in 2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10. An analysis by Directorate is shown in the table below. Details of each budget change are shown in the Service and Resource Planning – Service Analysis 2009/10 publication, which can be found on the council's website. Some of the larger items are explained in the paragraphs following the table.
5. As part of the 2009/10 budget, Council agreed net budget changes of £3,348k to be made in 2010/11. The totals for each directorate are shown below.

Directorate	Budget Changes Agreed before 2009/10 £000	Budget Changes Agreed in 2009/10 £000	TOTAL £000
Children Young People & Families	-263	936	673
Social & Community Services	-616	2,288	1,672
Environment & Economy	305	-18	287
Community Safety & Shared Services	-2,256	-186	-2,442
Corporate Core	-211	328	117
Strategic Measures:			
Capital Financing	1,062	-889	173
Contribution to/from balances	1,100	5,400	6,500
Contribution to/from reserves	3,849	-5,755	-1,906
TOTAL	2,970	2,104	5,074

Children, Young People & Families

6. Previously agreed budget changes includes provision for home to school transport inflation over and above 3%, extending provision in special schools for post 16 year olds and one-off funding for the planning and preparation of Building Schools for the Future.

Social & Community Services

7. Budget changes include £2m to meet demographic pressures on Older People and Learning Disabilities.

Environment & Economy

8. Previously agreed budget changes include £1.2m for pressures relating to Landfill Tax and Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS).

Community Safety & Shared Services

9. The budget changes for Community Safety and Shared Services include the savings from the shared services centre as per the business case to meet their target for the medium term plan.

Corporate Core

10. Budget changes include some one-off funding for the ICT Strategy Investment Fund.

Additional Efficiencies and Savings

11. In 2010/11 and 2011/12, additional efficiencies and savings of £2.5m each year will need to be identified by directorates. This is to meet the value for money target set by the government and will also create additional headroom to allocate resources to priority areas.

Sum Available to Allocate

12. This is the amount of resources available to allocate to Council Priorities after all of the other changes set out above are made. It is the figure that balances planned expenditure to the estimated level of formula grant and council tax funding.

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Draft Summary Medium Term Financial Plan 2010/11 to 2014/15

	2010/11 £000	2011/12 £000	2012/13 £000	2013/14 £000	2014/15 £000
Budget					
Base Budget	379,170	388,934	390,824	400,318	413,897
Inflation	9,004	9,373	9,692	10,008	10,167
Function Changes	-74				
Previously Agreed Budget Changes	5,074	6,480	3,241	-3,708	3,341
Pressures	6,525	6,525	6,925	10,425	3,400
Additional Efficiencies and Savings	-18,757	-16,740	-13,887	-10,616	
Carry Forward and use of Savings	7,519	-4,057	1,942	-1,332	-4,072
One off Sum Available to allocate				2,941	
Sum Available to allocate to Council Priorities	473	309	1,581	5,861	1,360
Budget Requirement	388,934	390,824	400,318	413,897	428,093
Financing					
Total Formula Grant*	106,321	99,621	99,621	99,621	99,621
Council Tax (precept)	282,613	290,403	299,897	313,476	327,672
Council Tax Surpluses	0	800	800	800	800
Total Council Tax	282,613	291,203	300,697	314,276	328,472
Total Financing	388,934	390,824	400,318	413,897	428,093
Council Tax Calculation					
Council Tax Base	240,928	241,531	243,342	245,167	247,006
Council Tax (Band D equivalent)	£1,173.02	£1,202.34	£1,232.41	£1,278.62	£1,326.57
Increase in Council Tax (Precept)	3.8%	2.8%	3.3%	4.5%	4.5%
Increase in Council Tax (Band D)	3.75%	2.50%	2.50%	3.75%	3.75%
Increase in Budget	2.6%	0.5%	2.4%	3.4%	3.4%

* Revenue Support Grant and Business Rates.

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