



## ***Notice of a Meeting***

### **Education and Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

**Monday, 20 May 2024 at 1.30 pm**

**Room 2&3 - County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND**

**These proceedings are open to the public**

If you wish to view proceedings, please click **on this** [Live Stream Link](#).  
However, that will not allow you to participate in the meeting.

#### **Membership**

In the Chair - Councillor Eddie Reeves  
Deputy Chair - Councillor Liz Brighthouse OBE

*Councillors:*                      Ian Corkin                      Jenny Hannaby                      Michael Waine  
   Trish Elphinstone                      Sally Povolotsky  
   Andy Graham                      Roz Smith

*Co-optees:*                      Toby Long                      Fraser Long

**Notes:**                      ***Date of next meeting: 22 July 2024, subject to Council approval***

<b>For more information about this Committee please contact:</b>	
Committee Officer	

Martin Reeves  
Chief Executive

Date Not Specified

## What does this Committee review or scrutinise?

- All services and preventative activities/initiatives relating to children, young people, education, families and older people.
- Enables the council to scrutinise its statutory functions relating to children, adult social care and safeguarding. Includes public health matters where they are not covered by the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- This committee will also consider matters relating to care leavers and the transition between children's and adult services

## How can I have my say?

We welcome the views of the community on any issues in relation to the responsibilities of this Committee. Members of the public may ask to speak on any item on the agenda or may suggest matters which they would like the Committee to look at. **Requests to speak must be submitted to the Committee Officer below no later than 9 am 4 working day before the date of the meeting.**

## About the County Council

The Oxfordshire County Council is made up of 63 councillors who are democratically elected every four years. The Council provides a range of services to Oxfordshire's 678,000 residents. These include:

schools	social & health care	libraries and museums
the fire service	roads	trading standards
land use	transport planning	waste management

Each year the Council manages £0.9 billion of public money in providing these services. Most decisions are taken by a Cabinet of 9 Councillors, which makes decisions about service priorities and spending. Some decisions will now be delegated to individual members of the Cabinet.

## About Scrutiny

Scrutiny is about:

- Providing a challenge to the Cabinet
- Examining how well the Cabinet and the Authority are performing
- Influencing the Cabinet on decisions that affect local people
- Helping the Cabinet to develop Council policies
- Representing the community in Council decision making
- Promoting joined up working across the authority's work and with partners

Scrutiny is NOT about:

- Making day to day service decisions
- Investigating individual complaints.

## What does this Committee do?

The Committee meets up to 4 times a year or more. It develops a work programme, which lists the issues it plans to investigate. These investigations can include whole committee investigations undertaken during the meeting, or reviews by a panel of members doing research and talking to lots of people outside of the meeting. Once an investigation is completed the Committee provides its advice to the Cabinet, the full Council or other scrutiny committees. Meetings are open to the public and all reports are available to the public unless exempt or confidential, when the items would be considered in closed session.

**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, giving as much notice as possible before the meeting**

**A hearing loop is available at County Hall.**

# AGENDA

## 1. New appointment

Ruth Bennie has resigned from the Committee and the Diocese of Oxford has nominated Toby Long to replace her.

## 2. Apologies for Absence and Temporary Appointments

## 3. Declaration of Interests

## 4. Minutes (Pages 1 - 6)

The Committee is recommended to **APPROVE** the minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2024 and to receive information arising from them.

## 5. Petitions and Public Addresses

Members of the public who wish to speak at this meeting can attend the meeting in person or 'virtually' through an online connection.

To facilitate 'hybrid' meetings we are asking that requests to speak or present a petition are submitted by no later than 9.00 a.m. four working days before the meeting, i.e., 9.00 a.m. on 14 May 2024. Requests to speak should be sent to the Scrutiny Officer at [scrutiny@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@oxfordshire.gov.uk).

If you are speaking 'virtually', you may submit a written statement of your presentation to ensure that your views are taken into account. A written copy of your statement can be provided no later than 9.00 a.m. two working days before the meeting. Written submissions should be no longer than 1 A4 sheet.

## 6. Priority Action Plan Update (Pages 7 - 30)

The Committee has requested an update on the Priority Action Plan. Cllr Kate Gregory, Cabinet Member for SEND Improvement, Cllr John Howson, Cabinet Member for Children, Education, and Young People's Services, have been invited to present the report and will be accompanied by Lisa Lyons, Director of Children's Services, and Ian Smart, SEND Transformation Programme Director.

The Committee is asked to consider the report and raise any questions, and to **AGREE** any recommendations it wishes to make to Cabinet arising therefrom.

## 7. Oxfordshire Pupil Outcomes: Validated Exams Data (Pages 31 - 74)

Cllr Kate Gregory, Cabinet Member for SEND Improvement, Councillor John Howson, Cabinet Member for Children, Education, and Young People's Services, Lisa Lyons, Director of Children's Services, and Zaheer Ahmed, Interim Head of School Improvement and Learning, have been invited to present a report on the Validated Examinations Data.

The Committee is asked to consider the report and raise any questions, and to **AGREE** any recommendations it wishes to make to Cabinet arising therefrom.

**8. Inspecting Local Authority Children's Services - ILACS Report**  
(Pages 75 - 100)

Cllr Kate Gregory, Cabinet Member for SEND Improvement, Cllr John Howson, Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Young People's Services, Lisa Lyons, Director of Children's Services, and Jean Kelly, Deputy Director for Children's Social Care, have been invited to present a report on the recent ILACS inspection.

The Committee is asked to consider the report and raise any questions, and to **AGREE** any recommendations it wishes to make to Cabinet arising therefrom.

**9. Membership of the Committee**

The Committee's terms of reference, as approved by Council when establishing the Committee, set out that:

*In addition to the county councillors the People Overview & Scrutiny Committee shall include in its membership the following voting representatives:*

- *one Church of England representative appointed by the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education;*
- *one Roman Catholic representative appointed jointly by the Archbishop of Birmingham and the Bishop of Portsmouth to represent the Roman Catholic Church;*
- *two persons who shall be parent governors of maintained schools elected in accordance with a procedure approved by the Council.*
- *two persons who, at the time of their original appointment, shall be aged 25 or under and either living in Oxfordshire or working for an organisation in Oxfordshire supporting or representing children and young people.*

The Scrutiny Officer will provide an update on any expressions of interest received from parent governors and/or from young people. The Committee is recommended to **DELEGATE** confirmation of their appointment to the Chair and the Scrutiny Officer.

**10. Committee Action and Recommendation Tracker** (Pages 101 - 104)

The Committee is recommended to **NOTE** the progress of previous recommendations and actions arising from previous meetings, having raised any questions on the contents.

**11. Committee Forward Work Plan** (Pages 105 - 262)

The Committee is recommended to **AGREE** its work programme for forthcoming meetings, taking account of the Cabinet Forward Plan and of the Budget Management Monitoring Report.

**12. Responses to Scrutiny Recommendations** (Pages 263 - 266)

Cabinet responded to the report submitted by the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the Oxfordshire Education Commission at its meeting on 23 April 2024.



The Committee is asked to **NOTE** the response.

## **Councillors declaring interests**

### **General duty**

You must declare any disclosable pecuniary interests when the meeting reaches the item on the agenda headed 'Declarations of Interest' or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.

### **What is a disclosable pecuniary interest?**

Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to your employment; sponsorship (i.e. payment for expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties as a councillor or towards your election expenses); contracts; land in the Council's area; licenses for land in the Council's area; corporate tenancies; and securities. These declarations must be recorded in each councillor's Register of Interests which is publicly available on the Council's website.

Disclosable pecuniary interests that must be declared are not only those of the member her or himself but also those member's spouse, civil partner or person they are living with as husband or wife or as if they were civil partners.

### **Declaring an interest**

Where any matter disclosed in your Register of Interests is being considered at a meeting, you must declare that you have an interest. You should also disclose the nature as well as the existence of the interest. If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest, after having declared it at the meeting you must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

### **Members' Code of Conduct and public perception**

Even if you do not have a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter, the Members' Code of Conduct says that a member 'must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself' and that 'you must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned'.

### **Members Code – Other registrable interests**

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to the financial interest or wellbeing of one of your other registerable interests then you must declare an interest. You must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and you must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

Wellbeing can be described as a condition of contentedness, healthiness and happiness; anything that could be said to affect a person's quality of life, either positively or negatively, is likely to affect their wellbeing.

Other registrable interests include:

- a) Any unpaid directorships
- b) Any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority.

- c) Any body (i) exercising functions of a public nature (ii) directed to charitable purposes or (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management.

### **Members Code – Non-registrable interests**

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to your financial interest or wellbeing (and does not fall under disclosable pecuniary interests), or the financial interest or wellbeing of a relative or close associate, you must declare the interest.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which affects your own financial interest or wellbeing, a financial interest or wellbeing of a relative or close associate or a financial interest or wellbeing of a body included under other registrable interests, then you must declare the interest.

In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied:

Where a matter affects the financial interest or well-being:

- a) to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
- b) a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest.

You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

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# Agenda Item 4

## EDUCATION AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**MINUTES** of the meeting held on Thursday, 18 January 2024 commencing at 11.50 am and finishing at 2.00 pm

**Present:**

**Voting Members:** Councillor Eddie Reeves – in the Chair

Councillor Liz Brighthouse OBE (Deputy Chair)  
Councillor Trish Elphinstone  
Councillor Andy Graham  
Councillor Jenny Hannaby  
Councillor Nigel Simpson  
Councillor Sally Povolotsky  
Councillor Roz Smith  
Councillor Michael Waine

**Other Members in Attendance:** Councillor Kate Gregory, Cabinet member for SEND Improvement;  
Councillor John Howson, Cabinet member for Children, Education, and Young People's Services

**Officers:** Stephen Chandler, Executive Director of People  
Lisa Lyons, Director of Children's Services  
Kate Reynolds, Interim Deputy Director for Education  
Jean Kelly, Deputy Director for Children's Social Care  
Ian Smart, SEND Transformation Programme Director  
Richard Doney, Scrutiny Officer

*The Scrutiny Committee 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/the following additional documents:] and agreed as set out below. Copies of the agenda and reports [agenda, reports and schedule/additional documents] are attached to the signed Minutes.*

### 1 **ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 2023-24 COUNCIL YEAR**

(Agenda No. 1)

For the benefit of members of the public and to remind members, the Scrutiny Officer read out the terms of reference for the Committee which had been published alongside the agenda. He reminded members that the Chair must be a member of the Opposition Group.

The Scrutiny Officer invited nominations for the Chair of the new Committee for the remainder of the 2023/24 Council Year. Cllr Brighthouse proposed Cllr Reeves. This nomination was seconded by Cllr Simpson. There being no other nominations it was **AGREED** that Cllr Reeves be the Chair of the Education and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the 2023/24 Council Year. Cllr Reeves assumed the Chair at this point.

## **2 ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY CHAIR FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 2023-24 COUNCIL YEAR**

(Agenda No. 2)

The Chair invited nominations for the post of Deputy Chair for the remainder of the 2023/24 Council Year. Cllr Elphinstone proposed Cllr Brighthouse and this was seconded by Cllr Waive. Cllr Smith proposed Cllr Graham and this was seconded by Cllr Hannaby.

In the vote, Cllr Brighthouse was elected by five votes to four. It was thus **AGREED** Cllr Brighthouse be the Deputy Chair of the Education and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the 2023/24 Council Year.

## **3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS**

(Agenda No. 3)

Apologies were received from Ruth Bennie.

## **4 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

(Agenda No. 4)

There were none.

## **5 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESSES**

(Agenda No. 5)

The Committee was addressed by A. Bush about her experience of Woodeaton School.

C. Brenner on behalf of SEND Parent Action addressed four areas of the Priority Action Plan that SEND Parent Action considered should be improved (namely, restoring trust between officers and families, measuring impact, effective scrutiny, and governance and accountability).

K. Nellist spoke to her experiences as a young person who regretted that the PAP did not highlight the importance of the views of young people themselves.

T. Verrier highlighted the mental health needs of young people. At the end of her address, she quoted a parent stating *"received a generic email from CAMHS, informing all parents of children awaiting an appointment for ADHD medication that: 'the CAMHS service is currently suspended, and no new patients will be commencing ADHD medication for now'."*

The Committee asked the Executive Director of People to provide an urgent update to members of the Committee on that. An email from Oxford Health was circulated to members that afternoon explaining that access to services was not closed but that, owing to a national shortage of the medications prescribed to treat ADHD, CAMHS was not currently starting young people on ADHD medication currently. It was hoped that the shortage would be alleviated swiftly but that it was unlikely to be resolved until April 2024, with that date subject to change.

## **6 UPDATE ON THE PRIORITY ACTION PLAN**

(Agenda No. 6)

Cllr Kate Gregory, Cabinet member for SEND Improvement, and Cllr John Howson, Cabinet member for Children, Education, and Young People's Services, attended to present the report providing members with an update on the Priority Action Plan (PAP) which was written after the Local Area SEND Inspection.

The Cabinet members were accompanied by the following officers: Stephen Chandler, Executive Director of People; Lisa Lyons, Director of Children's Services; Kate Reynolds, Interim Deputy Director for Education; Jean Kelly, Deputy Director for Children's Social Care; Ian Smart, the SEND Transformation Programme Director.

Cllr Gregory began by thanking the public speakers for their contributions and expressed how it was important it was to hear from people directly about their experiences.

The Programme Director addressed various actions within the PAP and explained that, whilst it was a key document, the transformation programme relating to it was to implement and embed a fundamentally transformative approach, around schools, EHCPs, specialist provision, and with pathways into employment. There were some areas where action could be taken immediately but it was important to ensure that any changes implemented were sustainable and that they would deliver better outcomes. It was this that would lead to increased confidence on the part of parents and carers as well as on the part of children and young people. Levels of trust and confidence would be surveyed and monitored on a regular basis.

The Committee was keen that the seeming absence of the voice of young people themselves from the PAP should be remedied and there was a recognition that the language could be improved. It was explained to the Committee that there were plans to improve some aspects of its language.

The Programme Director emphasised that the work arising from the PAP was not simply a response to the Local Area SEND Inspection, although it arose from that. Instead, it was seeking to ensure that issues that had arisen and developed over a number of years were remedied. Whilst recognising that some issues were negative, the Committee was reminded that there was also a great deal of excellent work happening and that good work would be publicised too. A commitment to openness and transparency demanded sharing of both bad news and good.

The governance framework was in place and meetings had been set up and were happening. The SEND Assurance Board had met.

The Committee noted the target in PAP 1:2 that there would be “agreed definition of co-production (including monitoring and evaluation) [which was] created by, shared, and understood across all partners, parents, and carers.” In response to a question, the Committee was advised that the Parent Carer Forum was not the only voice represented.

There was discussion around the differences between co-production, consultation, and engagement and the appropriateness of each in different circumstances. The Committee was assured that the PAP was a living document and that changes would be seen in it. However, there were fundamental issues to remedy first. Embedding co-production as a cyclical progress was one of those issues.

Members of the Committee requested a copy of the co-production charter and documentation underpinning it.

The supply and demand of key services, such as CAMHS, were highlighted as core issue for the PAP. While it was agreed that every child was entitled to an assessment within a reasonable period, meaningful outcomes following an assessment may be limited by supply issues. A programme of early identification, intervention and prevention featured in the PAP as crucial tools to combat these issues. The knock-on effects these early actions would have on demand would reduce the requirement for higher levels of supply for other key services. It was explained that additional training may be required to build on the skills and capabilities within the education system to identify children at risk earlier which would allow for an earlier response.

Concerns were voiced about the delayed impact of the PAP on those individuals already within the system. The potential of providing special educational needs coordinators (SENCOs) with more powers was discussed. SENCOs would be allowed to act more immediately without having to go through a whole long process. It was generally accepted SENCOs, and other experts closer to the individual, had a good understanding of what was required for the individual and had the expertise to help. More training on neurodivergence would help many within the system, by increasing the skills and confidence of those working within the system. If required, individual cases could be dealt with outside of the PAP, especially if the issues were caused by communication between users and services.

The point was raised about the lack of scrutiny with the PAP. Members suggested that members of the Committee should sit on groups within the Governance and Accountability structures. This would enable members to act as envoys and avoid wasted procedural time reporting back to the committee. The benefits of a clear line of sight from the committee to the work being done with the PAP was also accepted. However, further consideration of how this would be done was required outside of Committee. The Corporate Director would consider this, and report back to the Committee.

The Corporate Director agreed to take away points made about more specific individual work streaming plans, such as hybrid/flexi schooling and trauma-informed



approaches and consider how these could be integrated with the PAP. The Inclusion Toolkit written in response to Manchester City Council's Inclusion Strategy was commended and it was suggested that the Council would benefit from considering its insights.

Concerns were raised about the number of indicators and deadlines within the PAP, and how these multiple metrics would be monitored. While there were several Key Performance Indicators built into the PAP, many designed for the Committee to hold to account, some of these were vague and clarity was required. It was agreed that such clarity would be provided.

Assurances were made to the Committee about the improvements that were already in progress with communication, which were statistically evidenced. The balance required between speed and empathy in these communications was emphasised as an important mechanism for preventing complaints escalating. This would ensure a better system for the user and parent or carer.

The Committee expressed its keenness to co-opt members in line with the terms of reference. It was hoped that they would provide valuable insight. An advertisement and application process would be devised but there would be a need to consider if DBS checks would be necessary were young people to sit on the Committee.

The Committee requested the following actions:

- That the co-production charter and documentation underpinning it should be provided to members of the Committee;
- That the Corporate Director would provide clarity over how the KPIs would be monitored;
- That the Corporate Director would consider how members of the Committee could be included amongst the Task and Finish groups overseeing the PAP.

The Committee resolved to make the following **OBSERVATIONS**:

- That the Council should improve its communications to members generally but specifically in relation to the Priority Action Plan;
- That the Council should continue to work to improve empathy and clarity in its response to complaints.

The Committee resolved to make the following **RECOMMENDATIONS**:

- That the Council should ensure that the voice of children and young people should be sought and heard more clearly within the Priority Action Plan and within the work arising from it;
- That the Council should arrange for members of the Committee to be invited to sit on the Task and Finish groups.

## 7

### **WORK PROGRAMME**

(Agenda No. 7)

In relation to the Committee's work programme, it was **AGREED** that Chair and Deputy Chair would meet with the Scrutiny Officer and the Corporate Director to

identify areas for the Committee to consider going forward. This would feed into a proposed work programme for the Committee to agree.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing ..... 20

## Divisions Affected -

### **EDUCATION & YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 20 May 2024**

#### **An update on the Special Education Needs and Disability Priority Action Plan**

**Report by Lisa Lyons, Corporate Director (DCS), Children,  
Education & Families**

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. **The Education and Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee is RECOMMENDED to**
  - a) **ACKNOWLEDGE** the good progress made to date on implementation of the Priority Action Plan (PAP).
  - b) **AGREE** to receive a further update on progress in September 2024.

## **Executive Summary**

2. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress against the Priority Action Plan (PAP), including the definition and use of co-production (CoPro), current performance and effectiveness the SEND Improvement Board.
3. The requirement for the PAP arose from the Ofsted/CQC local area SEND inspection report, dated 15 September 2023, to address the five areas of priority action and four areas of improvement.
4. On 12<sup>th</sup> December, Ofsted/CQC confirmed that it met the criteria set out in paragraph 149 of the Area SEND inspections framework and handbook (14 April 2023). The PAP was subsequently published on the Oxfordshire County Council's (OCC) and the Integrated Care Board's (ICB) respective websites.
5. The PAP focuses on the action and improvement needed by February 2025 against the five priority areas. It is likely that this will be followed by an Ofsted monitoring visit shortly thereafter. In the intervening period the Local Area Partnership (LAP) will receive scheduled stocktake visits and deep dive reviews, alternating every 3 months approximately. The first deep dive took place on 25 March 2024.
6. The LAP comprises:
  - Oxfordshire County Council

- NHS Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire West (BOB) Integrated Care Board (ICB)
  - Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust
  - Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
  - Parent Carer Forum (PCF), the official body for the voice of parent carers
7. While the PAP is a key document, against which the LAP will be assessed, the overarching approach to improvement has been to implement a comprehensive transformation programme that addresses the 'widespread and/or systemic failings' identified in the Ofsted/CQC report<sup>1</sup>.
  8. A co-production definition was co-produced by partners in 2022 working together as Co-production Oxfordshire (established in 2017). The PCF Steering Group reaffirmed the definition for the purposes of the programme in January 2024. CoPro is being embedded within the programme workstreams with the support and involvement of the PCF. Additionally, a CoPro training programme is available. The PCF also has a role to identify and coordinate the involvement of parent carers and CYP in CoPro by reaching into the SEND Network. CoPro definition:  
  

'Co-production is the process where providers and/or professionals and stakeholder citizens equally share a whole-life responsibility for the creation and delivery of products, services, or knowledge. Co-production is underpinned by the principles of equality, diversity, access, and reciprocity.'
  9. The programme governance (Appendix A) arrangements are now fully established, comprising three integrated levels that links delivery of change and improvement on the ground, through the Partnership Delivery Group (PDG), up to the SEND Improvement & Assurance Board (SIAB), which is independently chaired. The chair's blog on the April meeting can be read [here](#) and is included as appendix D.
  10. Additionally, a SEND Transformation Roadmap was published [here](#) on 1 May in line with the commitment given to a parent carer at the Better Together event on 20 March.
  11. The SIAB has broad representation from across the LAP and political spectrum and has been receiving progress reports as well as undertaking focused sessions on subjects such as Post 16 provision, Alternative Provision, Voice, Views and CoPro and school funding.
  12. The transformation programme is now nearing full mobilisation and resourcing with a blend of service and programme professionals and support including Finance, Communications & Engagement, data analysts, and parent carers.

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<sup>1</sup> [Oxfordshire Area SEND Full Inspection Report Jul 23](#)

## **Progress**

13. The transformation roadmap provided as appendix C, summarises the work completed to the end of April 2024 and the work to be completed by each quarter thereafter until April 2025. The roadmap will be updated each quarter. The following provides more detail on progress.

### **Co-production and Communication:**

- Partnership definition of co-production (CoPro) agreed and actively used. Partnership CoPro Charter agreed.
- Co-produced and implemented an inter-agency communications & engagement plan. A programme of events has commenced.
- SEND Oxfordshire Conversations events commenced and will occur as sessions at key points in the year.
- The partnership supported the 'Better Together' event 2024, to listen to the voice and views of parents and carers.
- Parent carer outcomes survey baseline underway.
- Voice of CYP, building on the SEND Youth Forum and existing schools focus groups for a wide range of participation and views. Planned quality assurance and analysis across case specific feedback of children on a case-by-case basis.

### **Assurance and Governance**

- The partnership governance implemented for the SEND strategy and transformation work, with wide representation.
- The SEND partnership transformation programme is nearing full mobilisation.
- The EHCP quality assurance framework is in development. The Invision quality framework is used to improve plans.
- The strategic KPI framework is agreed, including outcomes and experiences of CYP and parent carers.
- DfE Deep Dive under the Improvement Notice completed in March 2024.
- Triangulation of outcomes from the Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services in February 2024, which were rated as Good.
- Establishing in May 2024 an Early Years Board for universal provision, including SEND specific.

### **Placement Sufficiency and Finance**

- Bloxham Special School opened.
- Cherry Fields Primary School Resource Base opened with 8 additional places.
- Approval for Didcot special school
- Place planning and sufficiency plan developed

- Dynamic Purchasing system in place for Alternative Provision, with an increased number of commissioned providers.
- Bandings system from the High Needs Block under development with School's Forum.
- Delivering Better Value programme with the DfE continues

### **Support to Schools and Settings:**

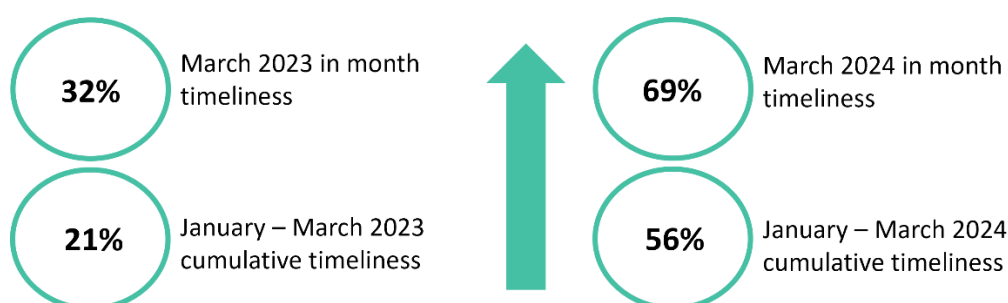
- Schools Relational Practice Programme (trauma and attachment aware) roll out to schools and settings continues.
- Enhanced Pathway pilots on-going
- Special School In-Reach, Out-Reach pilots on-going
- Roll out of the Ordinarily Available Toolkit.

### **Workforce**

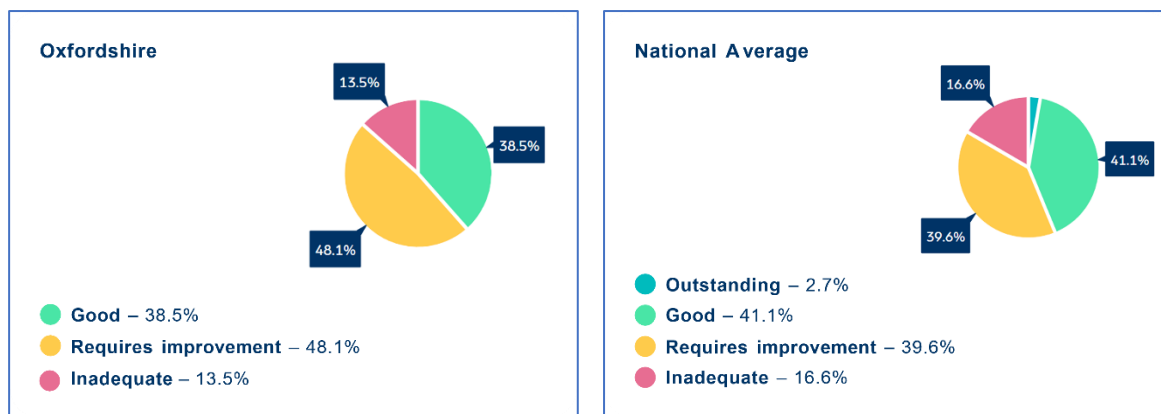
- Stabilisation of the SEND team and education leadership
- SEND Live conference 2024 delivered for continuous professional development.
- Practitioner baseline survey baseline in development.
- Introduction to restorative/ relational practice
- Adoption and roll out of speech, language, and communication screening tool (a partnership approach).
- Schools Relational Practice Programme (trauma and attachment aware) roll-out
- Training on EHCP quality assurance and plan writing
- Workforce scope and training schedule in design.

### **Performance/ Service Delivery**

- Increasing performance of completion of EHCPs within statutory timescale.



- EHCP quality improving and comparable with national performance. The figures below follow an audit of a sample of case files (Q4) by Invision and independent, 3<sup>rd</sup> party organisation.



- Commissioned contracts with health providers completed for integrated therapies.
- Start Well, Public Health 0-19 contract launched, related to health visiting and school nursing programmes.
- Phased update of Local Offer, 0-4 and 5-16 completed.

## Priority Action Plan

14. An Improvement Notice was issued to Oxfordshire County Council by the DfE on 09 November 2023 following the Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC) Area SEND Inspection, published on 15 September 2023.
15. Notwithstanding that the transformation programme is almost fully mobilised, delivery against the PAP has been progressing and was reported as part of the DfE Deep Dive on 25<sup>th</sup> March.
16. A highlight report on the status and progress of the PAP is provided at appendix B.
17. It should be noted that alongside the PAP specific work, there are four workstreams related to the Delivering Better Value programme that are underway and are integral to the wider transformation programme.

## Financial Implications

18. Work is in progress with the DfE to define the financial projections and work continues in conjunction with Oxfordshire's Schools' Forum to develop a three to five year funding strategy. As part of this Council agreed an additional budget allocation of £1m from 2024/25 which will be used to support any financial implications of this plan as they arise.

Comments checked by:

Thomas James, Head of Finance Business Partnering,  
[thomas.james@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:thomas.james@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## Legal Implications

19. There are no legal implications arising from the content of this report. The taking of such action as outlined in the report is lawful under the general power of competence in Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011; it is also lawful under section 20(8) Children Act 2004 and the duties to respond to findings from the local area special educational needs and disability inspections, as set out in the Area SEND inspection handbook, May 2021, No. 160026. There are no issues relating to GDPR as the data does not enable identification of an individual school or child, and the information is available to the public.

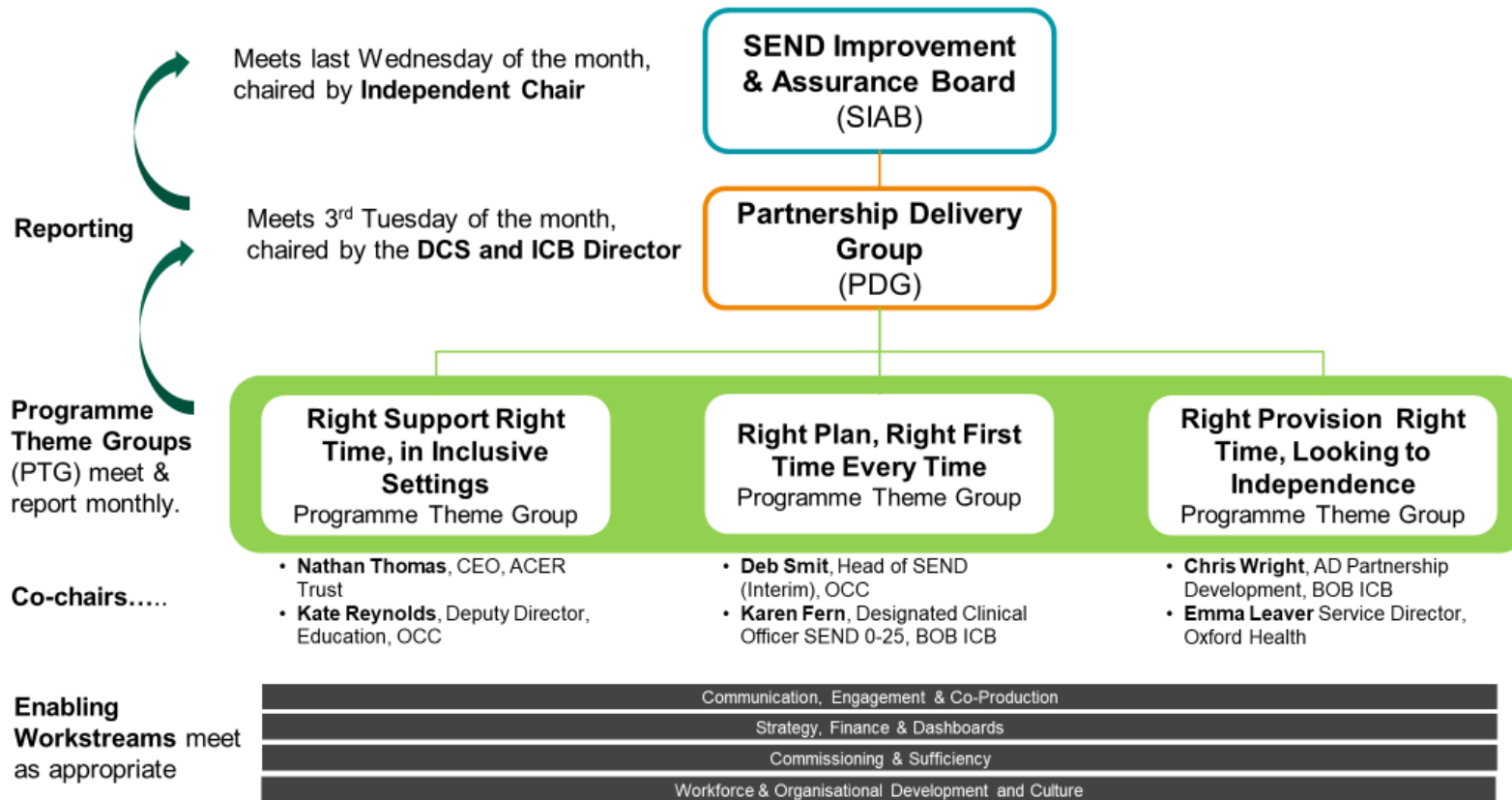
Comments checked by: Naomi Bentley-Walls

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NAME	Lisa Lyons
Background papers:	Oxfordshire SEND LAP Priority Action Plan
Other Documents:	Nil
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May 2024	



# SEND Transformation Programme Governance



## Appendix B: PAP Progress Report

The notice was given to address the five areas of priority action and four areas of improvement identified in the report of the Ofsted/CQC local area SEND inspection dated 15 September 2023. In response, a PAP was co-produced by the LAP, which focused on addressing the five priority areas for action:






- **PAP 1.** Systems to gather the **voice and views** of children and young people (CYP) with SEND effectively and use these views to inform their strategic planning for, and evaluation of, SEND services that improve the outcomes and experiences of children and young people with SEND and their families.
- **PAP 2.** Develop **communication systems** across the LAP to improve the efficiency and quality of information-gathering processes to ensure that CYP's needs are understood and met effectively through coordinated approaches.
- **PAP 3.** Establish rigorous processes to help ensure the improved **timeliness and quality assurance of EHC plans** and use the learning to improve the quality of new and existing EHC plans.
- **PAP 4.** Improve the **commissioning of services** to ensure that CYP and their families receive sufficient support to better meet their needs and improve parental confidence in the SEND system.
- **PAP 5.** Identify the steps that will be taken to collectively monitor and measure the **impact of their strategy and actions**. These plans should be **co-produced** with and communicated clearly to CYP and their families so that their **experiences and outcomes improve**.







Additionally, the PAP addresses four Areas for Improvement (Afi):

- **Afi 1:** Evaluate the quality and impact of services and joint working more effectively to inform improvements that lead to better outcomes and experiences for CYP with SEND.
- **Afi 2:** Improve their strategic approach to transition planning at all ages so that CYP receive the right help and support they need to lead successful lives.
- **Afi 3:** Develop their oversight, strategy, and commissioning arrangements of suitable alternative provision so that there is sufficient suitable provision that meets the needs of CYP with SEND.
- **Afi 4:** Address the long waiting times for CYP requesting support from health services. The LAP should ensure that support is in place from health services for children and young people who are awaiting assessments.

The purpose of the following is to report progress against the **5 priority action areas** and the **34 actions** therein, which are embedded and being delivered through the SEND Transformation Programme. The **BRAG** rating denotes progress status

NB Please note that the **RAG rating colours and definitions** are instructed by the **DfE**.

Grey		Actions not yet begun
Red		Actions delayed and impact not being delivered
Amber		Actions on track and expected impact on track
Green		Action completed and early evidence of impact
Blue		Change embedded, sustainable, ongoing evidence of impact

PAP Ref	Objective	Theme	Project(s)	Comment	Date	BRAG
<b>1</b>	<b>Views of children, young people, and their families are sought, listened to, and acted on effectively</b>					
1.1	To have systems and processes that will gather the views of children, young people, their parents/carers, and professionals that advocate for them	Cross-cutting	Voice, Views & Co-pro	Lived Experience survey goes live <b>May 24</b> . Repeated 6/9 monthly	Apr 24	
1.2	An agreed definition of co-production (including monitoring and evaluation) is created by, shared, and understood across all partners, parents, and carers	Cross-cutting	Voice, Views & Co-pro	Completed	Jan 24	
1.3	An agreed approach and system in place that ensures children, young people and their parents/carers views are used to inform strategic planning.	Cross-cutting	Voice, Views & Co-pro	Lived Experience survey goes live <b>May 24</b> . Repeated 6/9 monthly	Apr 24	
1.4	An established system for measuring outcomes and experiences of children, young people, and their parents/carers, to inform strategic planning and implementation.	Cross-cutting	Data, Insights & Dashboards	Strategic KPIs agreed and dashboard in production	Apr 24	
1.5	The views of children, young people, and their parents/carers are captured effectively and are evident in their influence on strategic planning and implementation	Cross-cutting	Voice, Views & Co-pro	Engagement plan underway	Oct 24	
<b>2A</b>	<b>Cohesive communication systems between services across the partnership that supports joined-up working</b>					
2A1	Co-produce an inter-service communication and information sharing strategy so that all parents/carers and stakeholders' queries are dealt with in a timely manner	Cross-cutting	Comms & Engagement	Comms & Engagement Plan live, including events i.e. Conversations	Apr 24	

2A2	Implement a local area system oversight process to support the application of strategy and policy	Cross-cutting	Governance	Programme governance in place	July 24	
<b>2B</b>	<b>Joint effective working across all services supporting children and young people with SEND and their families</b>					
2B:1	Parents carers, CYP with SEND can easily access all the information they need. This will include support at the earliest point of need and an EHCP, information about the agreed actions in place to support CYP progress and the impact of these actions.	Right Support, Right Time	Graduated approach	Phased launch, 0-4 and 5-16, completed	Apr 24	
2B:2	Named workers will be identified, fully trained, and supported to be the conduit between children, young people, and parents and all agencies.	All themes	n/a	Work underway	Jul 24	
2B:3	Partner systems and processes support CYP and parents/carers to experience a joined-up approach to meeting their child/young person's needs.	Cross-cutting	n/a	SEND AS IS pathways being mapped June 24, then TO BE improvements implementation by October 24.	Apr 25	

PAP Ref	Objective	Theme	Project(s)	Comment	Date	BRAG
<b>3A</b>	<b>Children and young people's needs are consistently identified accurately and assessed in a timely and effective way from the outset</b>					
3A1	Process map all timelines relating to statutory EHCP processes to identify clearly causes of delay, and identify solutions	Right Plan	EHCP Improvement	Workshops on 20w, Annual Reviews, Transfers, Appeals, Tribunals, incl. all forms	Apr 24	
3A2	Improve the timeliness of contributions from all agencies who are required to input to any EHCP process	Right Plan	EHCP Improvement	As per 3A1. Implementation from July to Dec	Sept 24	
3A3	Ensure that the system to communicate progress of new and existing EHCPs is understood and accessible to partners, parents, and carers	Right Plan	EHCP Improvement	Implementation from July to Dec	Sept 24	
3A4	Ensure that co-production is embedded throughout the EHCP processes, so that children and young people, parents and carers and all relevant professionals are included.	Right Plan	EHCP Improvement	Parent carers & professionals are part (CoPro) of the improvement workshops	Apr 24	

3B	<b>Improve the quality of EHCPs so that contributions from education, health and social care are thorough and describe the child or young person accurately enough to ensure their needs are met effectively, particularly at the point of transition</b>					
3B1	To review and embed an updated Multi-Agency Quality Assurance Framework so that the quality of reports feeding into plans and ultimately the plans themselves reflect the needs of each child	Right Plan	MAQA Framework	Framework being finalised including a measure of advice and plan quality (< week 15)	Jul 24	
3B2	To improve the quality of advice and identification of specific provision from education, health, and social care	Right Plan	MAQA Framework	Framework finalised including a measure of advice quality. On-going	Apr 24	
3B3	Audits of plans demonstrate advice from health, social care, and education leads to accurate assessment of child's needs	Right Plan	MAQA Framework	Invision audits will continue to validate new MAQA	Jul 24	
3B4	Processes will be in place to effectively monitor the achievement of outcomes and delivery of provision, as detailed in section F, G and H, through the annual review process	Right Plan	MAQA Framework EHCP Improvement	Monitoring process integrated in MAQA framework and Annual Review	Apr 25	

PAP Ref	Objective	Theme	Project(s)	Comment	Date	BRAG
4A	<b>Partners know registered providers well and there are strong relationships with commissioned providers</b>					
4A1	Services for CYP with SEND are on the Local Offer with contact details, referral pathways and links. The information will be co-produced, relevant, up to date and regularly updated by a dedicated resource.	Right Support Cross-cutting	Comms & Engagement	Phased launch, 0-4 and 5-16, completed	Apr 24	
4A2	Develop a robust system for ongoing monitoring and quality assurance of providers across the system. This will drive quality improvement and inform commissioning plans.	Cross-cutting	Commission'g	On track	Jul 24	
4A3	Map and consolidate existing Local Area Partners joint forums to ensure that there are sufficient opportunities for joint working to build relationships	Cross-cutting	Comms & Engagement		Apr 24	
4B	<b>Commissioning arrangements support timely decision making and transition arrangements</b>					
4B1	Ensure there are robust joint commissioning arrangements in place to meet children and young people with SEND needs across the system	Cross-cutting	Commission'g	Improved model of integrated commission	Oct 24	

4B2	Ensure early identification and timely decision-making processes embedded in all services and interventions are in place CYP of all ages, incl. key transition points	All themes	Combination	Work underway	Jul 24	
4B3	Ensure service provision is responsive and timely to meet needs of CYP with SEND.	All themes	Combination	Tested in survey and KPI dashboard	Jan 25	
<b>4C</b>	<b>There is a multi-agency approach to effectively meeting the needs of children and young people with a high risk of admission for mental health concerns and/or placement breakdown.</b>					
4C1	Local area pathway is agreed for children and young people with emotional wellbeing and mental health concerns	Right Support Provision	Specialist Service Path	EMH&WB workstream	Oct 24	
4C2	Embed effective protocols incl. Care and Education Treatment Review (CETR) and Dynamic Support Register (DSR)) for CYP with SEND to ensure a multi-agency approach for those at risk of admission to in-patient mental health unit	Right Support Right Provis'n	Specialist Service Path	EMH&WB workstream.	Oct 24	
4C3	Ensure the partnership has a multi-agency approach for CYP at risk of a placement or familial breakdown	Right Support Right Provis'n	Specialist Service path	Early help and safeguarding arrangements effective EMH&WB workstream.	Oct 24	
<b>4D</b>	<b>School staff are well supported to understand and meet the different needs of children and young people with SEND</b>					
4D1	Develop a clear graduated response, including resources to help support mainstream education settings to meet the different needs of children and young people with SEND	Right Support	Graduated Approach	On track	Oct 24	
4D2	EHCPs fully detail the child and young person's needs and the level of support necessary to meet those needs in the right setting at the right time	Right Plan	EHCP Improvement	On track	Sept 24	

PAP Ref	Objective	Theme	Project(s)	Comment	Date	BRAG
<b>5A</b>	<b>The Oxfordshire local area partnership is supported by consistent leadership in important roles within the SEND system</b>					
5A1	Establish a clear and transparent leadership and governance framework that includes wide stakeholder representation	Cross-cutting	Governance	Governance in place	Jan 24	
<b>5B</b>	<b>There is clear alignment between strategic thinking and operational practice that supports the partnership's ability to undertake transformation and make sustainable change</b>					

5B1	Publish a reviewed and updated co-produced SEND strategy and implementation plan, which has been informed by the recommendations from the Ofsted inspection and learning from the implementation of the priority action plan	Cross-cutting	Strategy & Leadership	Refresh of SEND Strategy & PAP planned Support from Ofsted	TBC	
5B2	Oxfordshire will have finalised and published their SEND Sufficiency Strategy to meet the needs of children and young people in Oxfordshire	Cross-cutting	Sufficiency	Published March 23	Sept 24	
5C	<b>Early intervention support in place to provide support to children, young people, and families before an EHC Plan has been produced</b>					
5C1	To co-produce the Local Area Partnership Early Help and Prevention Strategy	Right Support, Right Time	Strategy	Work underway	July 24	
5D	<b>Staff across the partnership have access to training and development opportunities, which equip them to identify and meet the needs of children, young people, and their families</b>					
5D1	All staff who work with CYP with SEND and their families will undergo regular training and Continuing Professional Development opportunities appropriate to their role, resulting in a highly effective workforce	Workforce, OD & Culture	Combination	Work underway in Right Support. Needs to be broader and deeper	On go	

# SEND transformation roadmap (part 1)

Jan  
2024

- Partnership definition of co-production agreed.
- Developed and agreed communications and engagement strategy. Events began.
- SEND Oxfordshire Conversations.
- Implemented partnership governance to support the transformation programme and SEND strategy.
- SEND transformation programme resourced and ready to deliver activity.
- Bloxham Special School opened.
- Cherry Fields Primary School resource base opened with eight additional places.

April  
2024

- Better Together event 2024.
- SEND Live conference 2024.
- Parent carers baseline survey.
- Practitioner baseline survey.
- Phased update of local offer webpages, with pages for ages 0-4 and 5-16 completed.
- Ongoing enhanced pathways pilot (this pathway recognises some families need additional support).
- Special school in-reach (professionals working in education settings) and outreach pilot (ongoing).
- Partnership co-production charter agreed.
- Key performance indicators (KPIs) and data dashboard developed including outcomes and experiences of children, young people and parent carers.
- Schools relational practice programme (trauma and attachment aware) rollout.

July  
2024

- SEND Oxfordshire Conversations.
- SEND financial strategy, including banding system to Schools Forum
- Early help and prevention strategy, including early years, developed.
- Children and young people network and consultation group established and active.
- Improved education, health and care plan (EHCP) processes and timeliness.
- Improved timeliness of EHCP advices from partners.
- SEND continuous professional development and training framework rollout.
- EHCP quality improvement framework in place.
- KPIs informing strategic and operations planning.
- Graduated response and pathways: education, health and social care (all ages, stages), mapped, improved and published.
- Neurodiverse conditions and integrated therapies transformation plans agreed.
- Alternative provision implementation.



# SEND transformation roadmap (part 2)

Oct  
2024

- Consultation with schools on 3 year SEND financial strategy including banding system
- Improved joint commissioning processes and provider quality assurance system implemented.
- Education, health and care plans (EHCPs) fully detail needs and the support necessary to meet those needs in the right setting at the right time.
- The partnership has a multi-agency approach for children at risk of a placement or familial breakdown.
- Protocols for care and education treatment review and dynamic support register in place for those at risk of admission to in-patient mental health unit.
- Voices and views of children, young people and their families, and measurement of outcomes, are informing strategic planning and operational management.
- Local area pathway for children and young people with emotional wellbeing and mental health concerns agreed.
- Improving transition to adulthood pathways (post 16)

Jan  
2025

- SEND Oxfordshire Conversations.
- Parent carer follow-up survey.
- Practitioner follow-up survey.
- Education and inclusion strategy developed.
- Voice and views of children, young people and parent carers are effectively captured and evidenced.
- Monitoring of outcomes and delivery of provision is effective through the EHCP annual review process.
- Planned opening of Windrush Primary School resource base, with eight additional places.

April  
2025

- SEND Oxfordshire Conversations events
- Better Together 2025.
- SEND Live Conference 2025.
- Partner services and processes support children, young people and parent carers to experience a joined-up approach to meeting needs.
- Improved responsiveness and timeliness of service provision.
- Phase one transfer of resource bases from county council to school leadership and management.
- Roll out Phase 1 SEND funding strategy including banding system.
- Planned opening of St Frideswide Primary School resource base, with eight additional places.

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Hello and welcome to my fifth blog as independent chair of the Oxfordshire SEND Strategic Improvement and Assurance Board (SIAB).

The board met once more on 24 April.

## **Chair's remarks**

I really enjoyed attending the recent Better Together event at the end of March hosted by Oxfordshire Parent Carers Forum (OxPCF) at the Kassam. This annual event provides an opportunity for family carers, professionals, and organisations who support children and young people with SEND to work together to find a positive way forward to improve services and outcomes.

It was a good day, well attended and I hope we got a lot out of it. OxPCF is due to feedback on this soon.

In my initial comments I said that I was pleased that there were lots of plans that were on track. But in the next month or so, we need to make sure that all of the tracks (to keep the railway metaphor going) cross over in the right place and that we've got all the signals and junctions working. This involves pulling improvement actions and activity together into a coherent plan, supported by agreeing our key performance indicators (KPIs).

First on the agenda, we checked in on the forward plan for the board.

## **Forward plan**

We have populated agenda items for this meeting for the next couple of months. May will look at programme progress, the programme plan and a performance report on KPIs. June's agenda will be occupied with a stocktake, referenced in my last blog, with the Department for Education (DfE) and NHS England. We have neurodiverse conditions and children's integrated therapies pencilled in for July. Members of the LAP were encouraged to be active participants and to contribute topics for us to address or learn from.

Next on the agenda, we heard from Ian Smart, SEND Transformation Programme Director, who provided an update on progress we are making as a partnership on the transformation programme.

## **Programme update**

Ian reminded us about the strategic transformation approach and the three key pillars of activity:

1. Right support, right time, in inclusive settings.
2. Right plan, right first time, every time.
3. Right provision, right time, looking to independence.

Our work is now focused on consolidating all activity into one overarching delivery plan and obtaining sign-off at the May programme delivery group (PDG) and

improvement board to all the projects that make up the transformation programme. The co-chairs of the thematic groups can then report regularly on progress being made against the expected outcomes and benefits. The aim, as I shared above, is to go into the DfE stocktake at June's board, with a SEND programme plan that replaces the current priority action plan.

Lisa Lyons, Oxfordshire County Council's Director of Children's Services, commented that this improvement work is key but is one part of the system wide strategy for improvement for all children. Lisa highlighted that some of the delivery work happens elsewhere, which should enrich what happens to SEND improvement, for example, around school placement sufficiency, numbers of schools and teaching for all children.

Next up, we had Jules Francis-Sinclair, Co-Chair of OxPCF, who gave us an update on recent activity and feedback from parent carers.

### **Oxfordshire Parent Carers Forum (OxPCF) update**

Jules started by highlighting the next steps following the Better Together event on 28 March. OxPCF is collating all the data, summaries and commitments from members of the LAP and will be writing a report that will be published in May.

The SEND network is currently being set-up, which will be made up of a group of professionals, organisations and support groups for children and young people with SEND and their families. The group will be able to network online and meet monthly. This will be launched later this term.

Great news! A new community co-ordinator has been appointed and will be starting in May. She will be attending parent support groups, school forums and connecting with wider networks to listen to examples of parent carers' lived experiences and share that wider with OxPCF and the LAP.

OxPCF recently hosted a webinar on being new to the world of SEND together with the special educational needs and disabilities information, advice and support service (SENDIASS). A summer series of webinars with Oxford Health's child and adolescent mental health service on neurodevelopmental conditions is currently being planned. These will be on a variety of topics including demand avoidance, eating and sensory difficulties and transitions.

OxPCF also shared some feedback themes shared by parent carers. This included concern around statements issued about the funding of Autism Family Support Oxfordshire; GPs restricting access to adult attention deficit hyperactivity disorder medication and care; waiting times for assessment; queries around the OWL Centre referral process (and wait) for autism diagnoses; and praise for the SEND dental service. These were acknowledged by the board and some noted for further discussion outside of the meeting.

Next on the agenda was a focus on school funding – the high needs block and dedicated schools grant.

## School funding

The purpose of this agenda item was to help all partners understand the complexities of school funding arrangements. Lisa Lyons talked through this supported by Nathan Thomas, CEO of Acer Trust and Chair of the Schools Forum.

There is an annual grant determined by central government to cover schools. There are three parts to this:

1. Early years – covering all early years settings.
2. Schools - covering primary and secondary schools through a national funding formula determined by government.
3. High needs – covering special schools and top ups to all schools.

There is very limited movement allowed between the three blocks. Nationally, schools forums are critical in supporting the funding regime. There is a forum for Oxfordshire.

Membership of the forum is determined by government regulations – includes all the statutory education sector (not post age 16, which is funded differently). Schools and academies together must make-up at least two-thirds of the total membership of the forum. The balance between maintained primary, maintained secondary and academy members must be broadly proportionate to the pupil numbers in each category.

Schools forum is the key decision making forum for all school funding. One example could include delegating from mainstream maintained schools budgets for prescribed services to be provided centrally. Another is to create a fund for significant pupil growth to support the local authority's duty for place planning.

Most local authorities overspend within their high needs block. It is widely acknowledged that there isn't enough funding nationally for high needs. This block covers all spending related to SEND in schools, such as top up funding for children with education health and care plans (EHCPs); alternative provision; special school funding, including independent special schools; and costs to independent schools. It does not cover home to school transport relating to children with EHCPs (which is funded by the local authority).

The Department for Education (DfE) has a delivering better value plan (known as a deficit management plan) to support local authorities and local area partners improve the delivery of SEND services while working towards financial stability. In Oxfordshire, this is being captured within the transformation programme with invest to save opportunities being developed.

Lisa highlighted the challenges of having different funding regimes with a mixture of grants and charges. The way funding is mainly allocated is determined by the DfE and then local authorities and schools forum have to then work with this.

This then led onto a discussion around co-production and engagement.

## Co-production and engagement

The last month has been busy with several significant engagement events and the initiation of activities to involve and engage people in the co-production workstream of the transformation programme.

Highlights have included:

- **SEND Oxfordshire Conversations** – the first two events held on 19 March. Dates are being confirmed for the summer and autumn term events.
- **Co-production charter sessions for parent carers facilitated with OxPCF** – a summary of views was provided to the board with feedback requested. Co-production themes and potential future ones are being considered. Following this, a joint meeting will be offered to families to reach a shared view and agree next steps.
- **Better Together** – as above, this was a face to face event for parent carers and partnership leaders on 28 March, with around 150 attendees. Feedback and outputs will be shared by OxPCF soon.
- **Conversations starting with children and young people** to get their views on engagement, co-production, giving their views and being listened to – an initial proposal is in development.
- **SEND Live Conference** – this was a networking and information sharing event for professionals and stakeholders working in the partnership on 17 April. Some young people with SEND helped to support the delivery of the event through work experience opportunities and also presented. Professional feedback has been very positive and lots of connections were made.

Lisa moved on to talk about how we capture the voice of the child in our work.

## Voice of the child

As part of the LAP's communications and engagement strategy for SEND improvement, a specific commitment has been made to engage children and young people with SEND where appropriate to gather their views.

Consideration is being given to how these views can be gathered and listened to. Some examples of good practice have been shared and we have been reviewing existing arrangements for how we currently do this (due to complete end of May).

It is proposed that one strand of the approach to gathering the views and opinions of children and young people with SEND should be built on and integrated with existing ways of talking to children with trusted adults. For children of statutory school age, those views should be gathered through schools and settings (mainstream, specialist, alternative provision and colleges). Katie Geran-Haq, Headteacher, Windale Primary School and representative of primary schools on the board, outlined her support for this.

This could potentially be achieved by working with schools and settings to make effective use of school councils and personal, social, health and economic education and lessons. We would need to make sure that there are other channels available for

children and young people with SEND who are not school age or who don't go to school. The aim would be to then connect the views expressed to policy makers and decision makers across the SEND local area partnership and have arrangements in place to ensure that there is feedback and an ongoing conversation.

The board was asked to discuss and feedback on the initial proposals. Further feedback and refinement of the proposals will be sought from representatives from families, schools and settings, youth services and partners to consider and shape these proposals and develop a plan.

The final bits of the agenda looked at data and insight.

## Data and insight

The board has previously endorsed the direction of travel for the development of a data dashboard, a way of monitoring improvement progress and encouraged prioritisation of a smaller number of strategic indicators.

In the last month, further suggestions of data have been added to the long list of key performance indicators (KPIs) organised by theme and feedback from service leads on the first iteration of the data dashboard.

We now have a set of strategic outcomes and measures against them, some of which are in development still, as shown below.

Emerging strategic outcomes	Proposed measurements
1. More children and young people with SEND are benefitting from effective early help.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be developed through the early help working group.</li> </ul>
2. Increased confidence of mainstream teachers, leaders and staff to identify and meet the needs of children and young people with SEND with the right support at the right time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of schools actively engaging in outreach/relational schools programme.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of schools successfully using the guidance toolkit.</li> </ul>
3. Increased parental and student confidence that the right support is available at the right time to support children and young people with SEND in mainstream settings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parent and student voice shows year on year increased confidence in services to meet the needs of SEND learners in mainstream settings.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction in independent and non-maintained special school placements.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction in unsuccessful education, health and care plan assessment referrals.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction in suspensions and exclusion for SEND learners.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in SEND learners making good progress (attendance, attainment, engagement) in mainstream settings.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction in SEND learners on part-time timetables and in alternative provision.</li> </ul>
4. Timeliness of education, health and care plan assessments is maintained and improving.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage of education, health and care plans issued in 20 weeks excluding exceptions.</li> </ul>
5. Quality of education, health and care plans is improving.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measurement to be developed using a quality improvement framework agreed by the programme delivery group.</li> </ul>
6. Annual review outcomes are improving.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measurement to be agreed through the right plan workstream group.</li> </ul>
7. More children and young people with SEND are benefiting from specialist support when it has been identified that they need it.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Median wait time for children and young people starting neurodevelopmental assessment process (first contact) and percentage of referrals seen within 18 weeks.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Median wait time for children and young people referred to integrated therapies (first contact) and percentage of referrals seen within 18 weeks.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of children and young people with neurodiversity accessing Living Well service.</li> </ul>
8. More young people are benefiting from opportunities that align with their ambition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use data on children and young people not in education, employment or training, vocational pathways, and percentage of children and young people with SEND aged 14 and over with transition plans.</li> </ul>

Further work and prioritisation of the KPIs needs to take place. We will work on a high level visual representation of our data following this and develop a delivery plan for the KPI dashboard, with the agreed strategic indicators being prioritised. Rachael Corser, Chief Nursing Officer for NHS Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board, committed to providing health data to support the KPI work.

As mentioned earlier, we are developing one programme plan that will be agreed at the programme delivery group in May. To support this, a SEND transformation roadmap is in train to provide a high-level view of the key milestones and programme deliverables until April 2025. This will be published at the start of May.



The design of a parent carer survey has also started. This will provide a baseline of views that will be followed up to provide a mechanism for measuring trust and confidence across the partnership.

So that's it from me for now, and I hope, as always, this is useful. We next meet as a board on 22 May 2024.

If you are a parent or carer and have any thoughts or comments, please share with OxPCF by emailing [info@oxpcf.org.uk](mailto:info@oxpcf.org.uk). If you are a partner, please do feedback through your organisation. You can find a list of the LAP member representatives on the board on the [SEND improvement webpage](#). Also don't forget to [sign-up to receive the SEND e-newsletter](#) if you're not already receiving it.

Until next time.

**Steve Crocker**

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## **Divisions Affected -**

### **EDUCATION & YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 20 May 2024**

#### **Oxfordshire Pupil Outcomes: Validated Exams Data Report by Lisa Lyons**

## **RECOMMENDATION**

### **1. The Committee is RECOMMENDED to**

Read the attached report on the educational performance of children attending Oxfordshire schools and discuss the key information set out within it. Whilst the committee are not required to make any specific decisions relating directly to this report, the information contained within it should play a key role in informing future policy decisions cutting across all aspects of LA's approach to education, schools and learning in Oxfordshire.

## **Executive Summary**

### **Scope of the report**

2. This report on the educational performance of children in Oxfordshire sets out the validated pupil outcomes in all statutory assessments for children aged 5-18. Specifically, the assessments included in this report are as follows,
  - a. Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) assessments taken by children at the end of Reception Class, aged 5,
  - b. Key Stage 1 assessments in Reading, Writing and Maths taken by children at the end of Year 2, aged 7,
  - c. Key Stage 2 assessments in Reading, Writing and maths taken by children at the end of primary school, aged 11,
  - d. GCSE exams taken by children at the end of Year 11, aged 16,
  - e. A-Level exams taken by children in Year 13, aged 18.

3. Along with average outcomes for all Oxfordshire children, the report provides information on outcomes achieved by priority groups, identified as such both locally and nationally. Focus groups included in the report are.
  - a. Disadvantaged children (defined as those in receipt of Free School Meals)
  - b. Children from Black and Minority Ethnic groups
  - c. Children with Special Educational Needs (both those on SEN Support and those with an EHC Plan)
4. For context the outcomes for all the groups, in each of the assessment areas are benchmarked against outcomes for same groups of children nationally, regionally and in statistical neighbour authorities. This enables the reader to draw conclusions around performance of children in Oxfordshire relative to children outside of Oxfordshire.

### **Summary Headlines and key messages from the data**

5. On average and taken collectively, the educational performance of children in Oxfordshire compares favourably with children nationally. Compared against all recognised performance indicators from EYFS to GCSEs, the outcomes for children in Oxfordshire are either broadly in line with or above the levels of performance seen nationally.
6. Disadvantaged children (those on Free School Meals) generally perform less well than the same group of children nationally. However, there is evidence that other LAs in the region (South East) and statistical neighbours face similar challenges in reducing the disadvantaged gaps.
7. Outcomes for children with SEND paints a more mixed picture. Against some indicators Oxfordshire Children with SEND perform better than their national, regional and stat neighbour counterparts whilst in other areas they perform less well.
8. Black and Minority Ethnic groups typically perform less well than their peers nationally. The gap is widest for children from Black and Asian heritage groups.
9. Analysis by locality shows that the percentage of children reaching the expected standards at each assessment point is highest in the Woodstock locality. The performance of other localities changes depending on the indicator used.
10. Outcomes at GCSE and A Level in 2023 fell on the previous year. This was consistent with the national trend however in terms of A Levels this means that

the A Level average point score in Oxfordshire is lower than each of the benchmarks used (national, regional and statistical neighbour)

## **Corporate Policies and Priorities**

11. The issues raised in this report relate directly to our corporate vision: *to lead positive change by working in partnership to make Oxfordshire a greener, fairer and healthier county*. The issues raised and the work to address these links directly to 2 of the 9 strategic priorities: To tackle inequalities in Oxfordshire and to create opportunities for children and young people to reach their full potential.

## **Financial Implications**

12. There are no financial implications arising from the content of this report.

Comments checked by:

Thomas James, Head of Finance Business Partnering,  
[thomas.james@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:thomas.james@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## **Legal Implications**

13. There are no legal implications arising from the content of this report. The taking of such action (the gathering of data about education and learning) is lawful under the general power of competence in Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011. There are no issues relating to GDPR as the data does not enable identification of an individual school or child, and the information is available to the public.

Comments checked by: Naomi Bentley-Walls

Naomi Bentley-Walls – Head of Law – Childcare  
[Naomi.BentleyLawson@Oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Naomi.BentleyLawson@Oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## **Staff Implications**

14. There are no staffing implications arising from anything contained in this report.

## **Equality & Inclusion Implications**

15. There are no equality or inclusion implications arising from directly from this report. However, the report identifies a potential inequality in educational achievement for children in Oxfordshire which needs to be addressed through service and corporate plans.

## **Sustainability Implications**

16. There are no sustainability implication arising from this report.

## **Risk Management**

17. Oxfordshire's schools continue to perform well. This performance mitigates risks to the council in terms of the life chances of children and young people. However, as shown above, certain groups perform less well. Initiatives have been developed to support schools in tackling this performance gap so that all Oxfordshire's children and young people can thrive.

## **Consultations**

18. Information from consultations does not form any part of this report. Data shared does not enable identification of either an individual school or child. All data shared is publicly available.

NAME

Lisa Lyons, Director of Children's Services

Annex: Nil

Background papers: Nil

Contact Officer: Zaheer Ahmed, Head of School Improvement and Learning

May 2024



# Revised Outcome Data

## Oxfordshire County Council

Version 4



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### School and college performance data for the 2022/2023 academic year should be used with caution:

- In 2022/23, qualifications returned to pre-pandemic standards. Performance measures that are based on qualification results will reflect this, and cannot be directly compared to measures from 2021/2022.
- There are ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which affected individual schools, colleges and pupils differently.

[Read more](#)



# EYFSP – Revised

Area	Percentage achieving a good level of development	
	Cohort	%
Oxfordshire	7,444	69
National	-	67
South East	-	70
Statistical Neighbours	-	69

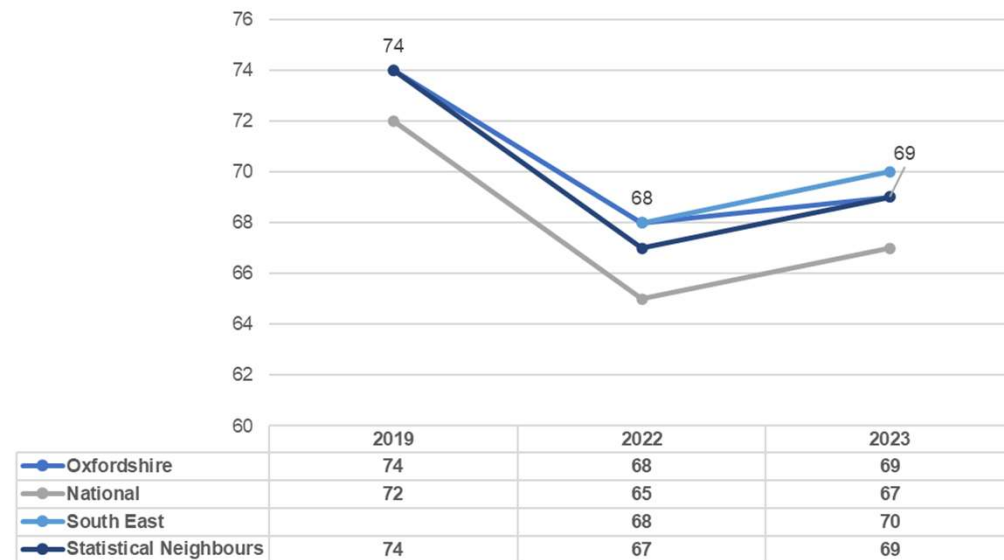
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The percentage of children attending Oxfordshire schools who are achieving a good level of development is **69%**, this is **2%pts above** the national result.

Oxfordshire is in the **top quartile** nationally when compared to all other LA's and **5<sup>th</sup>** out of statistical neighbours (range: **72%** Hampshire to **66%** Cambridgeshire)

- The **gap between boys and girls** in Oxfordshire is **15%pts**, this is 2%pts wider (worse) then the national gap (**13%pts**) and 1%pt wider than the regional and statistical neighbour gaps (14%pts respectively)

Percentage of children achieving a good level of development



This is the second publication since the 2021/22 EYFS reforms were introduced in September 2021. As part of those reforms, the EYFS profile was significantly revised. It is **therefore not possible to directly compare** 2021/22 and 2022/23 assessment outcomes with earlier years.

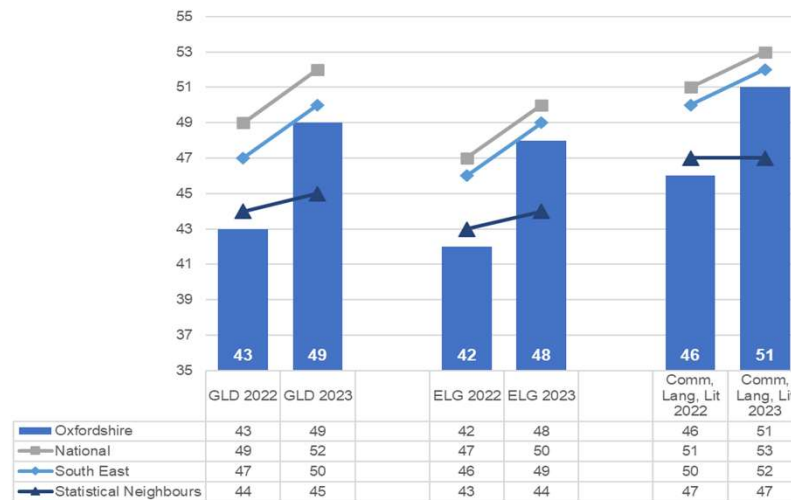
# EYFSP FSM – Revised

In 2023, 12% of pupils (863) at the end of the EYFS were eligible for FSM, this compares to 18% nationally

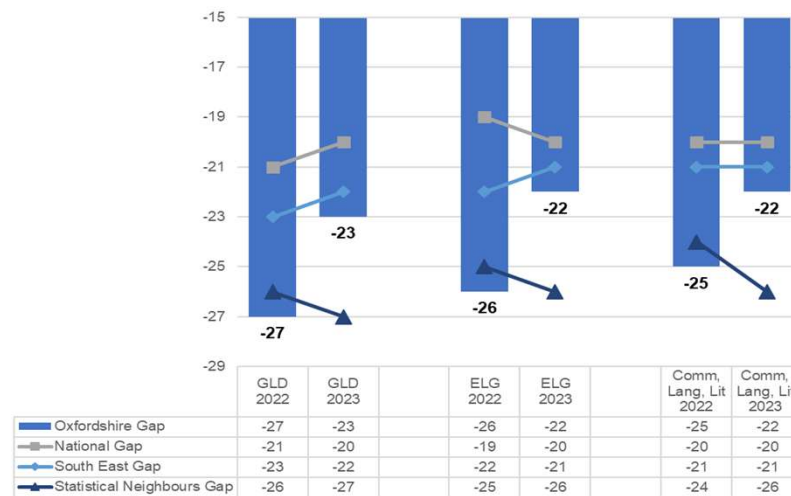
- The percentage of **pupils eligible for FSM** in Oxfordshire who are achieving a good level of development is **49% (3%pts below national)**.
- An additional 23 pupils, eligible for FSM, would need to have achieved a good level of development to bring Oxfordshire in line with national
- Oxfordshire in the **third quartile** nationally and ranked joint 2<sup>nd</sup> out of statistical neighbours (range: **50%** Bracknell Forest to **36%** Bath & NE Somerset).
- The **FSM gap** in Oxfordshire is **23%pts** in 2022. This is **3%pts wider** than the national gap.

The gap is measured as the difference between children eligible for FSM and the national non-FSM result.

EYFSP Headline Measures - FSM

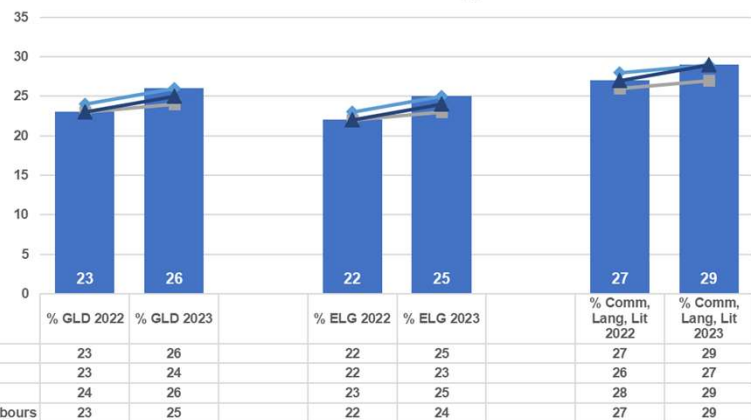


EYFSP Headline Measures - FSM Gap

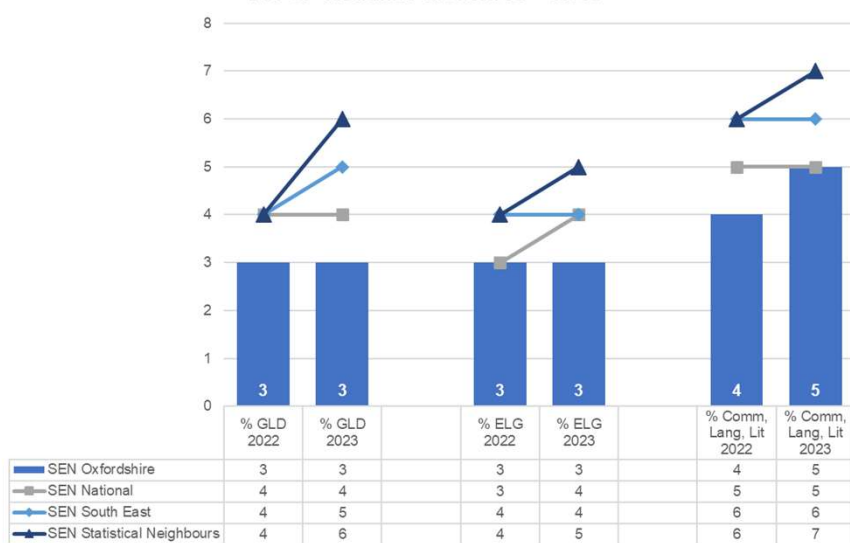


# EYFSP SEND – Revised

EYFSP Headline Measures - SEND Support



EYFSP Headline Measures - EHCP

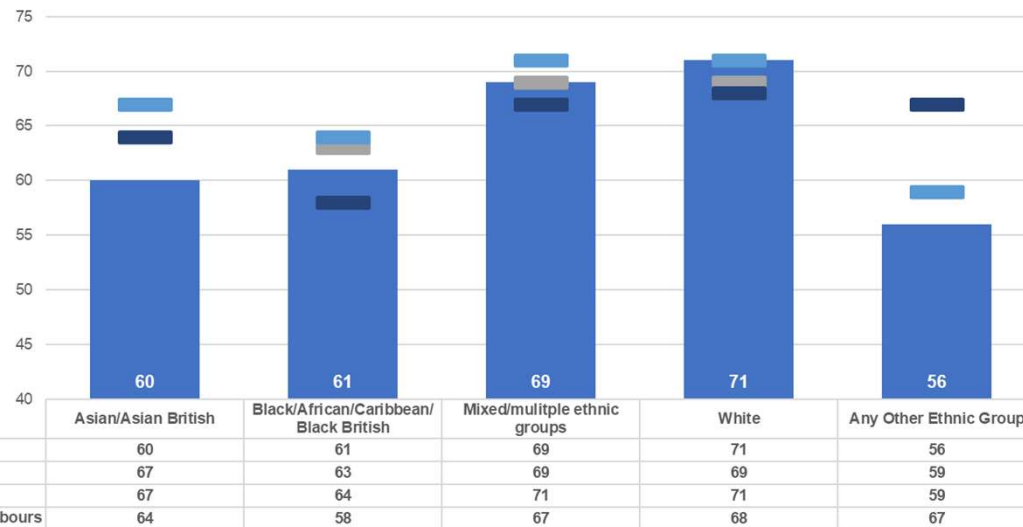


- 9% (633) of pupils at the end of the EYFS were identified at SEN Support in 2022. This is the same as the national figure
- The percentage of pupils at **SEN Support** in Oxfordshire who are achieving a good level of development is **26%**, **2%pt above** the national.
- Oxfordshire is in the **2<sup>nd</sup> quartile** nationally for this measure and **4<sup>th</sup>** out of our statistical neighbours. (range: **29%** Hampshire to **20%** Bracknell Forest).
- 2% (141) of pupils at the end of the EYFS had an EHCP. This compares to 3% nationally.
- 3% of pupils with an **EHCP** in Oxfordshire achieved a good level of development, **1%pt below** the national average.
- Oxfordshire in the **3<sup>rd</sup> quartile** nationally for this measure and 9<sup>th</sup> out of our statistical neighbours, (range: 8% Hampshire to 0% Bracknell Forest).

# EYFSP Ethnicity – Revised

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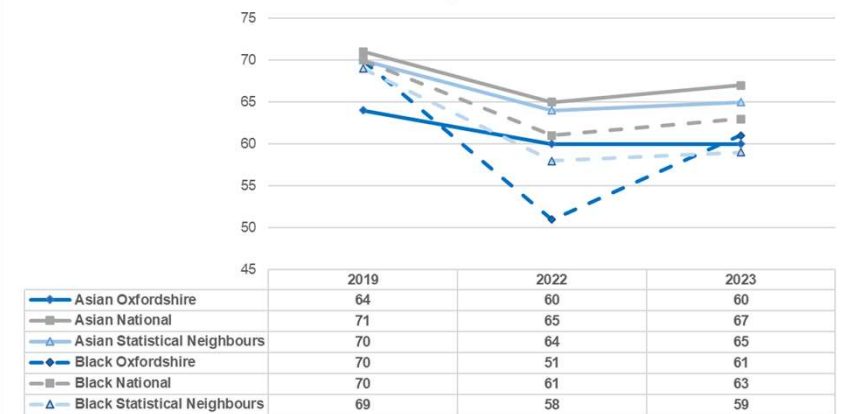
EYFSP Good Level of Development - Ethnicity



- Oxfordshire pupils, in 2022/23, who identified as **White (71%pts)** were the only group where a higher percentage of children achieved a good level of development compared to the national average (**69%pts**).
- The cohort identifying as **Mixed** achieved the same percentage (**69%pts**), for good level of development, as the national average.
- The lowest percentage was **56%pts**, this was achieved by the pupils who identified as **Any Other Ethnic Group**.

Group	2022 Cohort
White	5,719
Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups	623
Asian/Asian British	540
Unclassified	265
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	195
Other Ethnic group	102

Good Level of Development for Children of Black and Asian Heritage

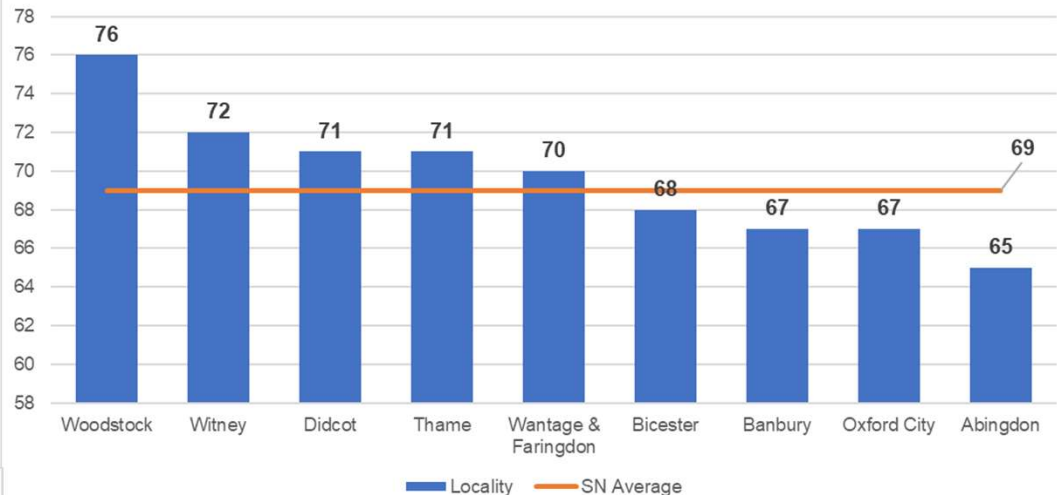


# EYFSP Locality – (Nexus)

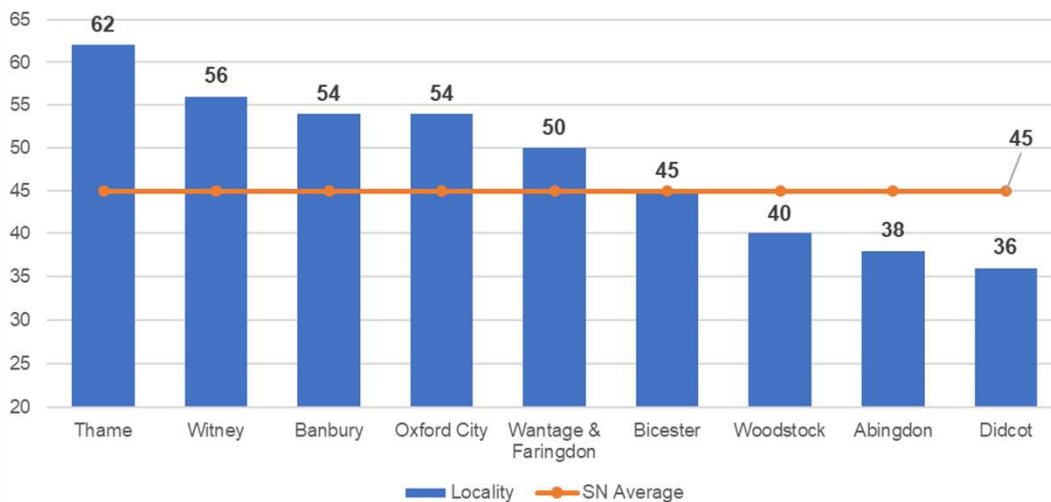
- The percentage of pupils achieving a good level of development ranges from 76% in the Woodstock locality to 65% in the Abingdon locality.
- Four Localities are below the statistical neighbour average (Bicester, Banbury, Oxford City and Abingdon).

All Children	Cohort
Woodstock	564
Witney	604
Didcot	1,002
Thame	704
Wantage & Faringdon	781
Bicester	814
Banbury	989
Oxford City	1,274
Abingdon	598

EYFSP - % Good Level of Development 2023 by Locality (All Pupils)



EYFSP - % Good Level of Development 2023 by Locality (FSM Pupils)



FSM Children	Cohort
Thame	65
Witney	77
Banbury	136
Oxford City	184
Wantage & Faringdon	74
Bicester	94
Woodstock	50
Abingdon	66
Didcot	97

- For pupils eligible for FSM achieving a good level of development, percentages range from 62% (cohort of 65 children) in Thame locality, to 36% (cohort of 97 children) in Didcot locality.
- Three localities are below the statistical neighbour average (Woodstock, Abingdon and Didcot).



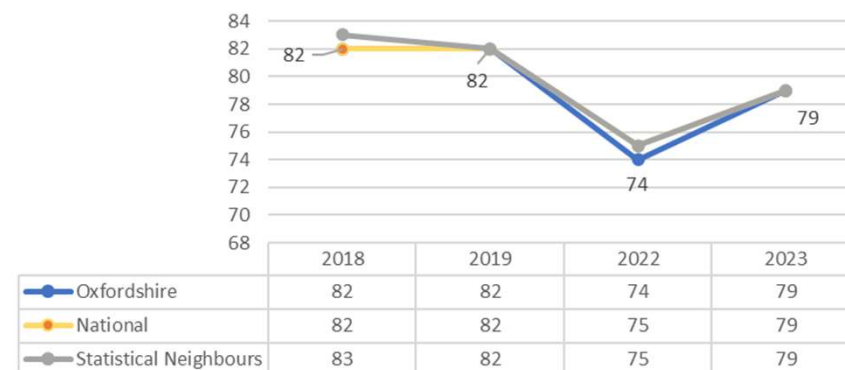
# Phonics – Revised

Area	Percentage working at the expected level			
	Year 1 Cohort	Year 1	End of Year 2 cohort	End of Year 2
Oxfordshire	7,557	79	7,662	88
National	-	79	-	89
South East	-	79	-	89
Statistical Neighbours	-	79	-	89

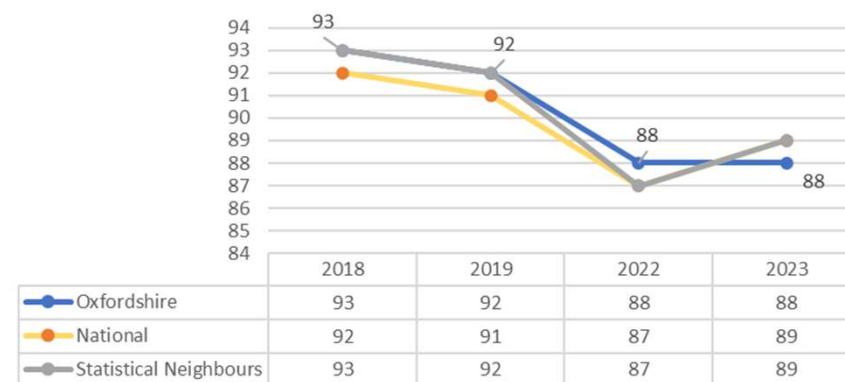
The percentage of Oxfordshire pupils working at the expected level in **year 1 phonics** is **79%**, this is the same as nationally. This places Oxfordshire in the **2<sup>nd</sup> quartile** nationally when compared to all other LA's and joint 5<sup>th</sup> out of statistical neighbours (**range: 81%** - Bath and NE Somerset to **75%** - West Berkshire)

- The percentage of Oxfordshire pupils working at the expected level at the **end of year 2** is **88%**, this is **1%pt below** the national average. This places Oxfordshire in the **3<sup>rd</sup> quartile** nationally when compared to all other LA's and joint 8<sup>th</sup> out of statistical neighbours (**range: 90%** - Buckinghamshire and Bracknell Forest to **88%** - Hertfordshire, Oxfordshire, West Sussex and Cambridgeshire)

Percentage of pupils working at the expected level - Year 1



Percentage of pupils working at the expected level - end of Year 2

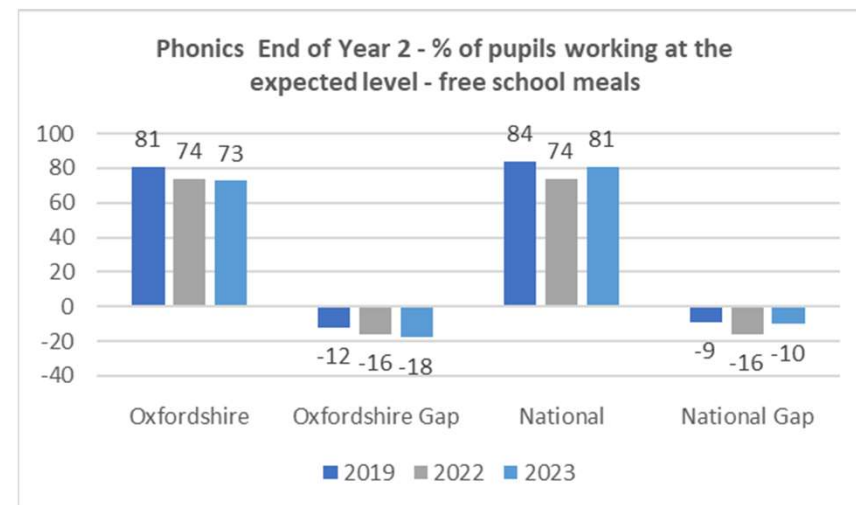
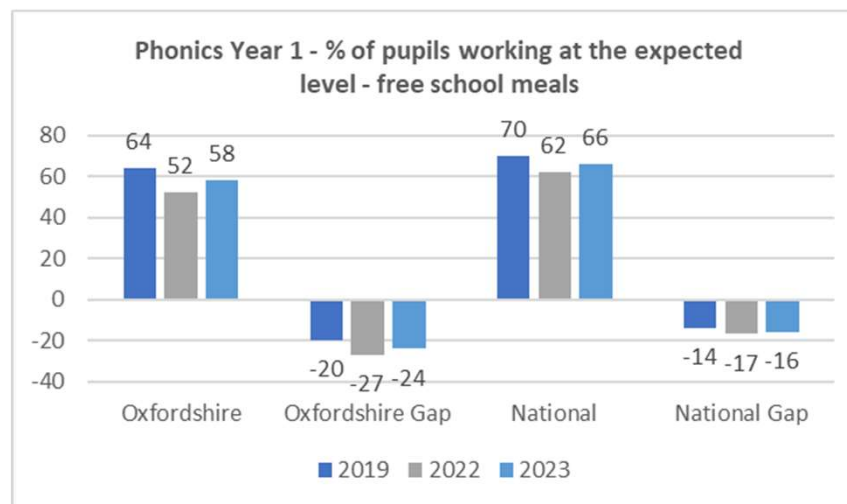


# Phonics FSM – Revised

Area	Percentage working at the expected level - FSM			
	Year 1 Cohort	Year 1	End of Year 2 cohort	End of Year 2
Oxfordshire	611	58	1,159	73
National	-	66	-	81
South East	-	52	-	78
Statistical Neighbours	-	61	-	77

The percentage of **year 1 FSM** pupils in Oxfordshire who are working at the expected level is **58% (8%pts below national)**. This places Oxfordshire in the **bottom quartile** nationally, with only 2 LA's (Central Bedfordshire and West Berkshire) reporting a lower percentage.

- The percentage of FSM pupils in Oxfordshire at the **end of year 2** who are working at the expected level is **73% (8%pts below national)**. **An additional 98 FSM pupils** would need to have achieved the expected standard to bring Oxfordshire in line with national. (**Range: 80%** - Gloucestershire and Bracknell Forest to **75%** - Hertfordshire, of our statistical neighbours). Oxfordshire on **73%** is below all statistical neighbours.

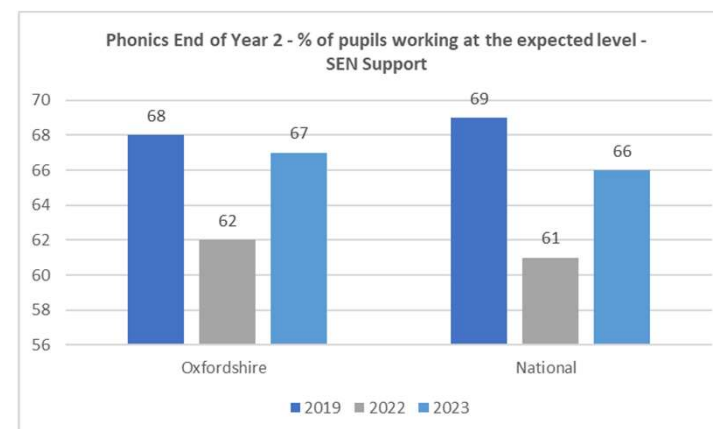
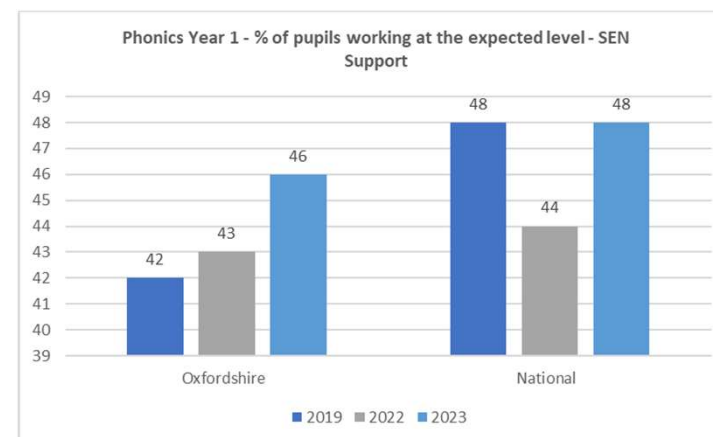


# Phonics SEN Support – Revised

Area	Percentage working at the expected level - SEN Support			
	Year 1 Cohort	Year 1	End of Year 2 cohort	End of Year 2
Oxfordshire	827	46	1,130	67
National	-	48	-	66
South East	-	47	-	66
Statistical Neighbours	-	47	-	65

Page 44. 46% (827) of pupils completing the year 1 phonics check were identified at SEN Support in 2023. This is the same percentage as the national figure.

- In 2023, **46% of Year 1 SEN Support** pupils in Oxfordshire are working at the expected level.
- Oxfordshire has seen a steady increase over the last 3 years.
- This is **2%pt below** the national average and places Oxfordshire in the **3<sup>rd</sup> quartile** nationally. (Range: 54% - Bracknell Forest to 42% West Berkshire of our statistical neighbours)
- In 2023, **67%** of pupils identified at SEN Support in Oxfordshire are working at the expected level at **the end of year 2**.
- This is **1%pt above** the national average and places Oxfordshire in the **2<sup>nd</sup> quartile** nationally. (Range: 68% - Buckinghamshire and Wiltshire to 62% - Cambridgeshire of our statistical neighbours)

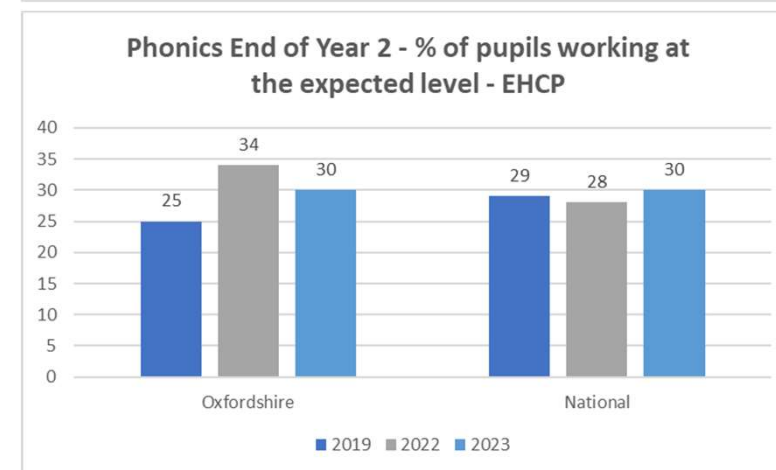
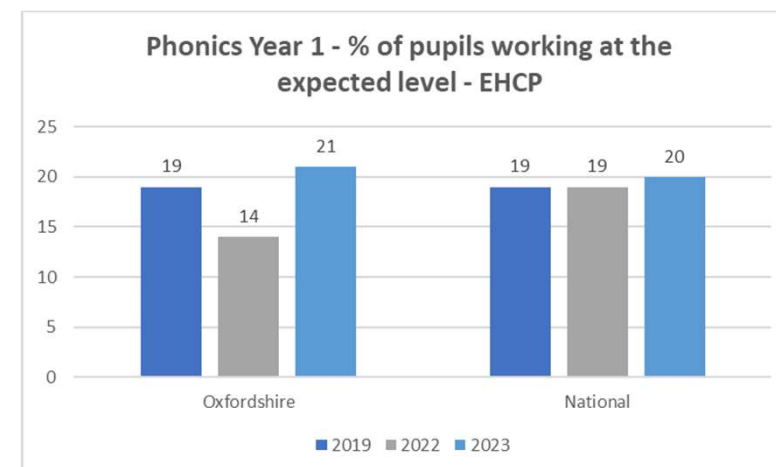




# Phonics EHCP – Revised

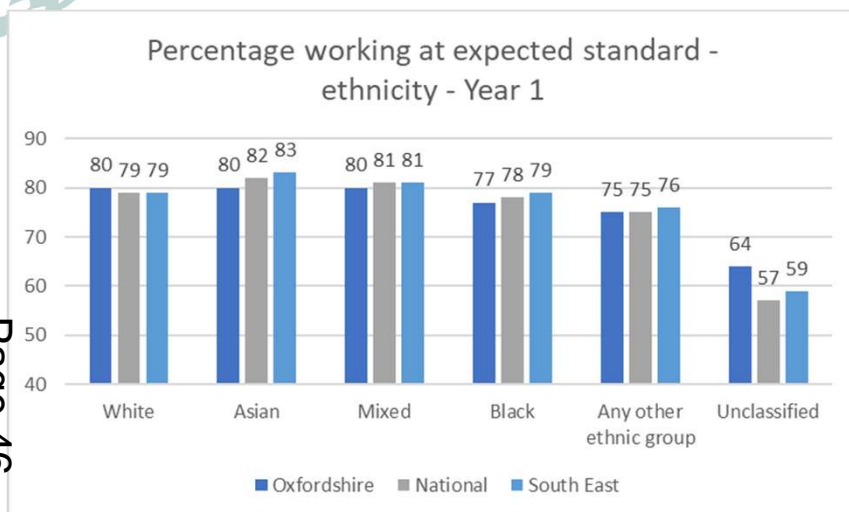
Area	Percentage working at the expected level - SEN Support			
	Year 1 Cohort	Year 1	End of Year 2 cohort	End of Year 2
Oxfordshire	204	21	268	30
National		20		30
South East		21		31
Statistical Neighbours		23		33

- Page 45
- 3% (204) of pupils completing the year 1 phonics check had an EHCP. This is in line with the national figure.
  - 21% of year 1 pupils with an EHCP in Oxfordshire are working at the expected level, 1%pts above the national average. This places Oxfordshire in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quartile nationally. (Range: 37% - Bath & NE Somerset to 9% - Bracknell Forest of our statistical neighbours)
  - 30% pupils with an EHCP in Oxfordshire are working at the expected level at the end of year 2, the same as nationally. This places Oxfordshire in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quartile nationally. (Range: 42% - Gloucestershire to 26% - West Sussex of our statistical neighbours)



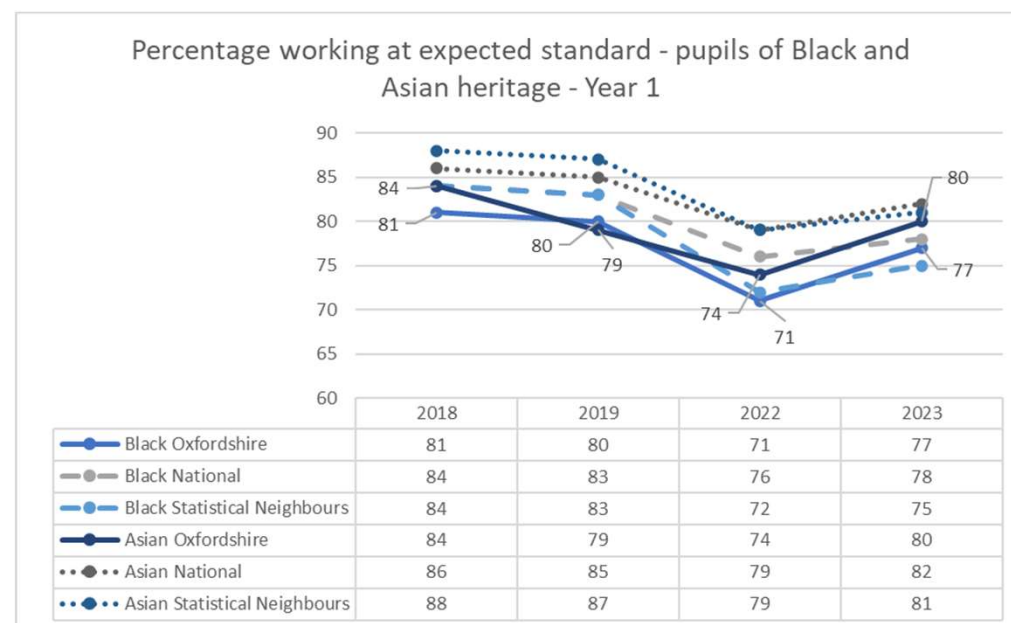
# Phonics (Y1) by Ethnicity – Revised

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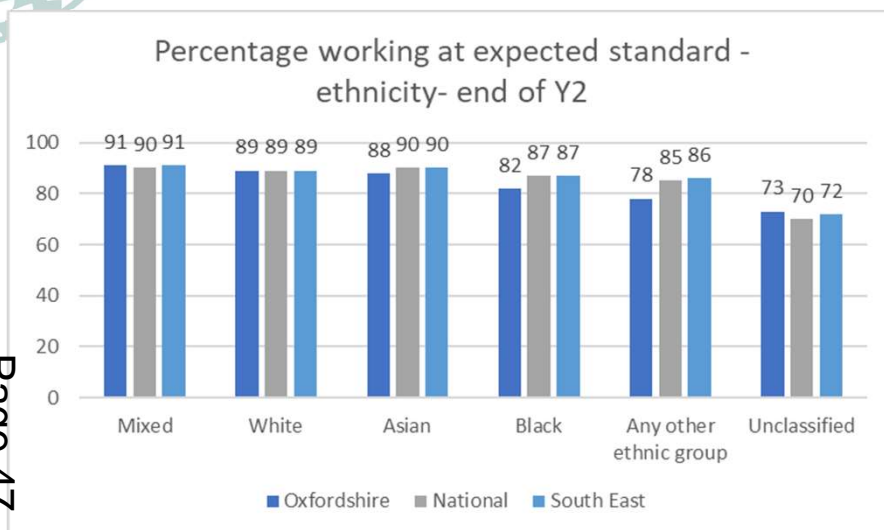
- **77% of pupils of black heritage** met the expected standard (148 children). This was **1% below the national average**. (Range: **79%** - Hampshire to **65%** - Bath and NE Somerset of our statistical neighbours)
- **80% of pupils of Asian heritage** met the expected standard (452 children). This was **2% below the national average**. (Range: **85%** - Bracknell Forest and Hertfordshire to **76%** - West Berkshire of our statistical neighbours)

Group	2023 Cohort
White	5,725
Asian	566
Mixed	620
Black	193
Unclassified	304
Any other ethnic group	149



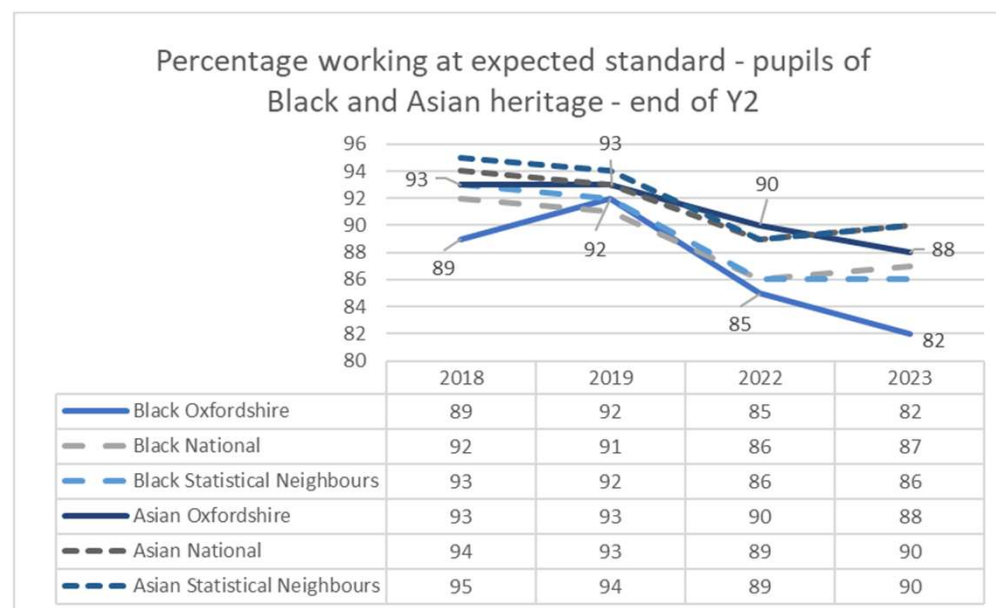
# Phonics (End of Y2) by Ethnicity – Revised

Page 47



- **82% of pupils of black heritage** met the expected standard (130 children). This was **5% below the national average**. (Range: 94% - West Berkshire to 78% - Cambridgeshire of our statistical neighbours)
- **88% of pupils of Asian heritage** met the expected standard (485 children). This was **2% below the national average**. (Range: 93% - Bracknell Forest, Cambridgeshire and Wiltshire to 85% - West Sussex of our statistical neighbours)

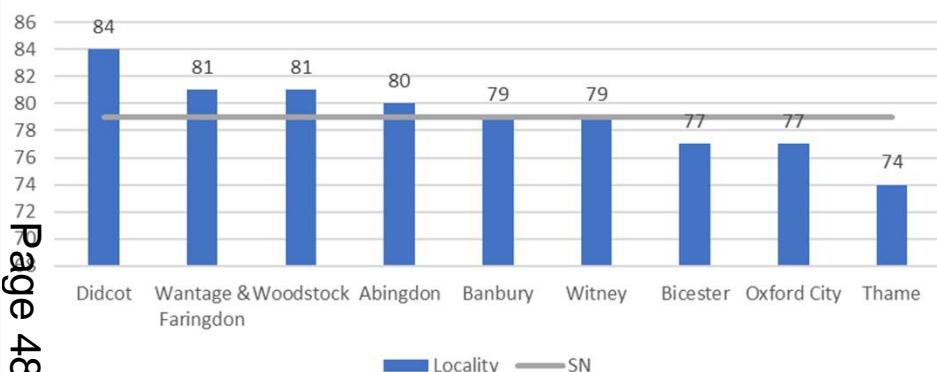
Group	2023 Cohort
White	5895
Asian	552
Mixed	626
Black	220
Unclassified	209
Any other ethnic group	160



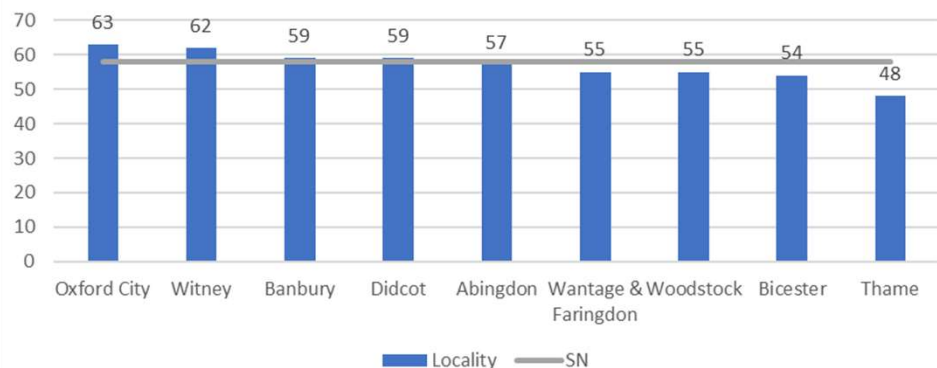
# Year 1 Phonics Locality – (Nexus)

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Percentage of year 1 pupils working at the expected level  
- Locality



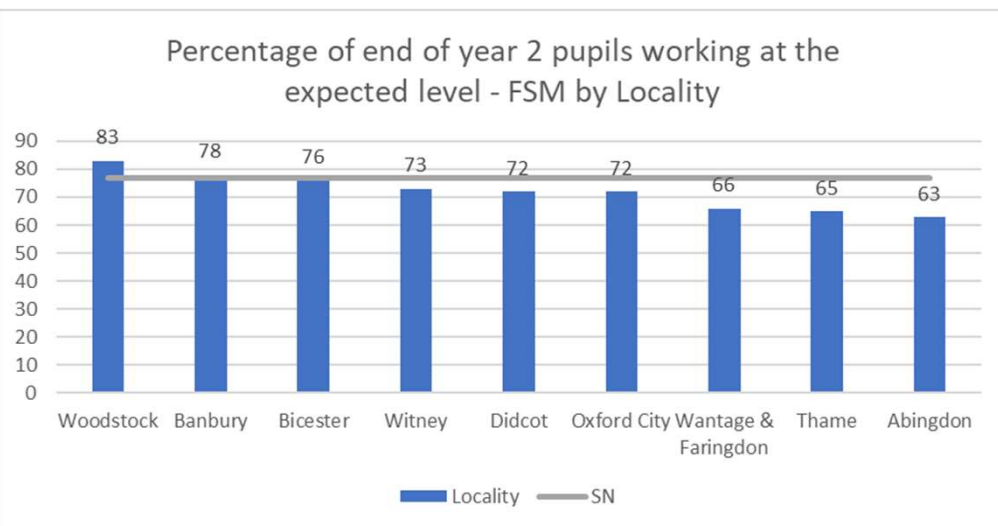
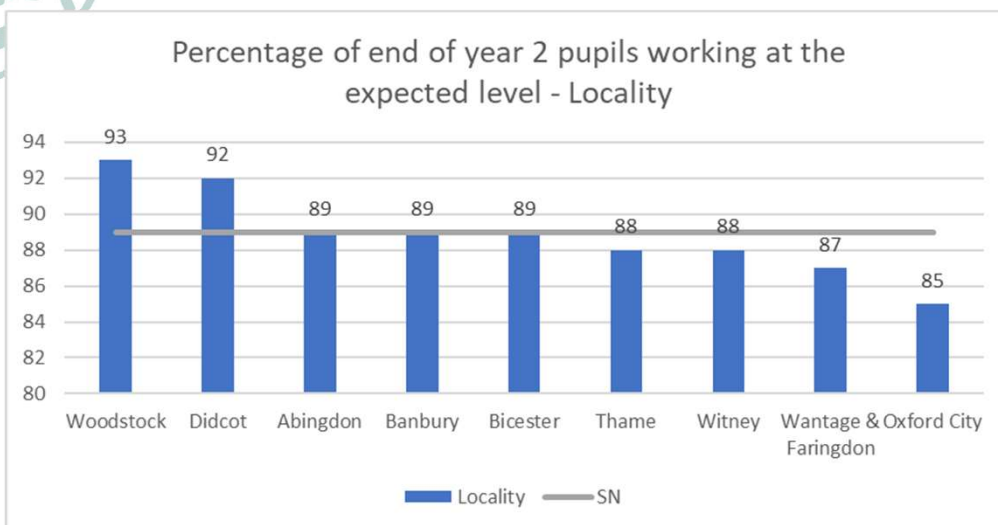
Percentage of year 1 pupils working at the expected level  
- FSM By Locality



- The percentage of Y1 pupils working at the expected standard ranges from 84% in the Didcot locality to 74% in the Thame locality.
- Three localities are below the statistical neighbour average (Bicester, Oxford City and Thame)

- For pupils eligible for FSM working at the expected standard, percentages range from 63% (cohort of 234 children) in Oxford City locality, to 48% (cohort of 52 children) in the Thame locality.
- Five localities are below the statistical neighbour average (Abingdon, Wantage & Faringdon, Woodstock, Bicester and Thame)

# End of Year 2 Phonics Locality – (Nexus)



- The percentage of Y2 pupils working at the expected standard ranges from 93% in Woodstock locality to 85% in Oxford City locality.
- Four localities are below the statistical neighbour average (Thame, Witney, Wantage & Faringdon and Oxford City)
- For pupils eligible for FSM working at the expected standard, percentages range from 83% (cohort of 80 children) in Woodstock locality, to 63% (cohort of 75 children) in Abingdon locality.
- Seven localities are below the statistical neighbour average (Bicester, Witney, Didcot, Oxford City, Wantage & Faringdon, Thame and Abingdon)



# Key Stage 1 – Revised

Area	Percentage achieving at least the expected standard				
	Cohort	Reading	Writing	Mathematics	RWM*
Oxfordshire		68	60	70	55
National	-	68	60	70	56
South East	-	70	61	71	57
Statistical Neighbours	-	70	60	71	-

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Percentage of pupils at the end of KS1 achieving at least the expected standard (2017 - 2023)

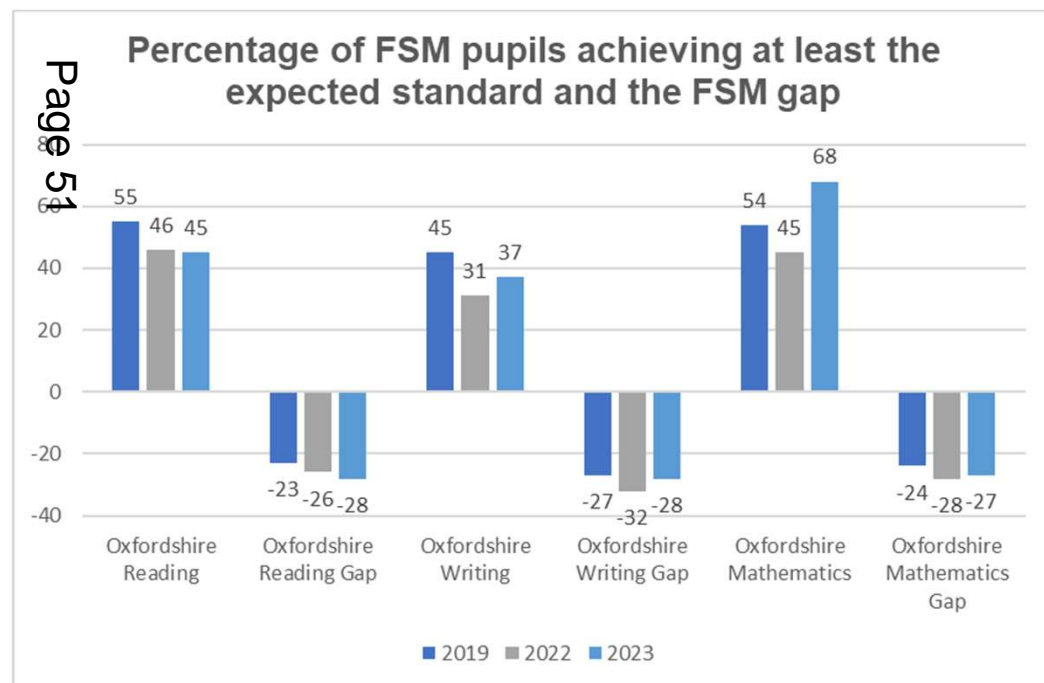


\* RWM - Reading, Writing and Mathematics combined are not included in the DfE SFR, this data has been taken from NEXUS and is not in the public domain.

- The percentage of Oxfordshire pupils achieving at least the expected standard in **Reading** in 2023 was **68%**. This is **the same** as the national results and places Oxfordshire in the **3<sup>rd</sup> quartile** nationally when compared to all other LA's and joint 8<sup>th</sup> out of statistical neighbours. (**Range: 73%** - Hampshire to **66%** - Cambridgeshire)
- The percentage of Oxfordshire pupils achieving at least the expected standard in **Writing** in 2023 is **60%**. This is **the same** as the national average. Oxfordshire is placed in the **2<sup>nd</sup> quartile** nationally and **joint 5<sup>th</sup>** out of statistical neighbours. (**Range: 64%** - Hampshire to **56%** - Cambridgeshire and West Sussex)
- The percentage of Oxfordshire pupils achieving at least the expected standard in **Mathematics** in 2022 is **70%**. Again, this is **the same** as the national average and places Oxfordshire in the **2<sup>nd</sup> quartile** nationally, and **joint 7<sup>th</sup>** out of statistical neighbours. (**Range: 74%** - Bath & NE Somerset to **69%** to Cambridgeshire, West Berkshire and West Sussex)

# Key Stage 1 FSM – Revised

Area	Cohort	Percentage of FSM pupils achieving at least the expected standard			
		Reading	Writing	Mathematics	RWM*
Oxfordshire	1,167	45	37	48	32
National	-	54	44	56	40
South East	-	51	40	52	-
Statistical Neighbours	-	50	38	51	-



*In 2023, 15% of pupils (1167) at the end of key stage 1 were FSM eligible, this compares to 24% nationally*

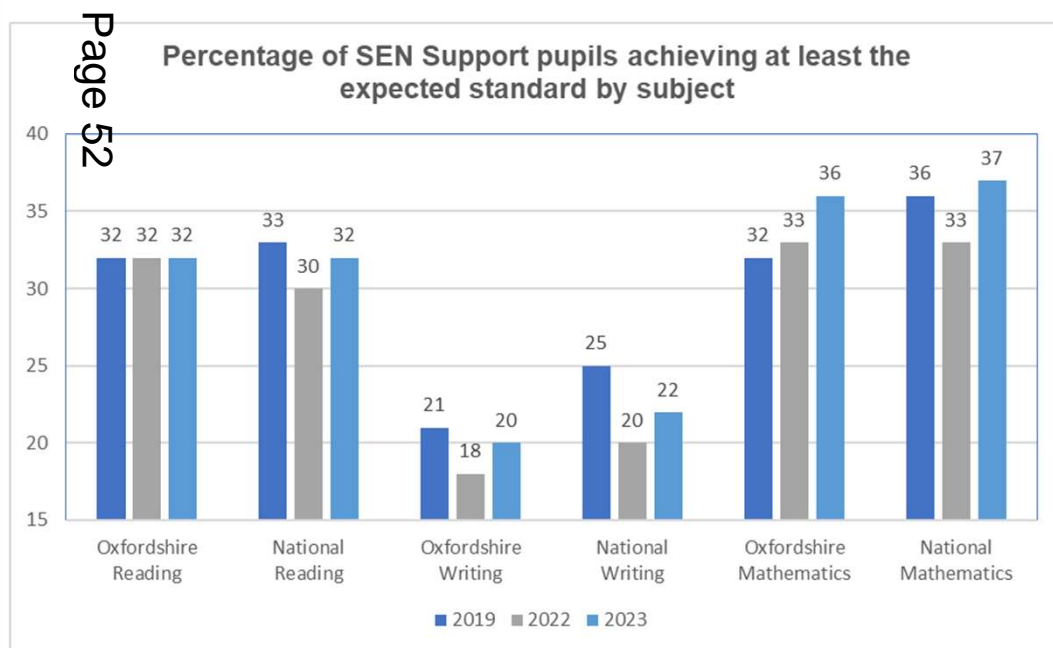
- The percentage of **FSM** pupils in Oxfordshire who have achieved at least the expected standard in **reading** is **45%** (**9%pts below** national). (**Range: 53%** - Hampshire to **43%** - West Berkshire)
- Writing** is **37%** (**7%pts below** national). (**Range: 43%** - Hampshire to **29%** - West Berkshire)
- Mathematics** is **48%** (**8%pts below** national). (**Range: 54%** - Bracknell Forest to **45%** - West Berkshire)
- Oxfordshire is in the **bottom quartile** nationally, 148<sup>th</sup> for reading, 137<sup>th</sup> for writing and 143<sup>rd</sup> for mathematics out of 152 LAs. Apart from writing, the FSM gap is not being closed.

# Key Stage 1 SEN Support – Revised

Area	Cohort	Percentage of pupils with SEN support achieving at least the expected standard			
		Reading	Writing	Mathematics	RWM*
Oxfordshire		32	20	36	17
National	-	32	22	37	19
South East	-	33	21	36	-
Statistical Neighbours	-	31	20	36	-

15% (1,132) of pupils at the end of Key Stage 1 were SEN Support in 2023. This compared to 13% nationally

- **32%** of pupils identified with **SEN Support** in Oxfordshire achieved at least the expected standard in **reading**. This is **the same** as nationally and places Oxfordshire in the **2<sup>nd</sup> quartile** nationally. (**Range: 36%** - Bath & NE Somerset and Hertfordshire to **26%** - Bracknell Forest)
- **20%** of pupils identified with **SEN Support** achieved at least the expected standard in **writing**, this is **2%pts below** the national average and places Oxfordshire in the **3<sup>rd</sup> quartile** nationally. (**Range: 26%** - Bath & NE Somerset to **15%** - Bracknell Forest and Gloucestershire)
- **36%** of pupils identified with **SEN Support** achieved at least the expected standard in **mathematics**, **1%pt below** the national average. This places Oxfordshire in the **3<sup>rd</sup> quartile** nationally. (**Range: 46%** - Bath & NE Somerset to **30%** - Bracknell Forest)



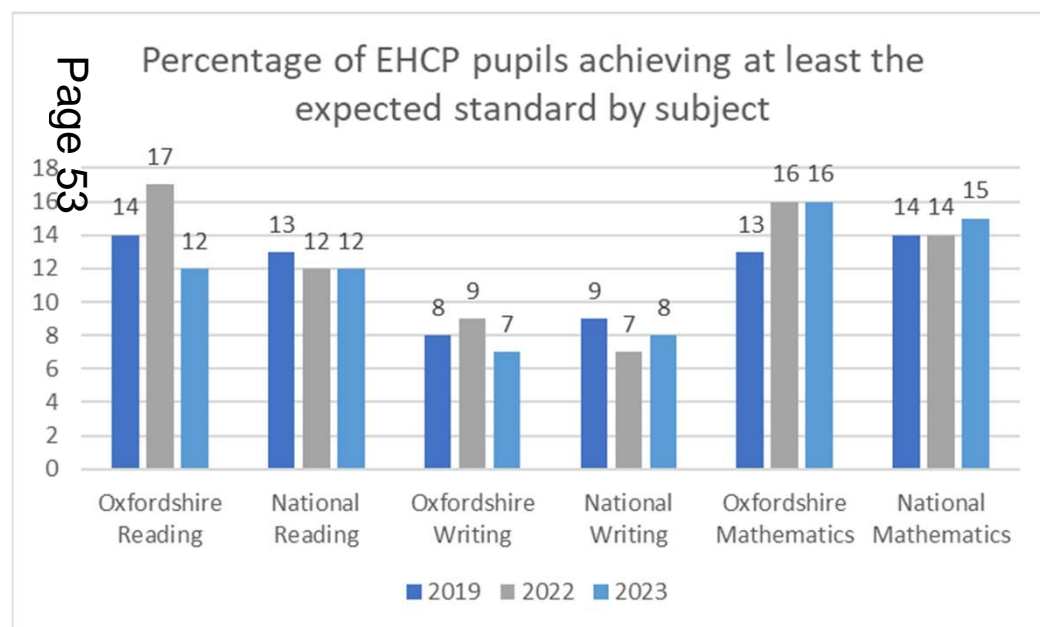


# Key Stage 1 EHCP – Revised

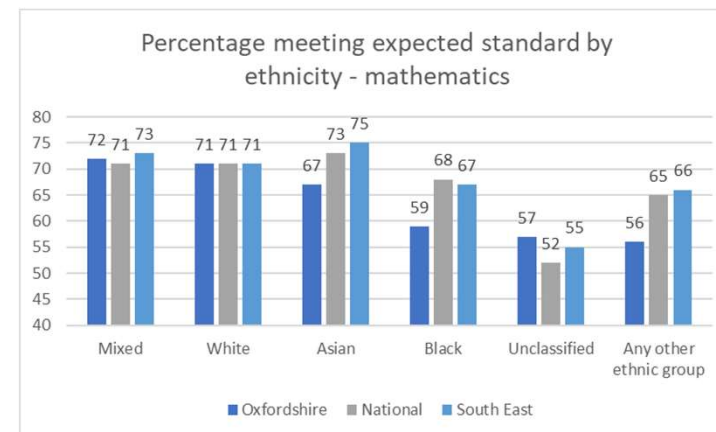
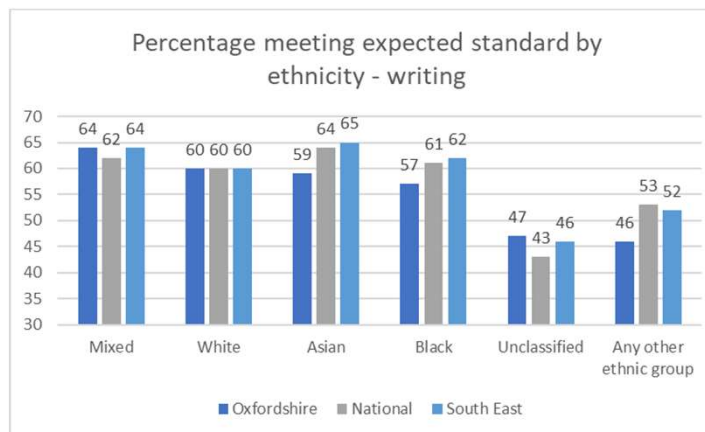
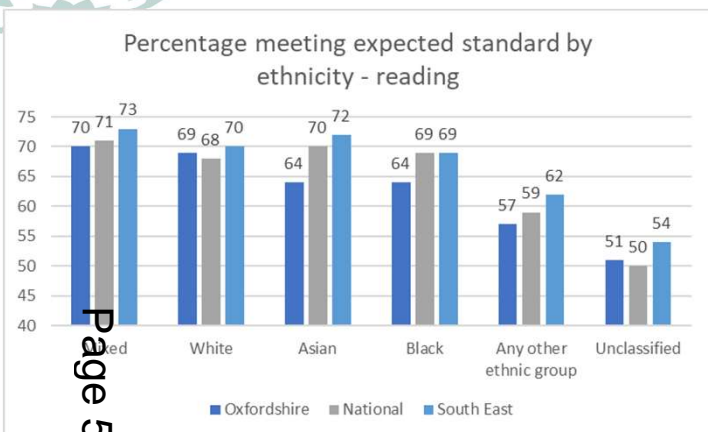
Area	Cohort	Percentage of pupils with an EHCP achieving at least the expected standard			
		Reading	Writing	Mathematics	RWM*
Oxfordshire		12	7	16	7
National	-	12	8	15	7
South East	-	14	8	16	-
Statistical Neighbours	-	15	9	18	-

4% (274) of pupils at the end of Key Stage 1 had an EHCP. This is in line with the national average.

- **12%** of pupils with an **EHCP** achieved at least the expected standard in reading, **down 5%pts** compared to 2022, **but in line with the national average**. This places Oxfordshire in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quartile nationally. (**Range: 22%** - West Berkshire to **8%** - West Sussex)
- **7%** of pupils with an **EHCP** achieved at least the expected standard in writing, **1%pt below** national. This places Oxfordshire in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quartile nationally. (**Range: 14%** - Buckinghamshire to **2%** - Bracknell Forest)
- **16%** of pupils with as **ECHP** achieved at least the expected standard in mathematics, **1%pt above** national. This places Oxfordshire in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quartile nationally. (**Range: 23%** - Buckinghamshire to **12%** - West Sussex)



# Key Stage 1 Ethnicity – Revised

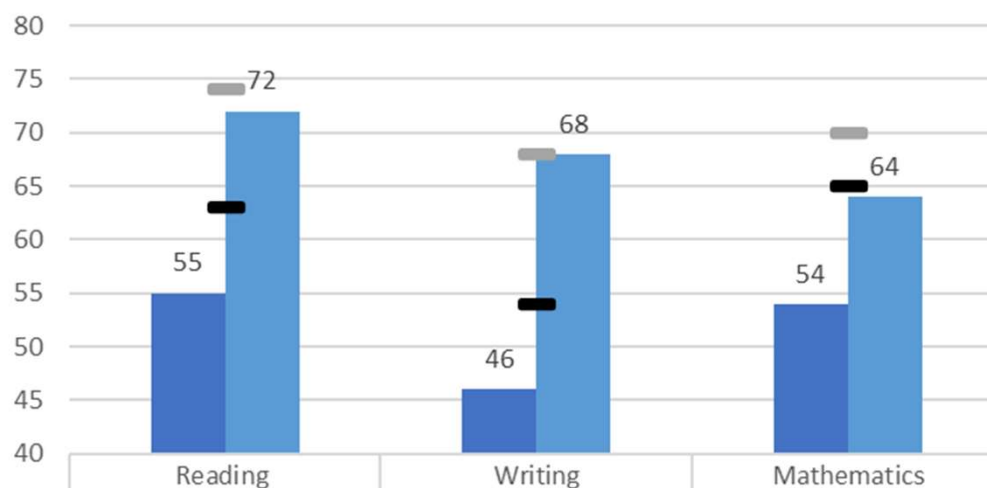


- Performance is **generally at or above the national average** in each subject except for students of Asian or Black Heritage, who performed below the national average in all 3 subjects.
- These 2 groups performed between **4%pts** (Black Heritage writing) and **9%pts** (Black Heritage mathematics) below the national average across the 3 subject areas.
- Children of a mixed heritage produced the highest marks across all 3 subjects (outperforming the national average in both writing and mathematics), closely followed by children of a white heritage (they performed above the national average in reading and equalled it in writing and mathematics).

Group	2023 Cohort
White	5917
Mixed	630
Asian	563
Black	225
Unclassified	223
Any other Ethnic Group	162

# KS1 – Ethnicity (Children of Black Heritage) – Revised

Percentage of children of Black ethnicity meeting the expected standard by gender

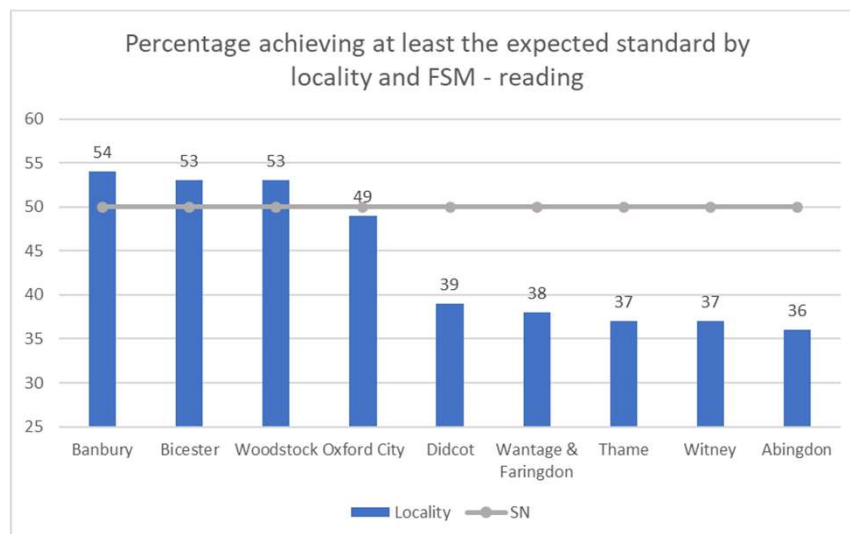
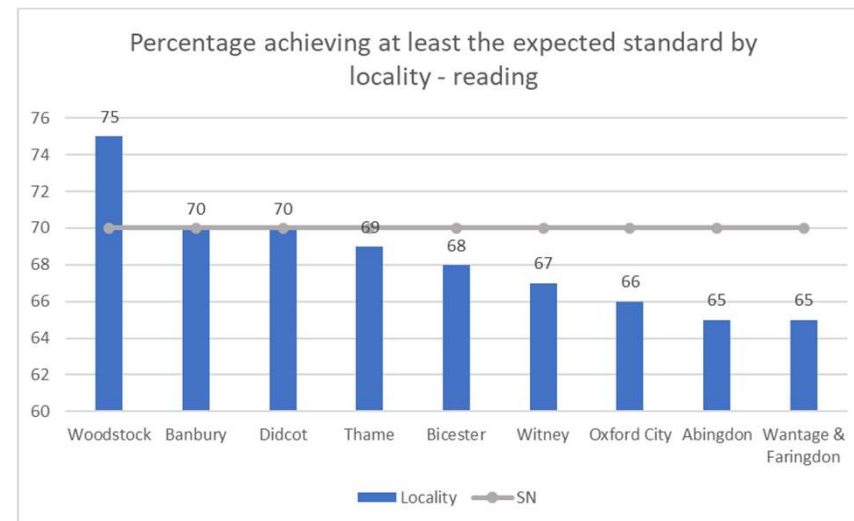


- Further analysis was carried out to examine whether there was any gender component to Black pupil achievement.
- **Boys of black heritage perform worse than girls of black heritage in all areas, but this trend is also seen nationally and regionally (regionally not shown on chart).**



# Key Stage 1 Reading Locality – (Nexus)

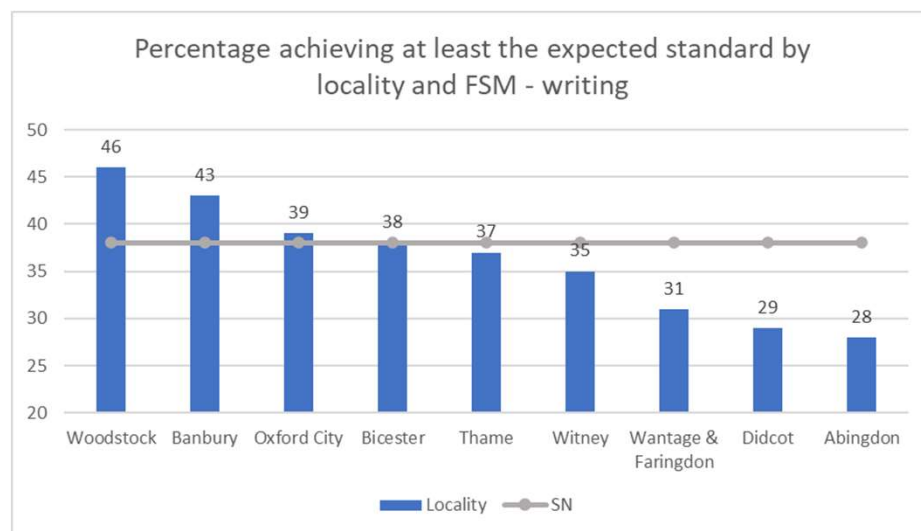
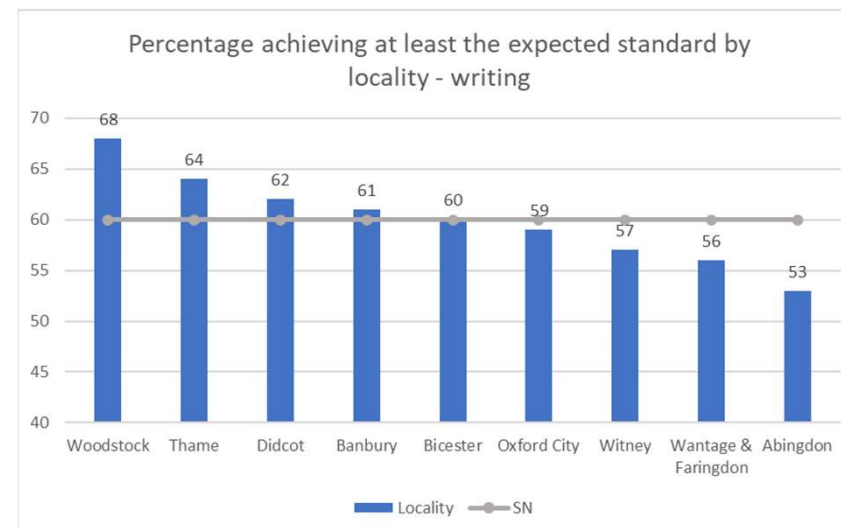
- The percentage of KS1 pupils working at the expected standard ranges from 75% in the Woodstock locality to 65% in the Wantage and Faringdon locality.
- Six localities are below the statistical neighbour average (Oxford City, Didcot, Wantage & Faringdon, Thame, Witney and Abingdon)



- For pupils eligible for FSM working at the expected standard, percentages range from 54% (cohort of 178 children) in Banbury locality, to 36% (cohort of 76 children) in Abingdon
- Six localities are below the statistical neighbour average (Thame, Bicester, Witney, Oxford City, Abingdon and Wantage & Faringdon)

# Key Stage 1 Writing Locality – (Nexus)

- The percentage of pupils working at the expected standard ranges from 68% in the Woodstock locality to 53% in the Abingdon locality.
- Five Localities are below the statistical neighbour average (Thame, Witney, Wantage & Faringdon, Didcot and Abingdon)

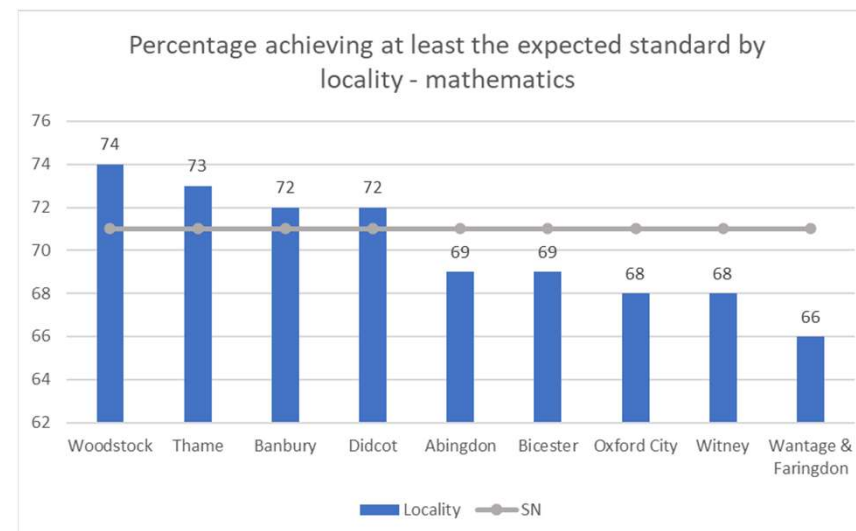
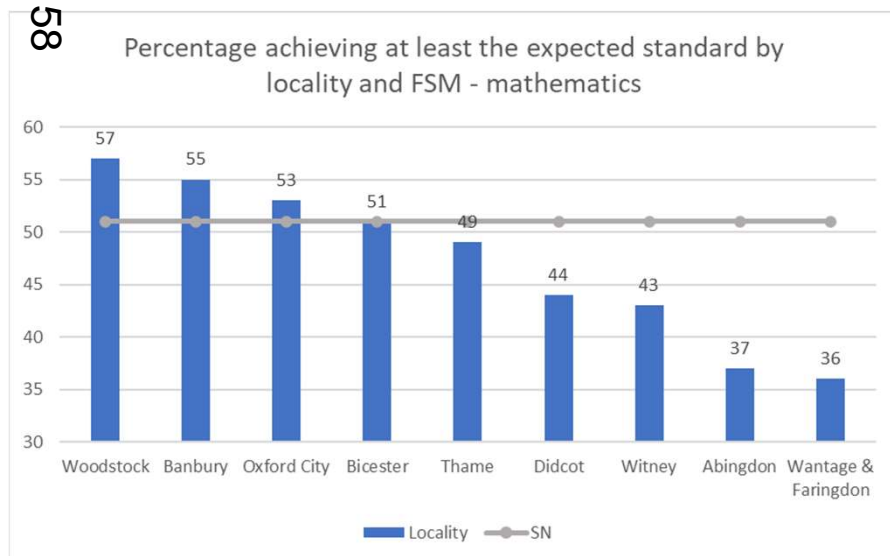


- For pupils eligible for FSM working at the expected standard, percentages range from 46% (cohort of 81 children) in Woodstock locality to 28% (cohort of 76 children) in the Abingdon locality.
- Five localities are below the statistical neighbour average (Bicester, Oxford City, Witney, Wantage & Faringdon and Abingdon)

# Key Stage 1 Mathematics Locality – (Nexus)

- The percentage of pupils working at the expected standard ranges from 74% in the Woodstock locality to 66% in the Wantage and Faringdon locality.
- Five localities are below the statistical neighbour average (Thame, Didcot, Witney, Abingdon and Wantage & Faringdon)

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- For pupils eligible for FSM working at the expected standard, percentages range from 57% (cohort of 81 children) in Woodstock locality to 36% in Wantage and Faringdon locality (cohort of 105 children)
- Five localities are below the statistical neighbour average (Abingdon, Bicester, Oxford City, Witney, Wantage & Faringdon)

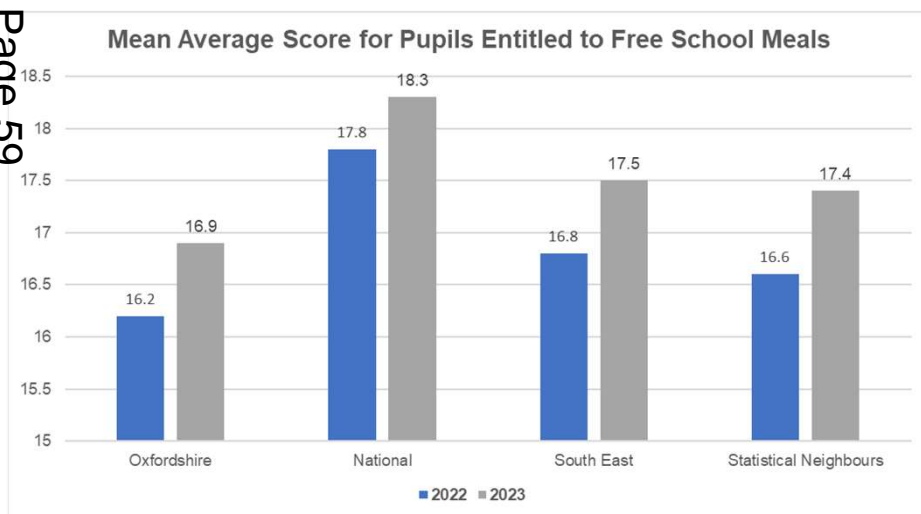


# Multiplication Tables Check – Revised

	Cohort	Mean Average Score
Oxfordshire	7332	19.7
National	-	20.2
South East	-	20
Statistical Neighbours	-	19.9

- Children in Oxfordshire scored a **mean average of 19.7 (out of 25)** on the KS2 (Y4) multiplication check. This is a 0.5 mark increase on the 2022 result (19.2)
- Oxfordshire is placed in the **3<sup>rd</sup> quartile** when compared to all other LAs, an improvement from the bottom quartile in 2022.
- Oxfordshire ranked joint **9<sup>th</sup> out of 11 statistical neighbours** (Range: 20.5 in Bracknell Forest to 19.1 in Bath and NE Somerset)
- The mean average score for **pupils eligible for FSM** in Oxfordshire is **16.9** which is **below the national average of 18.3** and ranks Oxfordshire **142<sup>nd</sup> out of 152 LAs**, placing the LA in the **bottom quartile** nationally.
- Range from 18.1 in Wiltshire to 16.7 in West Berkshire.

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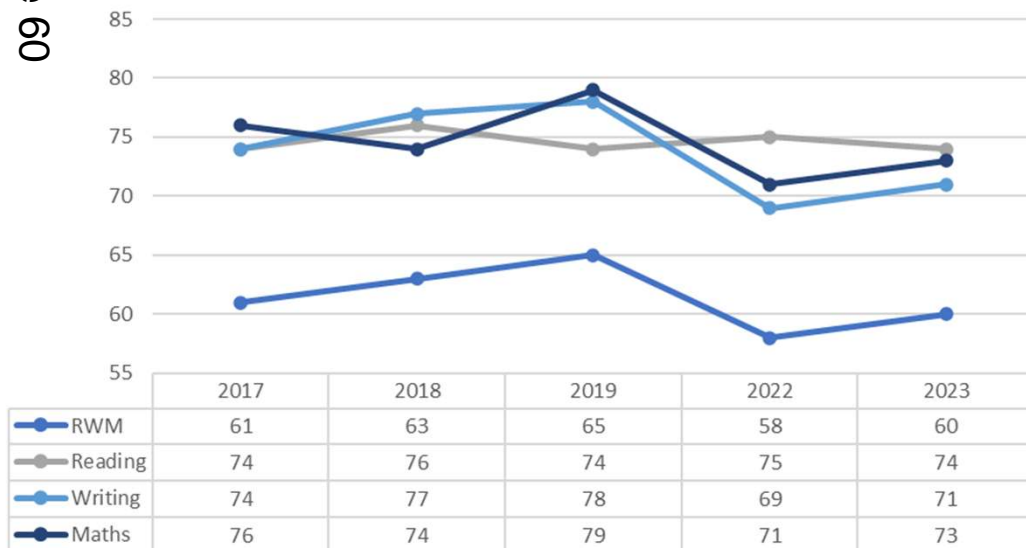


# Key Stage 2 RWM – Revised

Area	Percentage achieving at least the expected standard				
	Cohort	Reading	Writing	Mathematics	RWM
Oxfordshire	7,739	74	71	73	60
National	-	73	72	73	60
South East	-	74	72	73	60
Statistical Neighbours	-	75	70	72	59

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Percentage of pupils in Oxfordshire at the end of KS2 achieving at least the expected standard by subject



- The proportion of children in Oxfordshire achieving at least the expected standard in **Reading, Writing and Mathematics** is **60%**. This is **in line** with the national average.
- Oxfordshire is in the **2<sup>nd</sup> quartile** nationally for the RWM combined measure and ranked 5<sup>th</sup> out of statistical neighbours. **Range: 62% - Bracknell Forest to 56% - West, Berkshire, West Sussex & Wiltshire**
- **Reading** is **1%pt above** the national average, whilst **writing** is **1%pt below** and **mathematics** is **in-line** with the national average.
- The range of our statistical neighbours are:
- **Reading: 77%** - Bracknell Forest and Buckinghamshire to **72%** - West Berkshire
- **Writing: 73%** - Hampshire to **67%** - West Berkshire
- **Mathematic: 76%** - Bracknell Forest to **68%** - Wiltshire

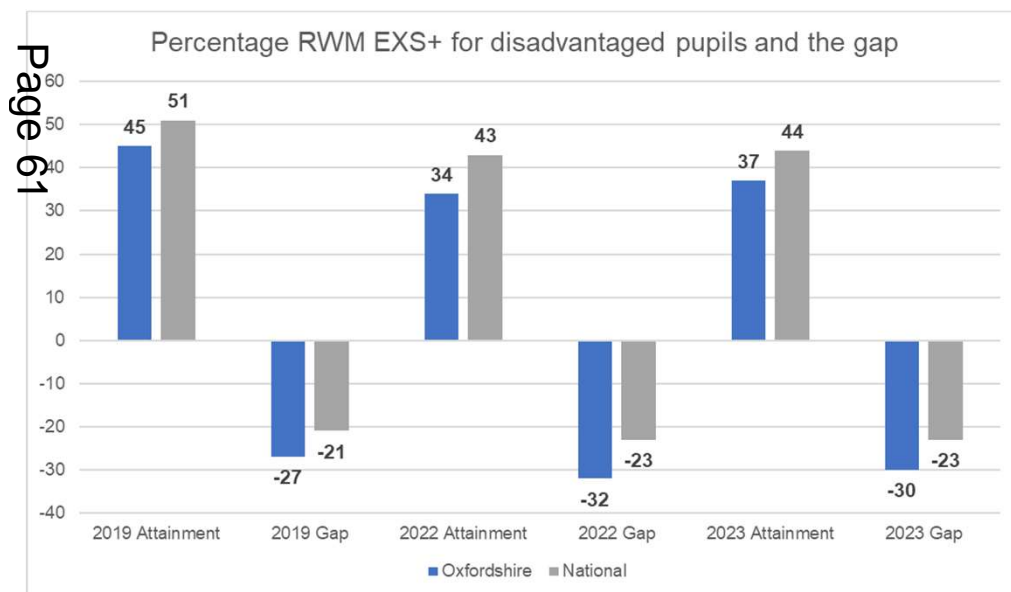


# Key Stage 2 Disadvantaged – Revised

Area	Percentage achieving at least the expected standard				
	Cohort	Reading	Writing	Mathematics	RWM
Oxfordshire	1,599	56	50	53	37
National		61	58	59	44
South East		57	54	53	39
Statistical Neighbours		57	51	52	37

In 2023, 21% of pupils (1,599) at the end of key stage 2 were disadvantaged. This compares to 30% nationally.

- 37% of pupils that are disadvantaged achieved at least the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Mathematics combined. An additional 119 disadvantaged pupils would need to have met the expected standard in RWM to be in line with the national result.
- Oxfordshire is in the bottom quartile nationally for the proportion of disadvantaged pupils achieving at least the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics combined.
- Oxfordshire is ranked 6th out of the statistical neighbours. Range: 39.7%, Hampshire to 31.7% West Berkshire
- Attainment of disadvantaged pupils improved by 3%pts in Oxfordshire in 2023 compared to 1%pt nationally.
- The disadvantage gap has decreased in Oxfordshire in 2023 by 2%pts from -32 to -30. Nationally, it has remained the same at -23%pts.



# Key Stage 2 SEND – Revised

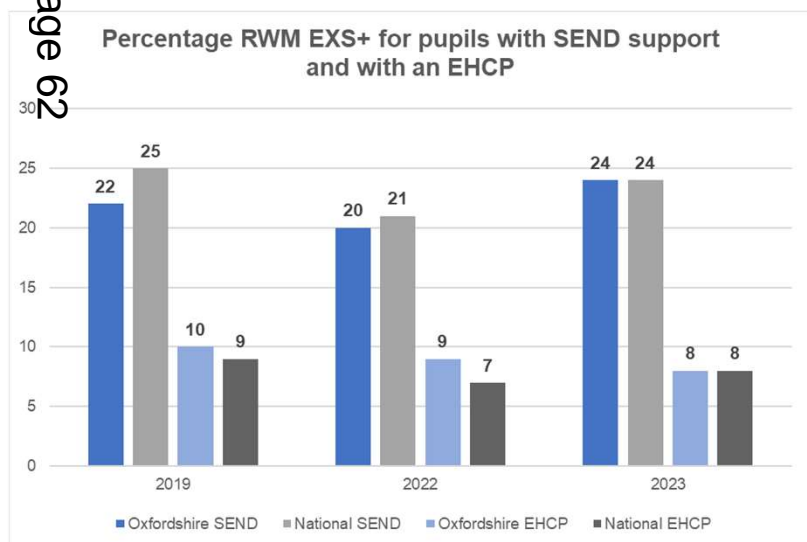
## SEND Support

Area	Percentage achieving at least the expected standard				
	Cohort	Reading	Writing	Mathematics	RWM
Oxfordshire	1,432	48	34	44	24
National		45	34	42	24
South East		45	33	40	22
Statistical Neighbours		45	30	40	21

## EHCP

Area	Percentage achieving at least the expected standard				
	Cohort	Reading	Writing	Mathematics	RWM
Oxfordshire	385	21	13	18	8
National		18	12	16	8
South East		19	12	17	9
Statistical Neighbours		21	12	17	9

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*In 2023, 19% (1,432) pupils at the end of Key Stage 2 in Oxfordshire were at SEND Support compared to 16% nationally.*

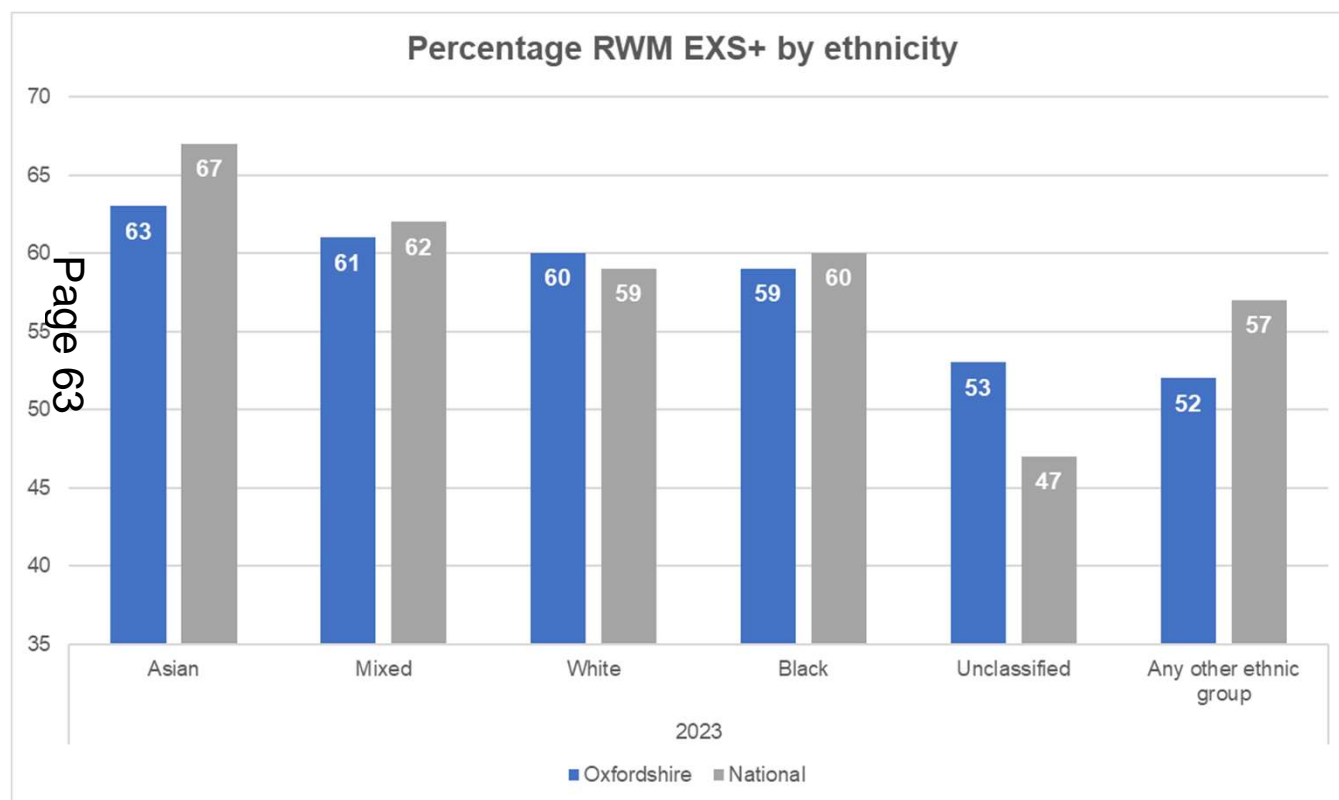
- **24%** of pupils at **SEN Support** reached the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics (combined), this is the same as nationally.
- The SEN Support attainment gap in Oxfordshire is **-46%pts** (national gap is also **-46%pts**).
- Oxfordshire is in the **2<sup>nd</sup>** quartile nationally for the proportion of SEND support pupils achieving at least the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics combined.
- Oxfordshire is ranked **4<sup>th</sup>** out of the statistical neighbours. Range: 26.7%, Bracknell Forest to 18.3% Wiltshire.

*In 2023, 5% (385) pupils in Oxfordshire had an EHCP compared to 5% nationally.*

- **8%** of pupils with an **EHCP** reached the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics (combined), this is the same as nationally.
- The EHCP attainment gap in Oxfordshire is **-62%pts** (the same as the national gap).
- Oxfordshire is in the **2<sup>nd</sup>** quartile nationally for the proportion of pupils with an EHCP achieving at least the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics combined.
- Oxfordshire is ranked **6<sup>th</sup>** out of the statistical neighbours. Range: 12.2%, Hampshire to 6.3%, Bath & NE Somerset.

# Key Stage 2 – Ethnicity – Revised

Group	2023 Cohort
Any other ethnic group	112
Asian	573
Black	216
Mixed	565
Unclassified	160
White	6,041



- The proportion of pupils from **Asian** ethnic groups attaining at least the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics is **63%**, **4%pts below** the national figure of 67%.
- The **cohort of Asian pupils** at the end of KS2 in Oxfordshire was **573**. An **additional 24 pupils** would need to have reached the expected standard to be in line with the national figure for this group.
- The proportion of pupils from **Black** ethnic groups attaining at least the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics is **59%** compared to 60% nationally.
- The **cohort of Black pupils** at the end of KS2 in Oxfordshire was **216**. An **additional 2 pupils** would need to have reached the expected standard to be in line with the national figure for this group.

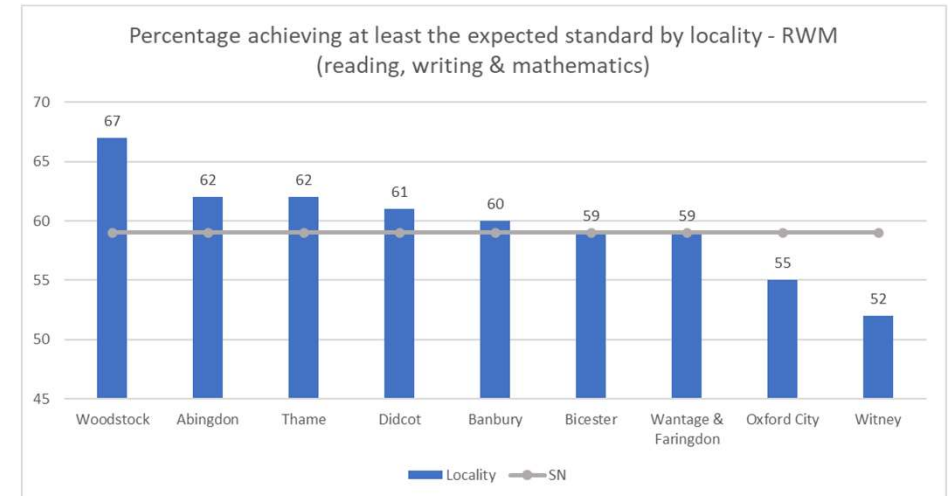
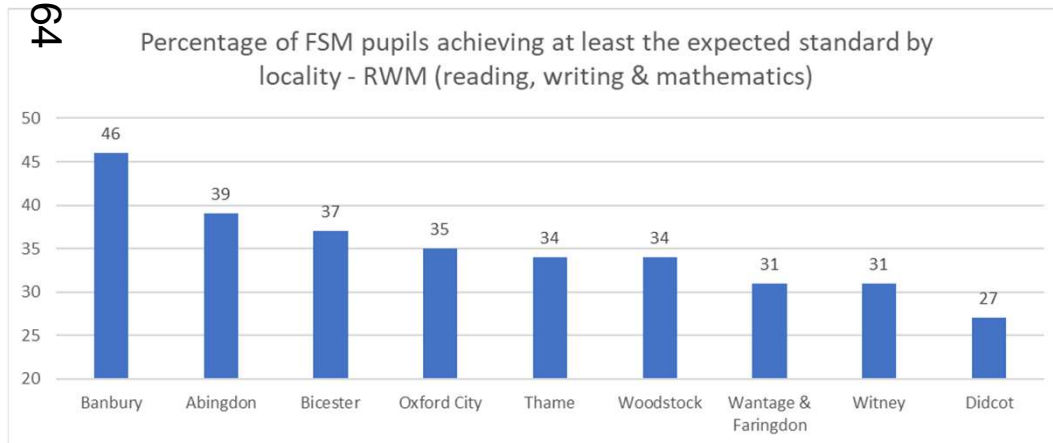


# Key Stage 2 Reading, Writing and Mathematics

## Locality – (Nexus)

- The percentage of KS2 pupils working at the expected standard ranges from 67% in the Woodstock locality to 52% in the Witney locality.
- Two localities are below the statistical neighbour average (Oxford City and Witney)

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- For pupils eligible for FSM working at the expected standard, percentages range from 46% (cohort of 237 children) in Banbury locality, to 27% (cohort of 155 children) in Didcot locality.

# Key Stage 4 – Revised

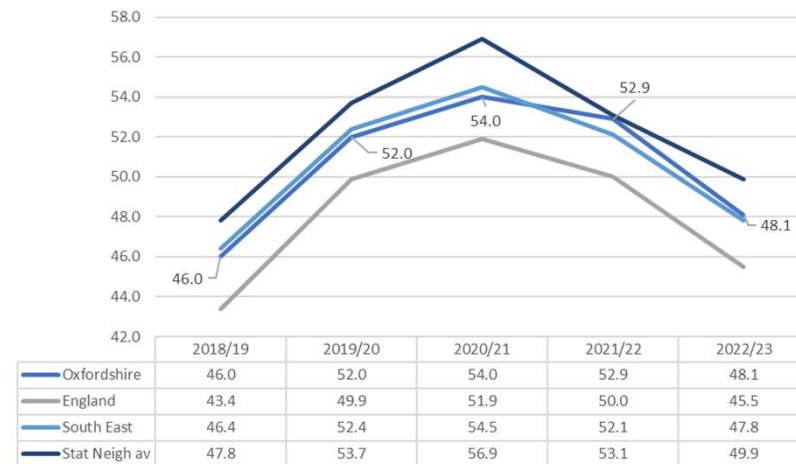
Headlines	Oxfordshire	Statistical Neighbours	South East	National
<b>Attainment 8 – average score per pupil</b>	<b>46.7</b>	<b>48.9</b>	<b>47.4</b>	<b>46.4</b>
Compared to 2022	49.7	51.5	50.1	48.9
Quartile (National Rank)	2 <sup>nd</sup> ⚡ (Jt 57 <sup>th</sup> ) ↓	-	-	-
SN Rank (out of 11)	8 <sup>th</sup> ↓	-	-	-
<b>GCSE English &amp; Mathematics grades 5-9 (%)</b>	<b>48.1</b>	<b>49.9</b>	<b>47.8</b>	<b>45.5</b>
Compared to 2022	52.9	53.1	52.1	50.0
Quartile (National Rank)	2 <sup>nd</sup> ⚡ (45 <sup>th</sup> ) ↓	-	-	-
SN Rank (out of 11)	7 <sup>th</sup> ⚡	-	-	-

- **Attainment 8:** In Oxfordshire, the Att.8 score **reduced from 49.7 in 2022 to 46.7 in 2023**. Oxfordshire is 0.3% pts above the national average.
- Oxfordshire is in the **2<sup>nd</sup> quartile** nationally and is ranked 8th out of statistical neighbours. **Range: 54.4 – Buckinghamshire to 45.8 – Hampshire**
- **48.1%** of pupils in Oxfordshire achieved a **grade 5 or above** in both English and mathematics in 2023, a **reduction of 4.8%pts** from 52.9% in 2022.
- Oxfordshire remains **above** the national average of 45.5% for this measure
- Oxfordshire is in the **2nd quartile** nationally and ranks 7th out of statistical neighbours. **Range: 59.6% – Buckinghamshire to 44.3% – Bracknell Forest**

Attainment 8 - av score per pupil trend



Percentage GCSE grades 5-9 English & Mathematics



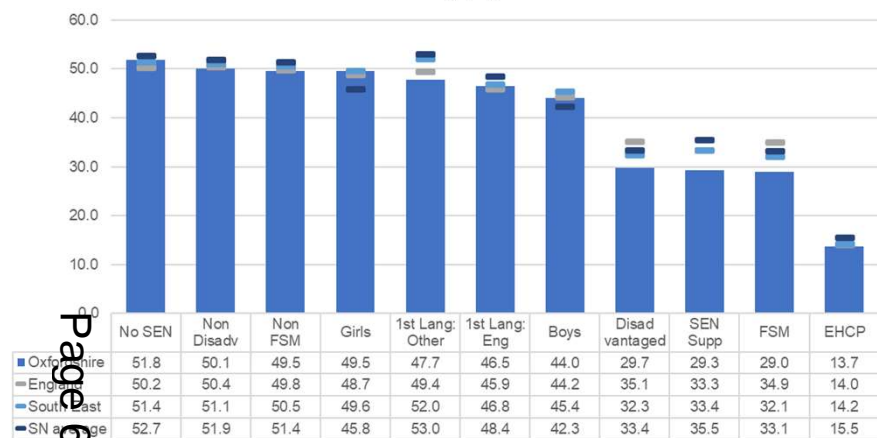
# Key Stage 4 – Characteristics – Revised

Headlines – Attainment 8	Oxfordshire	Statistical Neighbours	South East	National
<b>Disadvantaged pupils (av point score)</b>	<b>29.7</b>	<b>33.4</b>	<b>32.3</b>	<b>35.1</b>
Compared to 2022	34.8	35.7	35.1	37.7
Quartile (National Rank)	4 <sup>th</sup> (148 <sup>th</sup> ) ↓	-	-	-
SN Rank (out of 11)	11 <sup>th</sup> ↓	-	-	-
<b>EHCP (av point score)</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>14.0</b>
Compared to 2022	14.1	16.5	14.7	14.3
Quartile (National Rank)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (Jt 80 <sup>th</sup> ) ←	-	-	-
SN Rank (out of 11)	9 <sup>th</sup> ↓	-	-	-
<b>SEN support (av point score)</b>	<b>29.3</b>	<b>35.5</b>	<b>33.4</b>	<b>33.3</b>
Compared to 2022	33.2	37.9	35.2	34.9
Quartile (National Rank)	4 <sup>th</sup> (Jt 128 <sup>th</sup> ) ↓	-	-	-
SN Rank (out of 11)	11 <sup>th</sup> ↓	-	-	-

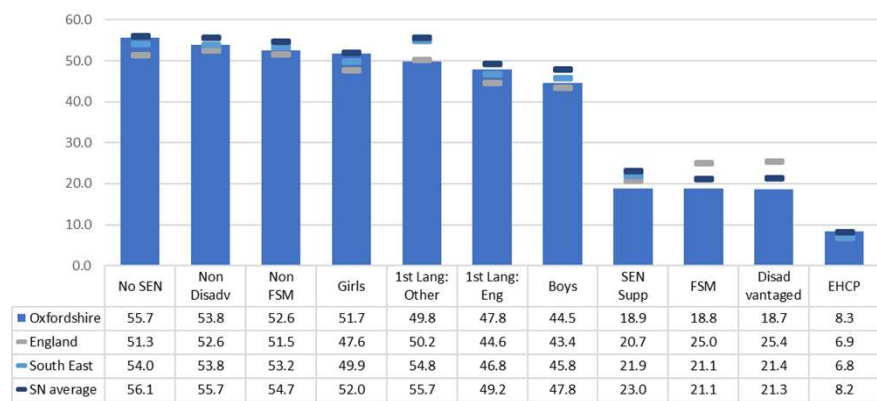


# Key Stage 4 Characteristics – Revised

Attainment 8 scores by pupil characteristic



GCSE - % English and Mathematics at grades 5-9 by pupil characteristic

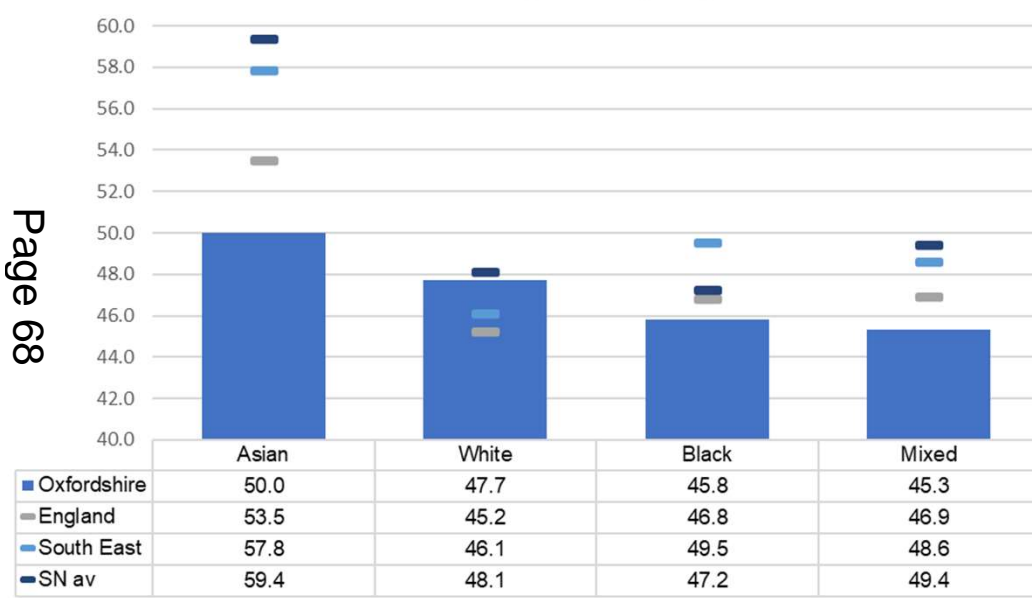


- **No SEND, Girls and 1<sup>st</sup> Lang is English** are the characteristic groups where the **average Attainment 8** score in Oxfordshire is **above** the corresponding national average.
- **Pupils with Non-Disadv, Non-FSM, 1<sup>st</sup> Lang is Other, Boys, Disadv, SEND Supp, FSM eligible and pupils with an EHCP** are the characteristics groups where the **average attainment 8** score was **below** the national average.
- Oxfordshire ranks in the **bottom** quartile nationally for the average **attainment 8 score** of pupils identified as being from **disadvantage** backgrounds, with **SEND Support** and those who are **FSM eligible**.
- Oxfordshire ranks in the **top quartile** of local authorities for attainment at **grade 5 and above in English and Mathematics** for pupils with **No SEND** (55.7%) and **girls** (51.7%)
- The proportion of pupils achieving **grades 5 and above in both English and mathematics** is **lower** than the national average for pupils with **SEND Supp** (18.9%), **FSM** (18.8%), **Disadv** (18.7%) and pupils who identify with a **first language other than English** (49.8%).

# Key Stage 4 – Characteristics – Revised

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Attainment 8 by ethnic group



Within Oxfordshire, pupils from a **White background** have a **higher attainment 8** score than those nationally.

**Attainment 8** for pupils with a **black heritage** in Oxfordshire have improved from the bottom quartile (44.6%) in 2022 to the **2<sup>nd</sup> quartile** (45.8%) this year. The Oxfordshire A8 score is 1.0%pts below national, an improvement from the 4.3%pts in 2022. *The Oxfordshire cohort is made up of 197 pupils.*

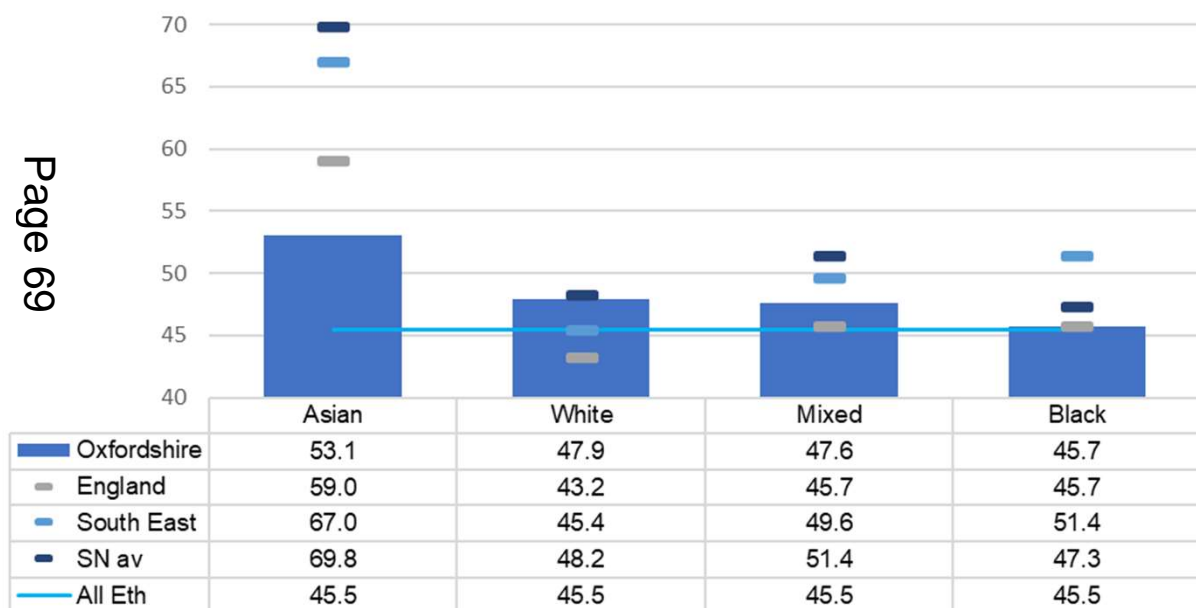
Oxfordshire is in the **bottom** quartile for **Att8** scored for pupils of **Asian Heritage**. The Oxfordshire Att8 score is 3.5%pts below the national average. *The Oxfordshire cohort is made up of 437 pupils.*



# Key Stage 4 – Characteristics – Revised

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GCSE - Percentage English and Mathematics at grade 5-9 by ethnic group



The thin blue line depicts the national average 45.5% (all ethnicities)

Group	2023 Cohort
White	5,560
Mixed	458
Asian	437
Black	197
Unclassified	143
Other	101

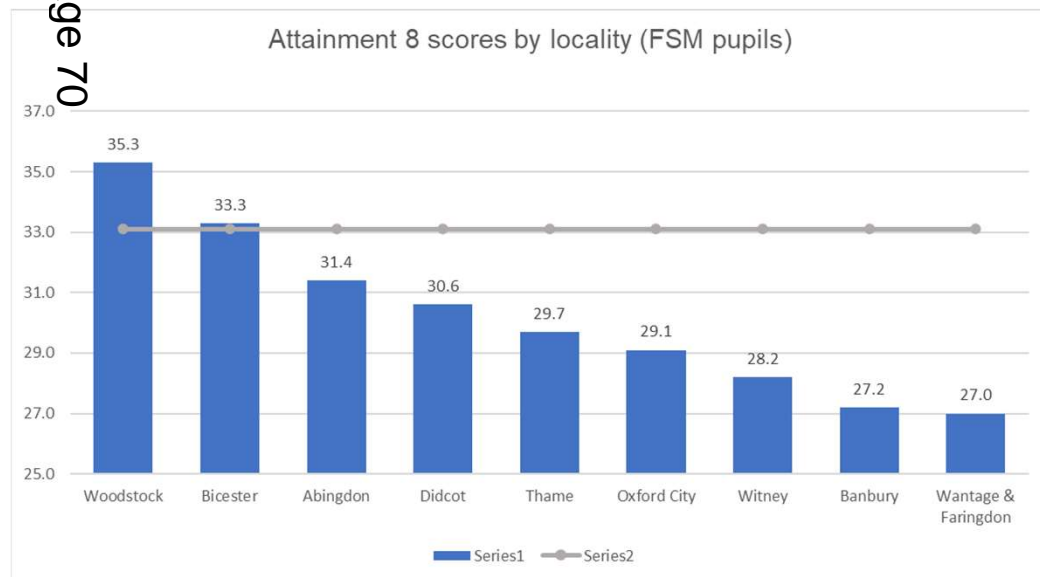
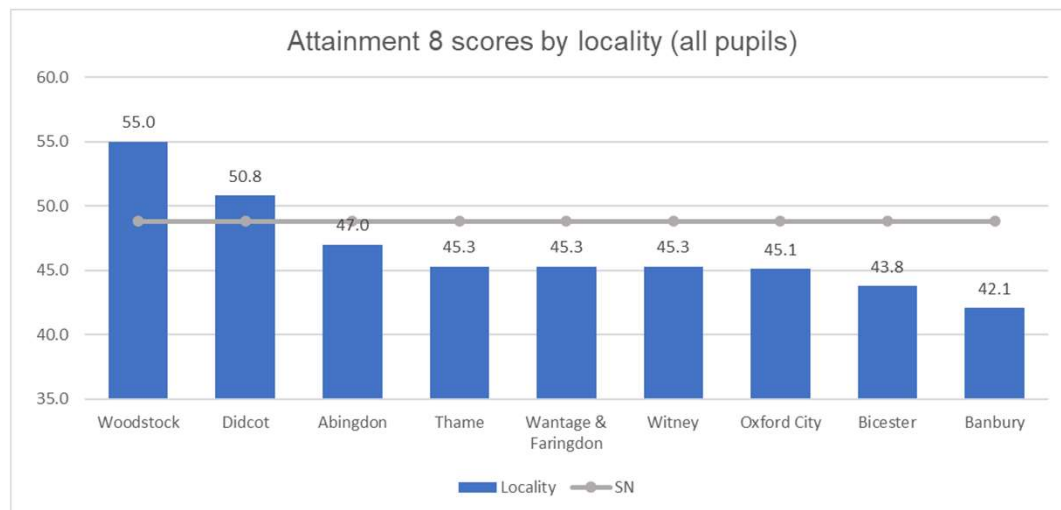
In **Oxfordshire**, children identifying as **White or mixed heritage** had a **higher** Grade 5 – 9 English & Maths % than those in the same ethnic group nationally. Pupils identifying as **Asian are below** the national average for this ethnicity. All Oxfordshire ethnic groups are **still performing above the overall national average (blue line)**. The reason for this is the large national cohort of White children reduces the national average.

Children of **Black Heritage** rank **65<sup>th</sup>** (2<sup>nd</sup> quartile) and children of **Asian Heritage** rank **116<sup>th</sup>** (bottom quartile) amongst all LAs.

Children from **White** backgrounds rank **36<sup>th</sup>** amongst all LAs (**top quartile**).

# Key Stage 4 Attainment 8 Locality – (Nexus)

- The average attainment 8 score ranges from 55.0 in the Woodstock locality to 42.1 in the Banbury locality.
- Seven localities are below the statistical neighbour average (Abingdon, Didcot, Thame, Oxford City, Witney, Banbury, Wantage & Faringdon).



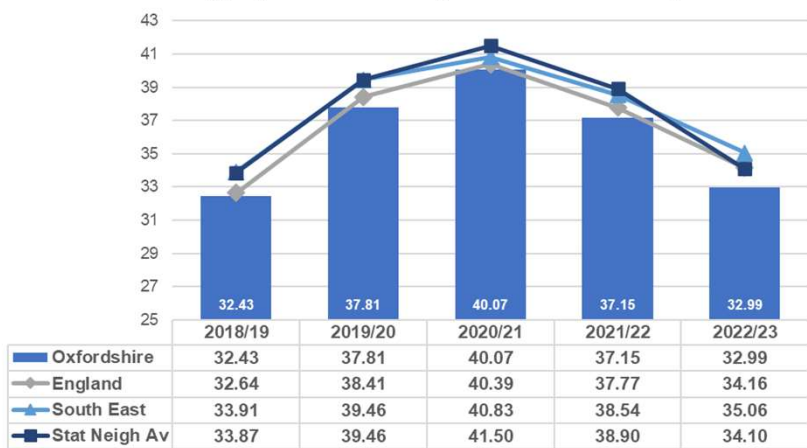
- For pupils eligible for FSM the average attainment 8 scores range from 35.3 (cohort of 48 children) in Woodstock locality, to 27.0 (cohort of 74 children) in Wantage & Faringdon locality.
- Seven localities are below the statistical neighbour average (Abingdon, Thame, Wantage & Faringdon, Witney, Oxford City, Bicester and Banbury)

# Key Stage 5 – Revised

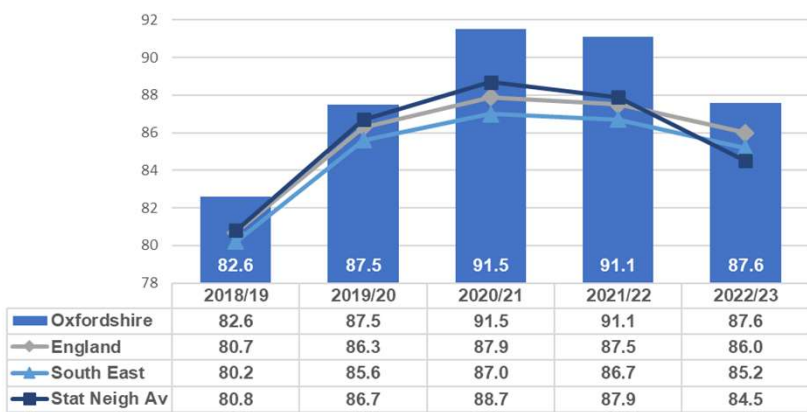
Headlines	Oxfordshire	Statistical Neighbours	South East	National
<b>Average point score – A levels</b>	<b>32.99</b>	<b>34.10</b>	<b>35.06</b>	<b>34.16</b>
Compared to 2022	37.15	38.90	38.54	37.77
National Rank (quartile)	89 <sup>th</sup> (3 <sup>rd</sup> ) ↓	-	-	-
SN Rank (out of 11)	11 <sup>th</sup> ←	-	-	-
<b>2+ A levels (%)</b>	<b>87.6%</b>	<b>84.5%</b>	<b>85.2%</b>	<b>86.0%</b>
Compared to 2022	91.1%	87.9%	86.7%	87.5%
National Rank (quartile)	54 <sup>th</sup> (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) ←	-	-	-
SN Rank (out of 11)	6 <sup>th</sup> ↓	-	-	-
<b>A levels: AAB and above (%)</b>	<b>19.6%</b>	<b>25.3%</b>	<b>25.1%</b>	<b>22.5%</b>
Compared to 2022	29.1%	34.7%	33.4%	31.0%
National rank (quartile)	76 <sup>th</sup> (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) ←	-	-	-
SN Rank (out of 11)	11 <sup>th</sup> ↓	-	-	-
<b>A levels: 3A*A (%)</b>	<b>11.9%</b>	<b>14.6%</b>	<b>15.4%</b>	<b>13.7%</b>
Compared to 2022	18.5%	22.8%	21.9%	20.0%
National rank (quartile)	70 <sup>th</sup> (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) ←	-	-	-
SN Rank (out of 11)	11 <sup>th</sup> ↓	-	-	-
<b>Average point score – applied General</b>	<b>26.23</b>	<b>29.43</b>	<b>28.88</b>	<b>29.52</b>
Compared to 2022	27.85	32.18	31.38	31.81
National rank (quartile)	140 <sup>th</sup> (4 <sup>th</sup> ) ←	-	-	-
SN Rank (out of 11)	11 <sup>th</sup> ←	-	-	-

# Key Stage 5 – Revised

Average point score per A level entry



Percentage of students achieving 2+ A-levels



- **A level APS** per entry **reduced to 32.99** in 2023.
  - This decrease (-4.06 points) was greater than the reduction seen nationally (-3.61 points). Oxfordshire remains lower than the national average (by -1.17 points).
  - Oxfordshire ranks 89<sup>th</sup> out of all local authorities for this measure, placing us in the **3<sup>rd</sup> quartile nationally** and bottom out of 11 statistical neighbours.
  - Statistical neighbours range from 39.83 (Buckinghamshire) to 33.12 (Bracknell Forest).
- 
- **87.6%** of students in Oxfordshire achieve **at least 2 A levels**, 1.6% higher than the national average of 86.0%
  - Oxfordshire ranks 54<sup>th</sup> out of 152 local authorities, placing the County in the **2<sup>nd</sup> quartile nationally**. Oxfordshire is ranked 6<sup>th</sup> out of 11 statistical neighbours for this measure.
  - Statistical neighbours range from 91.6% (Buckinghamshire) to 80.5% (West Sussex).

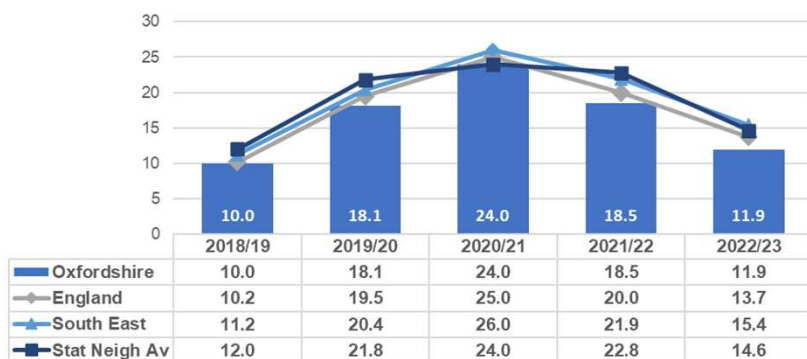
# Key Stage 5 – Revised

Percentage of students achieving grades AAB or better



- **19.6%** of pupils in Oxfordshire **achieved A-levels at grades AAB and better**, compared with 22.5% nationally.
- Oxfordshire is ranked bottom of 11 statistical neighbours for this measure and this result places Oxfordshire in the **3<sup>rd</sup> quartile nationally**.
- Statistical neighbours range from 40.7% (Buckinghamshire) to 20.5% (Bracknell Forest).

Percentage of students achieving 3 grade A\*A A-levels

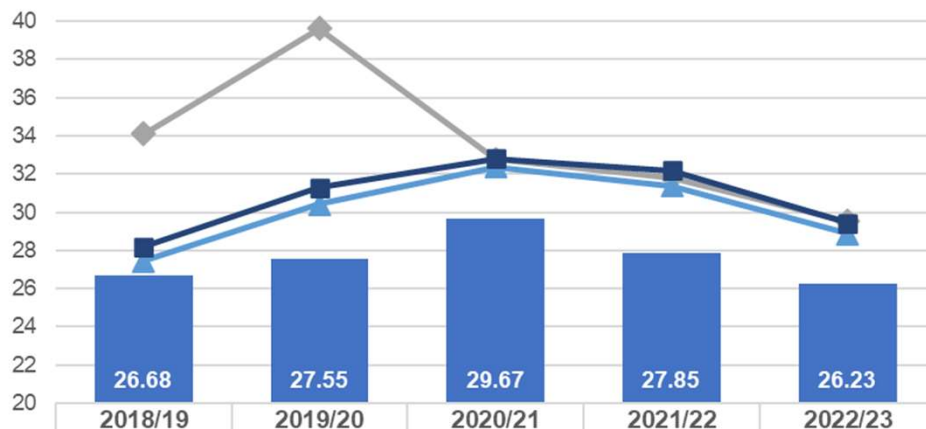


- **11.9%** of Oxfordshire pupils achieve **at least 3 A\*A grades at A-level**. This is a decrease from 18.5% in 2022.
- Oxfordshire remains below the national average of 13.7%
- Oxfordshire ranks bottom out of 11 statistical neighbours for this measure and is placed in the **2<sup>nd</sup> quartile nationally**.
- Our statistical neighbours range from 27.8% (Buckinghamshire) to 12.2% (West Berkshire).

# Key Stage 5 – Revised

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Average Point Score - Applied General



	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Oxfordshire	26.68	27.55	29.67	27.85	26.23
England	34.09	39.61	32.76	31.81	29.52
South East	27.45	30.43	32.37	31.38	28.88
Stat Neigh Av	28.19	31.28	32.81	32.18	29.43

- **Applied General APS** per entry **decreased to 26.23** in 2023 (from 27.85 in 2022).
- Oxfordshire remains lower than the national average (by -3.29 points).
- Oxfordshire ranks 140<sup>th</sup> out of all local authorities for this measure and is placed in the **bottom quartile nationally**.
- Oxfordshire is also bottom out of 11 statistical neighbours.

Of our statistical neighbours, Gloucestershire ranks 1<sup>st</sup> with 31.59, Hertfordshire are just above Oxfordshire with 27.5.

## **Divisions Affected - All**

### **EDUCATION & YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 20 May 2024**

#### **Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) Outcome Report**

#### **Report by the Director of Children's Services**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. **The Education and Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee is RECOMMENDED to**

To receive this report as information related to the Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services which was undertaken in February 2024.

The Inspection Report by Ofsted and a summary power point slide pack is provided to outline key elements of the inspection, outcomes, and next steps.

### **Executive Summary**

2. This report shares the outcome of Oxfordshire's recent inspection, which took place in February 2024, with the report being published on the Ofsted website on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024. We achieved a good outcome across all 5 inspected areas including;
  - the impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families,
  - the experiences and progress of children who need help and protection,
  - the experience and progress of children in care,
  - the experiences and progress of care leavers and:
  - overall effectiveness.
3. The current Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services framework has been in place since 2018. The current framework sets the timescales for regular formal judgement inspections, every three year alongside annual focused visits and possible Joint Targeted Area inspections in between each formal inspection.



4. Oxfordshire was last formally inspected in April 2018, when an overall judgement of Good was given.
5. Since that time we have had one focused visit and the Covid 19 pandemic delayed the framework for sometime and this contributed to a delay in our most recent formal inspection.
6. Ofsted have asked us to provide our action plan in response to this inspection by 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024. This will include plans to improve in the four key areas outlined in the report, as follows:
  1. The timeliness of actions and decisions have been made for children to escalate to pre-proceedings arrangements of the public law outline.
  2. Multi-agency arrangements within children's and adult services to promote information-sharing, analysis of risk and planning for care leavers, who misuse drugs, and alcohol, engage in criminal behaviors and are at risk of, or are, being exploited.
  3. The work, together with corporate leaders, to increase the range and take-up by care leavers of employment, education and training opportunities,
  4. The quality of direct work with disabled children who are in care.

## **Exempt Information**

7. Not applicable.

## **Key Judgements and Summary of Inspection**

8. What needs to Improve?  
 The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection; good  
 The experiences and progress of children in care; good  
 The experience and progress of care leavers; good  
 The Impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families; good

## **Financial Implications**

9. No direct revenue or capital implications are anticipated. It is possible that some of the plans to improve in the four key areas could result in a financial implication. At this stage this is assumed to be achieved within existing budget allocations.

Comments checked by:

Thomas James, Head of Finance Business Partnering,  
[thomas.james@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:thomas.james@oxfordshire.gov.uk)



## Legal Implications

10. There are no legal implications arising from the content of this report. The taking of such action as outlined in the report is lawful under the general power of competence in Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011; it is also lawful under section 20(8) Children Act 2004. There are no issues relating to GDPR as the data does not enable identification of an individual school or child, and the information is available to the public.

Comments checked by: Naomi Bentley-Walls

Naomi Bentley-Walls – Head of Law – Childcare  
[Naomi.BentleyLawson@Oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Naomi.BentleyLawson@Oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## Staff Implications

11. Not applicable.

## Equality & Inclusion Implications

12. No specific issues noted in this report.

## Sustainability Implications

13. No specific issues noted in this report.

## Consultations

14. Not applicable.

NAME	Lisa Lyons, Director of Children's Services
Annex:	ILACS Ofsted Report April 2024 PowerPoint Slide Pack summarising the Ofsted Report and next steps.
Background papers:	Not applicable
Contact Officer:	Jean Kelly, Deputy Director, Children's Social Care <a href="mailto:Jean.kelly@oxfordshire.gov.uk">Jean.kelly@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a>
May 2024	

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## Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children's services (ILACS)



# Ofsted Judgements

Judgement	Grade
The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families	Good
The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection	Good
The experiences and progress of children in care	Good
The experiences and progress of care leavers	Good
Overall effectiveness	Good

# Inspection Framework

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- A standard 3-week inspection – 6 inspectors, plus Senior His Majesty's Inspector.
- 130 separate interviews and meetings, including parents, children and care experienced young people.
- Case audit tracking by inspectors
- Individual children's cases review via children's electronic record
- Meetings with social workers to discuss practice and outcomes across the county.
- Themes – child neglect, domestic abuse, exploitation, children becoming cared for, children exiting care
- Regulatory Services – fostering (including private fostering) and adoption.
- Education experiences for children open to Social Care.





# Practice Strengths Identified

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- Children in need of help and protection has improved; children receive effective, proportionate and timely support.
- Early support to prevent escalation of risk.
- Style of writing used in assessment and review documentation is accessible for parents and children to support understanding of concerns. These documents use “caring language”.
- Skilled practitioners, high quality interventions.
- Improvements in responses to neglect and pre-birth assessments since previous inspection.
- Specialist adult practitioners support reduction of risks related to parental domestic abuse, substance misuse and mental health



# Strengths continued

- Child focused, sensitive and creative direct work by social workers a strength, including understanding children's non-verbal communication to support protective interventions.
- Timely and effective family group conferences
- Supervision regularly addresses risk.
- Court work (pre-proceedings) is strong, helping to prevent the need for care proceeding and most are timely.
- Effective local authority designated officer (LADO) response.
- Elective Home Education oversight - a strength; robust tracking and systems to support work with key agencies.
- Children Missing from education are monitored with families and key agencies.
- Decision making for children to come into care is timely and appropriate; effective panel approach.
- Responses to children who go missing and at risk of exploitation are robust, including individualised and creative specialist exploitation team.
- Virtual School highly valued and effective.
- Adoption and Fostering Services effective.
- Care Leavers helped by skilled and caring personal advisors
- Clinical support provided by the authority supports children effectively.

# Strengths - Strategic and Operational Leadership



- Stability of longer standing operational leaders and middle management
- Corporate investment supporting service development and strengthening
- Corporate leaders committed to and ambitious for children and young people
- Strong partnership arrangements evidenced.
- Positive working relationships with the judiciary and Cafcass.
- Comprehensive sufficiency strategy



# ILACS – Areas to Improve

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- The timeliness of actions when decisions have been made for children to escalate to the pre-proceedings arrangements of the Public Law Outline.
- Multi-agency arrangements within children's and adult services to promote information-sharing, analysis of risk and planning for care leavers who misuse drugs and alcohol, engage in criminal behaviours and are at risk of, or are, being exploited.
- The work, together with corporate leaders, to increase the range and take-up by care leavers of employment, education and training opportunities.
- The quality of direct work with disabled children who are in care



# Additional Learning identified in report

- Oversight of children's cases via supervision will consistently review each child's circumstances and make sure that any change in circumstances are fully explored.
- Explore young carer support provision across the county to ensure consistent offer.
- Workforce stability, particularly social workers for children to minimise change for children.
- Earlier allocation of Personal Advisors for care leavers as allocation close to 18 is too late.
- Further develop transitional Safeguarding arrangements for care leavers with adult service providers.
- Finalise the updated and co-produced Local Offer for Care Leavers to ensure it is well understood by all.
- Work with CAMHS to reduce waiting times for children.



# Action Plan – 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024

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OCC will provide our action plan to work on the four key areas to improve set out in the report and share information about our continuous improvement plan, which captures key areas of improvement identified in our self-assessment and the inspection, including:

- Kinship Care and early permanence
- Quality Assurance framework
- Participation and engagement (families and staff)
- Family Safeguarding Approach development
- Social Work reforms as set out in Stable Homes Built on Love and Working Together 2024.

# Inspection experience - Service feedback to inspectors and leaders

- A calm experience for all in service.
- Practitioners enjoyed time with inspectors.
- Respectful inspectors who listened.
- Staff appreciated feedback from inspectors
- A learning experience.



# Inspection of Oxfordshire local authority children's services

**Inspection dates:** 12 to 23 February 2024

**Lead inspector:** Nicki Shaw, His Majesty's Inspector

Judgement	Grade
The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families	Good
The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection	Good
The experiences and progress of children in care	Good
The experiences and progress of care leavers	Good
Overall effectiveness	Good

The experiences and progress of children and young people in Oxfordshire are good across all aspects of the inspection framework. Leaders have made good progress in addressing the areas identified for improvement at the previous inspection in 2018 and at the focused visit in 2020. The quality of practice for children in need of help and protection has improved since the inspection in 2018, when it was judged as 'requires improvement', meaning that children now receive effective and timely support.

The senior leadership team has experienced significant turnover during the past 18 months. The stability of longer-standing operational leaders and the middle management team has helped to maintain and improve the quality of service delivery during this period. Additional investment has also enabled services to be developed and strengthened. The newly appointed permanent director of children's services, together with political and corporate leaders, are committed to, and ambitious for, children and young people. They have a good understanding of what is working well and the areas for ongoing improvement.

## What needs to improve?

- The timeliness of actions when decisions have been made for children to escalate to the pre-proceedings arrangements of the Public Law Outline.
- Multi-agency arrangements within children's and adult services to promote information-sharing, analysis of risk and planning for care leavers who misuse drugs and alcohol, engage in criminal behaviours and are at risk of, or are, being exploited.
- The work, together with corporate leaders, to increase the range and take-up by care leavers of employment, education and training opportunities.
- The quality of direct work with disabled children who are in care.

## The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection: good

1. Children and young people who need help and protection receive proportionate and timely support. Early help arrangements are comprehensive, with good partnership engagement. Children's needs are addressed at the earliest opportunity. Partner agencies work together to deliver help that minimises the risk of children's needs escalating. When their needs do increase, children benefit from timely referrals and with the family's knowledge. Responses to referrals are robust, with a system of oversight to ensure that the concerns are clear and that actions are progressed in a way that helps to keep children safer.
2. The quality and timeliness of assessments are good and include clear analysis of children's and families' needs and strengths. These lead to well-informed recommendations and plans. Children and families receive help during the assessment phase, which improves situations for children and helps to reduce the need for longer-term support. Pre-birth assessments are timely, proportionate to risk and result in appropriate recommendations to safeguard unborn babies. This is an improvement since the inspection in 2018.
3. Assessments of children experiencing neglect are now informed by a comprehensive evidence-based assessment tool. Practice has improved for children since the previous inspection. Specialist assessments are commissioned to help professionals identify and understand vulnerable parents' needs. This helps to ensure that children have the benefit of effective planning and intervention to reduce risk and vulnerability. The style of writing used in assessments is accessible so that parents and carers can understand the concerns and what could happen if children's circumstances do not improve.
4. Plans are well written and describe how parents will be supported to make the changes necessary to meet their children's needs. Children are helped by skilled practitioners who deliver high-quality interventions. These include very practical

support to parents with additional learning needs. Positive role modelling by practitioners helps these parents to improve their parenting skills.

5. Strategy meetings and section 47 investigations are timely and well supported by partner agencies. This enables families and professionals to have a good understanding of risks and strengths and leads to effective plans to reduce the risk of harm to children. Partner agency attendance at child protection conferences has improved since the last inspection. Children subject to a child-in-need or child protection plan receive the necessary help to reduce risk. Child-in-need meetings and core groups are well attended by partner agencies and families, and by children if appropriate. Meetings are well led and plans and actions are reviewed and updated. Achievements are recognised, and areas that are not progressing are identified and actions agreed. Step-up and step-down arrangements as risks change are robust so that children are supported at the appropriate level.
6. Families benefit from a range of specialist services, including clinical support, to reduce risks to children because of parental domestic abuse and substance misuse. Social workers arrange these effectively to support families to make progress, and children are safer as a result. Social work visits to children are regular and children are seen in line with their needs. Child-focused direct work by social workers is an area of strength, with sensitive and creative direct work enabling children to be heard so that their plans are influenced by their experiences, wishes and feelings.
7. Children and families benefit from timely and effective intervention by the family group conference service. Plans developed by families to safeguard and support children have enabled children to remain living within their family networks.
8. Supervision for social workers supporting families who need help and protection is regular and addresses risk. However, some supervision is brief and task-focused, which can mean that not all children's circumstances, or changes to their situations, are fully explored and then addressed.
9. Children who go missing, and those at risk of exploitation, receive a robust multi-agency response and targeted support, with regular senior oversight for those most at risk.
10. Skilled and thoughtful social workers supporting disabled children know their children very well. They are alert to changes in children's facial expressions and behaviour which may indicate that they are happy or distressed. Disabled children are well supported by lower-level packages of care when required. Those who need more specialist support are visited more frequently in accordance with their needs.

11. The work during the pre-proceedings stage of the Public Law Outline is mostly strong. The arrangements are used appropriately, and successfully divert many families from entering court proceedings. For a small number of children, there is significant delay between decisions being made to enter pre-proceedings and actions being taken. Court applications are timely for most children and ensure that the right children receive the protection they require at the right time, although a small number are held in the pre-proceedings stage for too long.
12. Children who are at risk of homelessness receive a swift response. Reunification work is offered, and a range of resources are available to support this. When children cannot return to their family, they are offered care arrangements with placements sourced according to their needs. Short-term beds in supported accommodation are available with support from a commissioned service while assessments take place; long-term supported accommodation is also an option.
13. The local authority designated officer service responds appropriately to allegations against adults who may pose a risk to children. Good-quality record-keeping and a comprehensive tracker enable managers to have effective oversight of all information referred to the service.
14. A well-resourced emergency duty service responds in good time to referred concerns and provides timely practical help when this is needed.
15. Children living in private fostering arrangements are visited within seven days of the initial notification. Assessments are completed in a timely way and are comprehensive and child-centred. Potential risks to children are carefully explored. Children are visited within timescales, which helps to ensure that their needs are met promptly.
16. Young carers are identified through assessments which take into account their experiences and consider the strengths and needs within the family. All young carers receive good support, although leaders recognise that services are more developed in some areas of the county.
17. The oversight of elective home education is a strength of the local authority's work. There is an effective system for tracking the increasing numbers of children who are educated at home. The local authority has robust systems to work with other agencies to identify and support children who may be at increased risk of harm.
18. There are clear procedures to identify and monitor children who are missing education, working positively with families, schools and other agencies to determine and address the main barriers to education. The strong communication between professionals ensures that risk indicators are quickly identified and acted on.



## **The experiences and progress of children in care: good**

19. Decision-making for children to come into care is appropriate and timely. Leaders are well sighted on children's journeys from entering care to permanence, through a system of panels, tracking and quality assurance. Senior leaders know individual children and the issues affecting their permanence journey well. Decisions are made based on full consideration of the child's needs.
20. Social workers have a good understanding of their children and of their route into care. Many children have stable relationships with their social workers, who undertake creative life-story and direct work. A range of age-appropriate tools are used so that children are able to understand their plans. The quality of direct work for disabled children in care is not as strong, so they are not helped in the same way to understand their care journey.
21. Some children told inspectors how difficult it was for them when their social worker changed. The local authority has identified that workforce turnover has had an impact on these children; a robust workforce strategy is strengthening workforce retention.
22. Children in care are supported to maintain relationships with people who are important to them. Project work with children supports them to reconnect with their family and to strengthen reunification when possible. Consideration of kinship arrangements is a priority for those children who cannot remain safely at home with their parents. This ensures that children move to live with people who they know and trust. Supporting brothers and sisters to live together is also carefully considered.
23. Social workers visit children regularly and at a frequency that is right for them, including those who live outside of Oxfordshire. Decisions to move children are child-centred and well considered and informed by children expressing a wish to live closer to their family networks or to maintain their school placements.
24. Children benefit from independent reviewing officers who routinely see them outside of their statutory reviews; children really appreciate this. Parents and professionals attend children's reviews, so relevant information is shared, and children's emerging needs are considered in plans. Records of children's reviews are clear and written to the child, using caring language that they will understand. Actions are tracked, which strengthens professional accountability and responsibilities, to ensure that children are supported to improve their experiences and progress.
25. Children have access to independent visitors and advocates who help them to understand their rights and entitlements and to be heard on matters that are important to them.

26. Responses to children in care who go missing and are at risk of exploitation are robust. This work is undertaken by a specialist team with expertise in the vulnerabilities and risks associated with extra-familial harm. This ensures that interventions are highly individualised and creative, according to the child's needs. Children benefit from relationship-based support, with workers taking time to build trusting relationships; these relationships form the basis for helping children to keep themselves safer and move forward positively in their lives. Children make significant progress as a result.
27. There is high ambition expressed by the virtual school, linked to the vision, 'Access, Engage, Excel'. Children have benefited from the strong partnership work between the virtual school and schools to support them to remain in education and reduce suspensions and exclusions. The work of the virtual school is highly valued by stakeholders. School staff value the support they receive and the strong lines of communication, alongside the wide training offer. They appreciate the virtual school's involvement in the creation and timing of personal education plans.
28. Children's physical health needs are met through regular health reviews. Their emotional needs are promptly identified and responded to through Oxfordshire's highly regarded clinical therapeutic services.
29. Children are supported by committed foster carers who understand their diverse and complex needs and work effectively with them to develop purposeful and trusting relationships. Children report that their carers advocate strongly on their behalf. Children are supported to remain with their foster carers post-18 through 'staying put' arrangements to maintain their family links and stability. This has enabled care leavers to successfully continue their journeys into employment and further education.
30. The adoption service, which is part of a regional adoption agency (Adopt Thames Valley), is managed well to ensure that children who have a plan for adoption in Oxfordshire and those adults who come forward as adopters receive high-quality, effective services. Children are carefully matched with adopters, and transition arrangements are sensitively managed. Well-thought-out transitions include birth parents whenever possible. Adopters and prospective adopters value the training, support and services they receive throughout their adoption journey. Those who seek further support once the adoption is finalised are also positive about the quality of this response.

## **The experiences and progress of care leavers: good**

31. Care leavers are helped by skilled and caring personal advisers (PAs) who are proactive in supporting them to achieve their potential. PAs are responsive to care leavers' needs and are highly attuned to their emotional well-being. Care leavers know how to make complaints and have access to managers if they are unhappy about the support being provided.

32. Intervention with care leavers is captured well through lively records, highlighting their voices and experiences, and written directly to them. Care leavers are routinely advised about how they can see their records, and some access information about their earlier lives with the sensitive support of PAs.
33. PAs start direct work with care leavers around their 18<sup>th</sup> birthdays. However, this is too late and weakens the effectiveness of transition planning. Leaders recognise this and are currently reviewing their policy.
34. As care leavers approach 21, a discussion is held about their future needs. Care leavers who need or want a PA are transferred to a post-21 PA. The system ensures that all care leavers can access support up to the age of 25. Care leavers are helped to stay in touch with their former carers, who often remain influential and important figures as they progress into adulthood. Care leavers are also supported to maintain other important relationships.
35. Many care leavers appreciate the impactful help that they receive, including a range of practical assistance. They also value the emotional support available to them. Care leavers who are parents receive good practical and emotional support to manage the demands of young parenthood.
36. Care leavers who arrive in the UK as unaccompanied asylum-seeking children are well supported by social workers who get to know them well. They live in suitable homes and are helped to learn English and to develop their independence skills. The effective partnership work between the virtual school and education providers ensures that unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and care leavers are supported to develop their talents and realise their career aspirations.
37. Risks to some care leavers who misuse drugs and alcohol, engage in criminal behaviours and are at risk of, or are being, exploited, are recognised. However, there is not always a coordinated adult safeguarding response. This means that opportunities for structured information-sharing, and multi-agency analysis of multiple recurring risks, are not always considered. Leaders are working with partners to ensure a timelier multi-agency response to care leavers in these circumstances.
38. Most care leavers are proactively supported into purposeful education, employment and training opportunities. When this is not the case, PAs make determined efforts to encourage and support care leavers to access and test a range of opportunities. Corporate initiatives are planned, and some are in progress, to provide more purposeful and substantial apprenticeships, training and employment opportunities for care leavers who do not enter higher education. The small minority of care leavers who attend college and university are well supported financially and most can live with their former foster carers during vacations.

39. Care leavers have up-to-date pathway plans that are co-produced with their PA. Their needs are regularly reassessed through six-monthly reviews which are, in most cases, timely. This means that new and emerging needs are captured and evaluated. A new co-produced pathway plan format has been recently introduced. This strengthens care leavers' voices and increases the focus on their current needs.
40. Many care leavers benefit from the current local offer, which has helped them to make good progress into adulthood. The offer on the local authority website is not written in easily accessible language, so some care leavers may not fully understand what is available to them. Leaders are revising the offer, together with care leavers. In the meantime, PAs pay detailed and thorough attention to care leavers' financial and practical needs and entitlements so that they receive the necessary support.
41. Most care leavers live in accommodation that is suitable for their needs and circumstances. Their independence skills are carefully developed, and most do not live independently until they are ready. When they live outside of the county, PAs work with the host local authority to secure suitable accommodation. Care leavers are also proactively supported to gain access to education and health services to address their needs. The supply of social housing in Oxfordshire is very limited. Care leavers receive flexible support from a housing provider at a level that is right for them. This can be adapted to reflect care leavers' emerging needs. The number of care leavers 'staying put' with their foster carers has recently increased. Care leavers in Oxfordshire are exempt from council tax.
42. PAs pay close attention to care leavers' physical health, and they are diligent in their efforts to help care leavers access help with their emotional and mental health needs. Care leavers can access the local authority's clinical therapeutic service. They also have access to their health summaries.

## **The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families: good**

43. The chief executive officer (CEO) is ambitious for children and has a good understanding of the priorities for improving the lives of the most vulnerable children. The CEO and lead member are well informed about the strengths and areas for development across the service through regular meetings with the director and through high-quality performance reports. There has been significant and substantial turnover in the senior leadership of Oxfordshire over the past 18 months. The stability provided by some longer-standing operational and middle-managers has helped to maintain and improve services during this time.

44. Strong political and corporate support has continued and has ensured that the children's directorate has received ongoing investment to develop and strengthen services for vulnerable children. This includes investment in Oxfordshire's children's home strategy, financial support for the chosen social work practice model, fostering recruitment and retention and additional programme management to support continuous improvement. Children in care and care leavers have benefited from strong corporate parenting.
45. The local children's safeguarding partnership arrangements provide governance and scrutiny through ongoing consideration of the impact and effectiveness of services for vulnerable children. Work to address the needs of children experiencing neglect, to reduce drift and to improve management oversight, was overseen by a group within the safeguarding partnership. This has led to an improved response to these vulnerable children and effective use of a specialist tool to inform assessments.
46. Children and young people have long waits to access child and adolescent mental health services in the county. The potential impact of this is mitigated by the in-house clinical team that provides therapeutic support to children and care leavers. Children waiting for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder assessments can access the pupil premium to ensure a timely response to their needs.
47. Leaders have developed effective specialist services for children at risk of exploitation. They ensure that children at high risk of exploitation, and those who are missing, are reviewed, and safety steps are planned at multi-agency meetings chaired by senior leaders. A multi-agency strategic meeting considers cross-cutting risks and develops approaches to address these. This supports practitioners in their work to keep children safer.
48. Feedback from the judiciary is positive about the practice in Oxfordshire, noting that the courts see the right children coming into care at the right time for them, including children who have experienced neglect. The Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service reports strong working relationships with the local authority. The local authority is regarded as a willing partner that plays a full role in developing the family justice network and improving practice.
49. A comprehensive sufficiency strategy has identified key gaps in provision across Oxfordshire, created by pressures on the service and national and local trends. Senior managers have recognised shortfalls in securing in-house and commissioned foster homes and plans are in place to improve the range of provision. This includes the development of five new children's homes, following a successful bid for Department for Education (DfE) funding and local authority investment. These additional local places are intended to reduce the need for out-of-county care arrangements and to enable children with the most complex needs to remain living near their families and the people who are important to them.

50. A very small number of children are living temporarily in unregistered children's homes. Robust oversight arrangements are in place while commissioners search for registered provision.
51. Leaders are committed to continuous improvement of practice and the development of a strong learning culture and they achieve this through performance and practice quality assurance processes. Senior leaders know themselves and their service well. The self-evaluation is comprehensive and provides a clear appraisal of service strengths, challenges and areas for development. External scrutiny is invited by the local authority to challenge and test the quality of children's services and the impact of leaders in influencing and driving improvements. Leaders are acting on feedback from a recent peer review to improve services.
52. Oxfordshire has a comprehensive performance framework. A monthly service-based practice challenge and support event and the introduction of 'Driving quality and improvement in performance and practice' are influencing and having a positive impact on the quality of services for children.
53. The quality assurance process has significantly improved since the focused visit in 2020. The audit tool is now comprehensive and structured to evaluate the quality of social work practice effectively throughout the child's journey from referral to intervention. A panel of managers oversees the compliance, quality and impact of audits, and this is providing assurance to leaders.
54. Children's services have a robust workforce strategy that is overseen by a workforce development board. A determined focus on recruitment and retention activity is helping to increase the number of permanent staff in the service. For example, the local authority has been successful in attracting agency staff to convert to permanent employment and has secured DfE funding for 20 social work apprenticeships. Other routes into social work are also available in children's services. The Social Work Professional Development Centre supports newly qualified social workers and international social work recruits to develop competence aligned to practice standards.
55. Current caseloads enable social workers to support children and families effectively. The local authority's preferred practice model is embedded across the service. Strengths-based relational practice is well evidenced in children's records.
56. Learning and development opportunities are available to staff, as well as career progression pathways. Children's practitioners are supported to develop skills in specialist areas of work. Most social workers are supported through supervision and through access to senior managers, who demonstrate good oversight and a keen interest in the work.

57. Staff feel supported by their managers and describe leaders as 'approachable' and 'visible'. The achievements of staff are valued and celebrated by leaders in an annual awards ceremony and corporate long-standing awards.

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## Action and Recommendation Tracker

### Education and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor E Reeves, Chair | Richard Doney, Scrutiny Officer, richard.doney@oxfordshire.gov.uk

The action and recommendation tracker enables the Committee to monitor progress against agreed actions and recommendations. The tracker is updated with the actions and recommendations agreed at each meeting. Once an action or recommendation has been completed or fully implemented, it will be shaded green and reported into the next meeting of the Committee, after which it will be removed from the tracker.

<b>KEY</b>	<b>No progress reported</b>	<b>In progress</b>	<b>Complete</b>
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### Recommendations

Meeting date	Item	Recommendation	Responsible person	Last reviewed	Update/response
02/10/2023	Oxfordshire Education Commission	That the Council should prepare itself to provide officer resource and expertise in the expectation of a deep dive into early years provision.	Cllr Howson, Cllr Gregory, Lisa Lyons	23/04/2024	<b>Partially Accepted</b> Clarity is required on the scope and scale of a deep dive into early years provision, so that resource can be prepared.
02/10/2023	Oxfordshire Education Commission	That the Council should ensure regular updates are issued to each meeting of Cabinet on educational outcomes and that these are provided to the Committee for noting.	Cllr Howson, Cllr Gregory, Lisa Lyons	23/04/2024	<b>Partially Accepted</b> We will provide updates to Committee on the academic cycles at the times they are validated and published. These will be regular within the year but may not match each scheduled

KEY		No progress reported	In progress	Complete	
				EYPS because of the academic cycle.	
02/10/2023	Oxfordshire Education Commission	That the Council should explore how to establish and manage panels, such as a children’s panel, a parents/carers’ panel, and an educational providers’ panel, to ensure the insights of key stakeholders are heard to build collaborative and clear partnership working.	Cllr Howson, Cllr Gregory, Lisa Lyons	23/04/2024	<b>Accepted</b> Panels across children and young people, parents and carers and with educational establishments already exist. Information about those panels can be provided and summary reports outlining insights and work plans can be provided. As vehicles already exist in many places, we are further strengthening those partnerships.
02/10/2023	Oxfordshire Education Commission	That the Council should consider whether a professional-led board for educational improvement should be established.	Cllr Howson, Cllr Gregory, Lisa Lyons	23/04/2024	<b>Accepted</b> We are in the process of establishing this in partnership with lead professionals.
02/10/2023	Oxfordshire Education Commission	That the Council should consider the adoption of a long-term plan for educational improvement in the county under an heading such as Oxfordshire Charter for Future Generations	Cllr Howson, Cllr Gregory, Lisa Lyons	23/04/2024	<b>Accepted</b> The council are working in partnership to produce an education and Inclusion strategy with key partners, of which school improvement will be an element. The role of the Council will be to support partners on the development of a self-supporting system in line with the legal roles of the LA.

KEY	No progress reported	In progress	Complete
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02/10/2023	Oxfordshire Education Commission	That the Leader should continue to work with the leaders of other councils to address the problems associated with key worker recruitment and retention.	Cllr Howson, Cllr Gregory, Lisa Lyons	23/04/2024	<b>Accepted</b> The Leader of the Council and Cabinet continues to work with other Councils and examples of best practice and innovation. Cabinet has a focus upon 'place based' developments for residents and key workers.
02/10/2023	Oxfordshire Education Commission	That the Council should ensure there is sufficient budgetary capacity for the Commission's report's proposals to be implemented.	Cllr Howson, Cllr Gregory, Lisa Lyons	23/04/2024	<b>Accepted</b> Budgetary capacity has been accounted for to address the Commission's proposals.
18/01/2024	Update on the Priority Action Plan	That the Council should ensure that the voice of children and young people should be sought and heard more clearly within the Priority Action Plan and within the work arising from it.	Cllr Howson, Cllr Gregory, Lisa Lyons		
18/01/2024	Update on the Priority Action Plan	That the Council should arrange for Members of the Committee to be invited to sit on the Task and Finish Groups.	Cllr Howson, Cllr Gregory, Lisa Lyons		

KEY	No progress reported	In progress	Complete
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## Actions

Meeting date	Item	Action	Responsible person	Last reviewed	Update/response
18/01/2024	Update on the Priority Action Plan	That the co-production charter and documentation underpinning it should be provided to members of the Committee.	Cllr Howson, Cllr Gregory, Lisa Lyons		
18/01/2024	Update on the Priority Action Plan	That the Corporate Director would provide clarity over how KPIs would be monitored.	Cllr Howson, Cllr Gregory, Lisa Lyons		
18/01/2024	Update on the Priority Action Plan	That the Corporate Director would consider how Members of the Committee could be included amongst the Task and Finish groups overseeing the PAP.	Cllr Howson, Cllr Gregory, Lisa Lyons		

**CABINET**  
**19 MARCH 2024**

**BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING REPORT**  
**January 2024**  
**Report by the Executive Director of Resources & Section 151 Officer**

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. **The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to**
  - a) note the report and annexes.
  - b) note the virements in Annex 2b
  - c) approve the supplementary estimate request of £0.2m as set out in paragraph 92 of Annex B.
  - d) approve the eleven debt write offs totalling £0.2m as set out in paragraph 122 of Annex B.

**Executive Summary**

2. The business management reports are part of a suite of performance, risk and budget documents which set out the council's ambitions, priorities, and financial performance. The [2022 – 2025 Strategic Plan](#) sets out the Council's ambitions. It also shows our priority activities for the current financial year.
3. This report presents the January 2024 performance, risk, and finance position for the council.
4. Further information is provided in the following annexes to the report:

Annex A: Performance as at January 2024  
Annex B: Finance as at January 2024  
Annex C: Homes for Ukraine  
Annex D: Cost of living update

5. The performance section of this report concentrates on performance exceptions (measures reporting Red (off target), or Amber, (slightly off target, Amber for the last two consecutive months or more). The full performance report is included at Annex A.

**Performance Overview**

6. The Outcomes Framework for 2023/2024 reports on the council's nine strategic priorities. A further priority relates to running the business and includes the customer contact centre and measures included in the council's Financial Strategy. The Outcomes Framework which sits underneath the strategic priorities is comprises monthly, quarterly, termly, six monthly and annual measures which may change as we progress through the year. At the appropriate period, relevant measures will be included in the report.

7. As at the end of January 2024 the indicators were rated as follows:

January 2024	Green		Amber		Red		Monitoring Only/Data Unavailable		Total
Monthly	24	56%	8	19%	4	9%	7	16%	43
Annual (January)	2	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>45</b>

Table 1: Summary of January 2024 performance for all measures. RAG = Green = meets or exceeds target, Amber = misses target by narrow margin and Red = misses target by significant margin.

8. A total of 45 measures reported in January 2024 (Table 1) 43 monthly measures and two annual measures (OCC01.05 (Progress of application for Local Electrical Vehicle Infrastructure) and OCC05.05 (Number of cycling trips)).

- 26 (58%) of the measures were reported as Green (meeting or exceeding target) in January.
- Eight (18%) were rated as Amber (misses target by narrow margin), of which were Amber or Red for 2+ months.
- Four (9%) were rated as Red (misses target by a significant margin).

9. This bi-monthly Cabinet report is the fifth of 2023/2024. The table (Table 2) below compares monthly measures for the 2023/2024 reporting year, please note the numbers of reported measures fluctuates throughout the year.

Reporting Month	Green		Amber		Red		Monitoring Only/ Data Unavailable		Total
April 2023	12	38%	5	16%	4	12%	11	34%	32*
May 2023	27	61%	6	14%	4	9%	7	16%	44
June 2023	17	52%	6	18%	4	12%	6	18%	33*
July 2023	27	57%	8	17%	7	15%	5	11%	47
August 2023	18	56%	4	13%	4	13%	6	19%	32
September 2023	26	60%	6	14%	5	3%	6	19%	43
October 2023	19	59%	5	16%	2	6%	5	16%	32
November 2023	30	63%	5	10%	8	17%	5	10%	48
December 2023	20	63%	5	16%	1	3%	6	19%	32
<b>January 2024</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>45</b>

Table 2: Comparison of monthly reporting measures for Financial Year 2023/2024. \*April, June, August, October and December 2023 do not include measures from priority OCC11 (finance).

10. Table 3 lists the performance measures reporting as Red at the end of January 2024. Full details can be found in Annex A.

Performance measures reporting Red for January 2024
OCC11.02 Achievement of planned savings

OCC11.04 Directorates deliver services and achieve planned performance within agreed budget
OCC11.06 Total Outturn variation for DSG funded services (high needs)
OCC11.11 Debt requiring impairment - ASC contribution debtors

Table 3: Red RAG Status Measures January 2024 Reporting Period.

11. This table indicates the direction of travel of measures compared to December (monthly) 2023.

Status changes – December 2023 to January 2024	
Red to Green	Not applicable
Amber to Green	OCC01.02 Total No. of streetlights fitted with LED Lanterns
Red to Amber	OCC11.03 General balances are forecast to remain at or above the risk assessed level
Green to Amber	OCC07.07 % of Education Health & Care Plans completed within 20 weeks OCC10.05 The percentage of customer telephone calls abandoned at the Customer Service Centre
Amber to Red	Not applicable
Green to Red	Not applicable

Table 4: Change in Performance across December 2023 to January 2024.

## Performance Exceptions

12. This section of the report details all measures reporting Red or Amber status (*consecutive for two months or more*) with extracted supporting commentary from the Directorate, the full commentary can be seen at Annex A. The exception report focusses on the ten exceptions, four measures have a Red rating and the six measures that have reported an Amber rating for two months or more.

13. **Priority OCC01: Put action to address the climate emergency at the heart of our activities.**

This priority has three measures being reported in January 2024: two are Green and one Amber.



Figure 1: Priority OCC01 Monthly performance for 2023/2024 financial year

Measure:	December Status:	January Status:	Director:
OCC01.07 Total % of household waste which is reused, recycled, or composted	Amber	Amber	Bill Cotton

Table 5: Priority OCC01 Measure Exceptions - January 2024

**OCC01.07:** Waste performance is reported a month in arrears and the figure reported is the forecast end of year performance for 2023/24. The forecasts are variable and may go up or down.

On 31 January 2024 Defra published statistics for Waste Disposal Authorities for

2022/23, confirming Oxfordshire remains first nationally for the overall percentage of waste reused, recycled or composted for the tenth year in a row with a recycling rate of 57.2%.

This is a great achievement and testament to the great partnership working between Oxfordshire County Council and the City and District Councils through the Oxfordshire Resources and Waste Partnership, and of course our residents.

However, most local authorities including Oxfordshire saw recycling rates decrease from 2021/22, and Oxfordshire's forecast recycling rate for 2023/24 remains below target. This is because for some time recycling rates have plateaued despite continued behavioural change campaigns and encouraging residents to use the exiting recycling collections better. This could be due to a number of factors in combination, for example lighter weight packaging materials, new housing growth, and changing behaviours due to the current economic conditions.

To meet Oxfordshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy targets a step change is needed which can only be made by the district councils and the county council acting together. However, nationally local authorities have been unable to commit investment in significant changes in waste services because anticipated Government waste policy changes have been repeatedly delayed by Defra.

Locally, campaign work to inform residents and encourage behaviour change is continuing. For example, an Oxfordshire Reuses event is to be held in Oxford in March promoting reuse, composting, and recycling.

#### 14. Priority OCC04: Support carers and the social care system

This priority has eight measures being reported in January 2024: four Green, two Amber and two monitoring only.



Figure 2: Priority OCC04 Monthly performance for 2023/2024 financial year

Measure:	December Status:	January Status:	Director:
OCC04.04 % of residents aged under 65 receiving ASC who manage their care by using a direct payment	Amber	Amber	Karen Fuller
OCC04.05 % of older residents who receive long-term care and are supported to live in their own home	Amber	Amber	Karen Fuller

Table 6: Priority OCC04 Measure Exceptions - January 2024

**OCC04.04:** Performance remains in line with the national position. 12 people would need to transfer to Direct Payments in the year to be on target.

There are three key actions to stabilise this measure:

1. Review of individual team performance at the monthly performance board.
2. The Adult Social Care forum asks if a direct payment has been considered for each new service recipient and this data is used to understand barriers to the uptake of direct payments.



3. Increased communications to social care teams to actively promote direct payments.

**OCC04.05:** The number of older people supported to live at home continues to increase, as does the number of hours of support provided overall. Performance is 2% points below the 60% target, but this is not a significant concern as some fluctuation is expected. The number of older people supported to live at home is 3.9% more than 12 months ago, compared to a 1.1% increase in people in care homes. The council is currently supporting 3,653 older people with long term support of whom 2,118 are being supported to remain living in their own home.

#### 15. **Priority OCC07: Create opportunities for children and young people to reach their full potential.**

This priority has seven measures being reported in November 2023: one Green, two Amber, zero Red, and four monitoring only/data unavailable.



Figure 3: Priority OCC07 Monthly performance for 2023/2024 financial year

Measure:	December Status:	January Status:	Director:
OCC07.04 Increase the % of children in foster care	Amber	Amber	Lisa Lyons

Table 7: Priority OCC07 Measure Exceptions - January 2024

**OCC07.04:** 486 children (62.4%) are currently supported in foster care out of a total of 795 cared for children (including unaccompanied asylum-seeking children). This has improved for the second successive month, increasing by 1.4% since November 2023. The vast majority of occasions where the council seeks a foster care placement results in the child being placed in foster care.

A targeted campaign is in place to increase internal foster care looking at specific locality areas where we need to recruit foster carers.

The new South Central Independent Fostering Agency Framework is now in place to provide additional external foster placements. 62.4% of Oxfordshire children are looked after in foster placements whereas nationally the figure is 68%.

When a child needs a placement, we will always where possible prioritise foster family-based care over alternatives and within this are looking at how we support our foster families to care for more complex children and young people.

#### 16. **Priority OCC11: Running the business - Finance.**

This priority has 15 measures being reported in January 2024: nine Green, two Amber and four Red.



Figure 4: Priority OCC11 Monthly performance for 2023/2024 financial year

Measure:	December Status:	January Status:	Director:
OCC11.02 Achievement of planned savings	Red	Red	Lorna Baxter
OCC11.03 General balances are forecast to remain at or above the risk assessed level	Red	Amber	Lorna Baxter
OCC11.04 Directorates deliver services and achieve planned performance within agreed budget	Red	Red	Lorna Baxter
OCC11.06 Total Outturn variation for DSG funded services (high needs)	Red	Red	Lorna Baxter
OCC11.10 Debt requiring impairment - Corporate Debtors	Amber	Amber	Lorna Baxter
OCC11.11 Debt requiring impairment - ASC contribution debtors	Red	Red	Lorna Baxter

Table 8: Priority OCC11 Measure Exceptions - January 2024

Please refer to 'Financial Position' Section and Annex B for additional information relating to OCC11: Running the business - Finance.

### Performance Highlights

17. This section of the report concentrates on several highlights achieved this period in delivering our strategic priorities.

### **Put action to address the climate emergency at the heart of our work.**

Link: [Proposal to move county council offices to new carbon-neutral offices set to progress](#)

Proposals to move Oxfordshire County Council's headquarters from the new part of County Hall on New Road to a refurbished net-zero, green Speedwell House campus on Speedwell Street in Oxford are progressing. It is envisaged that the Speedwell Street offices would be an exemplar for carbon-neutral offices and providing exciting opportunities to deliver regeneration in Oxford.

### **Tackle inequalities in Oxfordshire**

Link: [Council closes gender pay gap and betters national averages](#)

Oxfordshire County Council has further reduced the gap between what men and women are paid and remains better than the national average across public sector organisations.

A report to a meeting of full council in December reported that there had been a decrease in the mean gender pay gap from 2.3% in 2022 to 1.2% in 2023.

Since 2017, an employer that has a headcount of 250 or more employees on a 'snapshot date' has been required to comply with regulations on gender pay gap reporting. Gender pay gap calculations are based on employer payroll data drawn from a specific date each year. This specific date is called the 'snapshot date'. The 'snapshot date' for Oxfordshire County Council (as with most other public authority employers) is 31 March every year.

### **Prioritise the health and wellbeing of residents.**

*Link:* [New strategy aims to improve health outcomes for all](#)

More than a thousand people in Oxfordshire have helped the county council prepare a new strategy to improve health outcomes for local people over the next five years. The new health and wellbeing strategy for Oxfordshire 2024–2030 has been developed by [Oxfordshire's Health and Wellbeing Board](#) – the partnership between local NHS services, the county council, the city and district councils and [Healthwatch Oxfordshire](#).

The strategy can be read in full by visiting [Oxfordshire County Council's website](#). This strategy has been informed by the themes in the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care System Strategy published in March 2023. Over 1,000 residents from many seldom heard communities were also engaged with to learn what challenges they face and what helps them stay well and healthy. Residents can find out more by reading [Healthwatch Oxfordshire's engagement report](#).

### **Support carers and the social care system**

*Link:* [Supporting vulnerable people to find their voice](#)

Plans to improve the way vulnerable children and adults are supported to be heard during decisions around their own health and care took a step forward following a council meeting on Tuesday 19 December 2023.

Oxfordshire County Council's advocacy services help people understand their rights, communicate their needs and preferences and ensure that their voices are heard in decisions about their care and support.

The council's cabinet agreed to recommendations that lay the foundations to bring the council's advocacy services together for both children and adults. This will give providers the opportunity to put forward bids that enhance both services at the same time.

Funding is provided by the county council and Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board (BOB ICB), with BOB ICB responsible for the adult's health-related elements of the contract.

### **Invest in an inclusive, integrated, and sustainable transport network.**

*Link:* [Road maintenance carried out in Oxfordshire using latest low carbon recycling technique](#)

A programme of resurfacing has been completed in Oxfordshire using an innovative technique which recycles the top layer of old road surfaces that are removed before new surfaces are put in place.

Oxfordshire County Council carried out the work using 'cold recycling' with its contractor Milestone Infrastructure and its supply chain partners Aggregate Industries, Drayton Construction, Hazell & Jeffries and OCL Regeneration in September and October 2023.

During this programme, over 4,000 tonnes of cold recycled material was laid, saving an estimated 75 tonnes of carbon – equivalent to 92 flights from London to New York. It also avoids the environmental impact of disposing of thousands of tonnes of waste planings and the need to extract virgin aggregates.

### **Preserve and improve access to nature and green spaces.**

*Link:* [Cycling and walking improvements set to come to Didcot](#)

Didcot residents and visitors are set to benefit from potential improvements that will encourage cycling and walking in and around the town and neighbouring villages.

Oxfordshire County Council has approved the Didcot Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), which will set out how to improve the town's active travel network, reduce the reliance on private motor vehicles and cut congestion.

The LCWIP will provide a ten year plan for the delivery of cycling and walking interventions to maximise the uptake of active travel to help meet the travel needs of the growing populations of Didcot and surrounding areas. It will be reviewed and updated regularly.

The Didcot plan is the seventh LCWIP to be approved in Oxfordshire, following on from Oxford, Bicester, Abingdon, Witney, Banbury, and Kidlington.

### **Creating opportunities for children and young people to reach their full potential.**

*Link:* [Funding for new Didcot school for children with special educational needs and disabilities \(SEND\)](#)

Funding for a new school for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) was approved by Oxfordshire County Council's cabinet on Tuesday 23 January 2024.

A total of £14.4 million will be invested in the planned school, which will be located in Didcot.

Initial design work has started and the education specification will be published for public consultation in February. It is intended that the school will have capacity to teach 120 children with special educational needs related to autism and/or social, emotional and mental health.

Subject to planning permission, construction work is scheduled to begin in 2025 with a projected opening date of 2026/27.

The proposal for the school in Didcot will be the first of two new special schools planned for the area, which will take the total number of Oxfordshire special schools to seventeen.

## **Work with local businesses and partners for environmental, economic, and social benefit**

*Link:* [Launch of all-electric bus fleet to service Oxford passengers](#)

A partnership between Oxfordshire County Council and bus operators has launched what will be one of the biggest UK fleets of electric buses outside London.

The £82.5 million project will deliver 159 new battery buses on to the roads of Oxford – the first of which have already gone into service. It has also funded two associated electric charging hubs at the city's bus depots.

The bus fleet has been funded through a collaboration between the county council and Oxford Bus Company, owned by The Go-Ahead Group, and Stagecoach. The council was awarded £32.8m from the government's Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA) scheme and contributed £6m directly, while bus operators invested £45m.

The groundbreaking infrastructure project is a huge boost to Oxford's vision to creating a more sustainable, decarbonised public transport system and improving air quality.

## Strategic Risk Management Overview

18. A strategic risk is a risk to the council's strategic priorities or long-term outcomes; or a risk with a significance that has an impact at the corporate level.
19. The table below provides an overview of the current strategic risk position. Strategic risks are reviewed monthly as part of the Business management and monitoring process. Risks can be added and escalated at any time during the year.
20. Update following the 2024/2025 budget being agreed by Council. The 2024/2025 budget has been agreed by Council on 20 February 2024. This has seen an improvement in the residual risk score and residual risk rating of the strategic risk 08 'The Inability to seek agreement in relation to the policy and budget framework from a minority administration' from 20, Red status in January 2024 to 12, Amber status in February 2024.

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Risk Name	Risk Description	31 Jan 2024				
		Inherent Score	Previous Residual Risk Score	Current Residual Risk Score	Current Residual Risk Rating	Direction of Travel
01. Financial Resilience	The council is not financially sustainable in the immediate/medium term.	25	12	12	●	➡
02. Cyber security	A successful and significant Cyber-attack leading to disruption, damage or compromise of any of the council's computer services, information systems, infrastructure or data.	25	15	15	●	➡
03. HIF1&HIF2	HIF1 and HIF2 become undeliverable and/or potential financial risk to the council	16	12	12	●	➡
04. Managing Demand across Adult's and Children's Services	Fluctuating demand of community across Oxfordshire can result in varying requirements in resource.	15	12	12	●	➡
05. Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)	Local area SEND partnership inspection outcomes found widespread systemic failure. Delay for children having their SEND needs met. Reputational damage (locally, regionally, and nationally).	25	16	16	▲	➡
06. Oxford Core Schemes	Failure to deliver Oxford Core Schemes (Traffic Filters, Workplace Parking Levy, Zero Emissions Zone and associated city area schemes such as Low Traffic Neighbourhoods) with public support.	20	16	16	▲	➡
07. Strategic Workforce Planning	A risk that the county council's workforce does not have capacity, capability or resilience to deliver key functions, statutory services or transformational changes required to ensure the councils objectives and long-term priorities are met. Further, that the diversity of the workforce satisfies statutory requirements.	16	12	12	●	➡
08. Policy & Budget	Inability to seek agreement in relation to the policy and budget framework from a minority administration.	25	20	20	▲	➡
09. Delivering the Future Together	Failure to deliver organisation wide transformation.	25	16	16	▲	➡

Table 9: Strategic Risk Overview for January 2024. Please note that a strategic risk regarding resilience in the face of climate change will be forthcoming early in 2024.

## **Homes for Ukraine**

21. Annex C sets out an update on grant funding allocations for the Homes for Ukraine scheme and the use of that funding.

Since the Homes for Ukraine scheme launched in March 2022, the UK government has provided £1.1 billion to councils through a £10,500 tariff for each arrival in their area. The tariff reduced on 1 January 2023 to £5,900 for each new arrival in addition to the 'thank you' payment to sponsors. The original tariff allocation was intended to cover two years, this is now being stretched to cover three years, plus another 18 months following the recent announcement to extend visas for this longer period of time.

The overall grant funding to date (based on the number of arrivals) for the Homes for Ukraine programme in Oxfordshire is now £23m. The funding allocated across the county, city and district councils had increased to £20m by December 2023. The Oxfordshire Migration Partnership (known as 'Silver') has allocated this additional funding across a range of shared programmes and this is managed by the County Council's Programme Management Team (PMT) who provide a quarterly update to the Oxfordshire Migration Partnership.

A partnership delivery plan was approved by the district and county council Chief Executives in May 2023 and sets out the agreed priorities for the partnership. The plan is preventative in its approach, and our ambition remains to maintain an Oxfordshire refugee and asylum migration system that ensures a warm welcome for all new arrivals and embraces and supports independent living for those staying in the county. An outcomes framework is being finalised to measure progress against our key deliverables in the delivery plan. The partnership is committed to maximising the use of all available funding across the system to deliver the priorities.

## **Cost of Living**

22. Annex D sets out an update on the Cost of Living Programme that was set out in a report to Cabinet in March 2023. The following actions are proposed to maximise the cost of living and financial inequality resource in 2024/25:

- £0.5m unspent funding from the 2023/24 cost of living programme will be used to fund equivalent holiday support for free school meals in the Easter 2024 school holiday.
- £0.054m not required to be drawn down from the Budget Priorities reserve in 2023/24 will be held in the reserve and used to increase the 2025/26 emergency welfare fund to £0.354m.
- A report to Cabinet in early 2024/25 will set out proposals for the use of the Household Support Fund as well as other opportunities for tackling financial deprivation and inequality, including an update on the use of additional funding included in the 2024/25 budget.

## **Financial Position**

23. As shown below directorates are forecasting an overspend of £12.3m (2.1%).

After taking account of an increase in interest receivable on balances held by the council and the use of funding held in contingency and the COVID-19 reserve, the overall forecast is balanced to the net operating budget.

	Latest Budget Jan-24 £m	Forecast Spend Jan-24 £m	Forecast Variance Jan-24 £m	Forecast Variance Jan-24 %	Forecast Variance Nov-23 £m	Change Since Nov-23 £m
Adult Services	229.3	229.3	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Children's Services	172.0	185.0	13.0	7.5%	12.8	0.1
Environment & Place	75.3	72.4	-2.9	-3.9%	-0.8	-2.1
Public Health	4.1	4.1	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Community Safety	27.7	28.1	0.4	1.4%	0.5	-0.1
Resources	73.5	75.4	1.9	2.6%	2.0	-0.1
<b>Directorate Total</b>	<b>581.7</b>	<b>594.1</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>-2.1</b>
<b>Budgets Held Centrally</b>						
Capital Financing	28.4	28.4	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Interest on Balances	-16.6	-18.9	-2.2	13.5%	-1.8	-0.4
Contingency <sup>1</sup> and Inflation	9.2	0.5	-8.7	-94.5%	-7.0	-1.7
Un-ringfenced Specific Grants	-44.0	-44.0	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Insurance	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Contribution from COVID-19 reserve	-7.4	-8.8	-1.4	19.0%	-1.4	0.0
Contribution from Budget Priority Reserve	-2.4	-2.4	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Contributions to reserves	20.7	20.7	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Contribution to balances	7.6	7.6	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
<b>Total Budgets Held Centrally</b>	<b>-3.1</b>	<b>-15.4</b>	<b>-12.3</b>	<b>400.7%</b>	<b>-10.2</b>	<b>-2.1</b>
<b>Net Operating Budget</b>	<b>578.8</b>	<b>578.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>-4.2</b>
Business Rates & Council Tax funding	-578.8	-578.8	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
<b>Forecast Year End Position</b>	<b>-0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>		<b>4.2</b>	<b>-4.2</b>

24. As noted in previous reports, financial risks which include inflation and demand pressures for children's social care, as well as workforce shortages, make it much more challenging for the council to forecast activity and expenditure.

25. The overall forecast has reduced by £4.2m since November 2023. This reflects the reduction in the forecast directorate overspend and the use of contingency and additional interest on balances to manage the directorates pressures.

26. The forecast for Adult Services remains balanced to the budget. Risks within the council elements of the pooled budgets are being managed by the service.

<sup>1</sup> Includes £4.2m one – off funding as set out in the Financial Monitoring Report to Cabinet in May 2023.



27. The forecast overspend for Children's Services has increased by £0.1m since November 2023. Whilst the Home to School transport has remained unchanged from the £3.6m overspend reported to Cabinet in January 2024, additional unbudgeted expenditure of £0.9m is required to fund temporary senior management posts within Education. In addition, there is £0.5m pressure relating to the reallocation of staffing savings. As reported throughout the year on-going underlying pressures are driven by a combination of increased care placements costs, and reliance on agency staff to cover vacancies. Action continues to be taken through a range of organisational, governance and business process controls as well as market management activity to address the underlying pressures but it is taking time for these to have an impact.
28. There is a forecast overspend of £0.4m for Community Safety as a result of reallocated budgeted staffing savings and an increase in training costs. A one-off payment of £0.2m made for a disabling injury/illness is recommended to be funded by a supplementary estimate.
29. The forecast underspend for Environment & Place has increased by £2.1m compared to the November 2023 forecast. There is a reduction in energy costs from lower energy activity, a reduction in waste management costs and additional income from enforcement activity.
30. The forecast overspend for Resources has reduced by £0.1m, mainly due to a number of vacancies in Communications, Strategy and Insight.
31. 73% of the budgeted savings of £10.2m which were not achieved as planned in 2022/23 are currently assessed as delivered or are expected to be delivered in 2023/24. 27% are assessed as amber or red.
32. 81% of the 2023/24 savings are assessed as delivered or are expected to be delivered and 19% are still assessed as amber or red. Action is continuing to be taken to ensure that the delivery of both existing planned savings and new budget reductions is maximised in 2023/24. The anticipated achievement of savings is incorporated into the forecast directorate position. Where relevant savings that are not expected to be achieved have been considered through the Budget & Business Planning Process for 2024/25.
33. The forecast 2023/24 deficit compared to Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding for High Needs is £22.9m. This is £4.6m higher than the £18.3m forecast deficit approved by Cabinet in May 2023. The CIPFA code of practice currently requires negative High Needs DSG balances to be held in an unusable reserve. The forecast deficit would increase the cumulative negative High Needs DSG balance held in this reserve from £41.1m as at 31 March 2023 to £64.0m at 31 March 2024.
34. £0.5m continues to be held in corporate contingency to meet the cost of pay inflation for vacant posts as they are recruited to. The balance of £8.7m, which includes £4.2m one – off funding, has been used to support directorate pressures. After taking account of the use of contingency and funding from the COVID-19 reserve to support the overall forecast position, as well as supplementary

estimates agreed earlier in the year balances would be £29.8m at year end, £0.4m lower than the risk assessed level of £30.2m.

### **Financial Implications**

35. This report includes an update on the forecast financial position and risks for the council along with action being taken to manage the budget within the position agreed by Council in February 2023. Strong and sustained financial management, collective action and oversight continues to be required to ensure that services are managed within budgets for the rest of 2023/24 and on-going in 2024/25.

Comments checked by: Lorna Baxter, Executive Director of Resource and Section 151 Officer.

### **Legal Implications**

36. The Council's constitution at Part 3.2 (Budget and Policy Framework) and Part 3.3 (Virement Rules) sets out the obligations and responsibilities of both the Cabinet and the Full Council in approving, adopting and implementing the council's budget and policy framework.
37. The Council has a fiduciary duty to council taxpayers, which means it must consider the prudent use of resources, including control of expenditure, financial prudence in the short and long term and the need to act in good faith in relation to compliance with statutory duties and exercising statutory powers. The report sets out as at January 2024 the performance, risk and finance position for the Council as part of its fiduciary duty to implement budgetary controls and monitoring.

Comments checked by: Anita Bradley, Director of Law and Governance

**LORNA BAXTER**

Executive Director of Resources & Section 151 Officer

### **Contact Officers:**

Louise Tustian, Head of Insight and Corporate Programmes

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# Annex A - Performance - January 2024

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## Key

Status Indicator	Status Description
	Misses target by significant margin
	Misses target by narrow margin
	Meets or exceeds target
	Data missing
n/a	Monitoring only

## Put action to address the climate emergency at the heart of our work

We will lead by example, setting ambitious targets to reduce our own carbon emissions and aligning our carbon net zero commitments to the principles of the Climate and Ecology Bill. Our environmental and planning ambitions will prioritise climate action and community resilience.

Status of Indicators	31/01/2024
OCC01 - Put action to address the climate emergency at the heart of our work	●

Measure	Director	Portfolio Holder	Period Actual	Period Target	Status	Comment	Finance Impact	Risk Impact	YTD Actual	YTD Target	YTD
OCC01.02 Total No. of streetlights fitted with LED Lanterns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bill Cotton</li> <li>Paul Fermer</li> </ul>	Cllr A Gant	129	125	★	We have hit our target for the month. Overall programme still on track for year end target due to overachieves in targets in previous months.			2,866	3,950	▲
OCC01.05 Progress of application for Local Electric Vehicle infrastructure fund	Tim Spiers	Cllr L Leffman	Delivering to plan	Delivering to plan	★	We are awaiting comments from OZEV regarding the LEVI application submitted on 30/11/23. We have been informed that we should receive these by the middle of February.			Delivering to plan	Delivering to plan	★
OCC01.07 Total % of household waste which is reused, recycled or composted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bill Cotton</li> <li>Rachel Wileman</li> </ul>	Cllr P Sudbury	57.34%	61.50%	●	<p>Waste performance is reported a month in arrears and the figure reported is the forecast end of year performance for 2023/24. The forecasts are variable and may go up or down.</p> <p>On 31 January 2024 Defra published statistics for Waste Disposal Authorities for 2022/23, confirming Oxfordshire remains first for the overall percentage of waste reused, recycled or composted for the tenth year in a row with a recycling rate of 57.2%. This compares to Devon and Surrey in joint second place at 54%, and West Sussex at 53.7%. This is a great achievement and testament to the great partnership working between Oxfordshire County Council and the City and District Councils through the Oxfordshire Resources and Waste Partnership, and of course our residents. However, most local authorities including Oxfordshire saw recycling rates decrease from 2021/22, and Oxfordshire's forecast recycling rate for 2023/24 remains below target. This is because for some time recycling rates have plateaued despite continued behavioural change campaigns</p>	The financial cost of waste disposal can be reduced by increasing reuse, recycling and composting. The main way of mitigating increased costs is through encouraging behavioural change to make more effective use of kerbside and HWRC recycling facilities until a step change can be achieved through partnership working and national waste policy changes. Payments to local authorities for	Target of recycling and composting at least 65% of household waste by 2025 in the Oxfordshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy is unlikely to be achieved. The continued lack of clarity in some areas from Government about some elements of Simpler Recycling, the Government's response to the consultation on consistent collections published in	57.18%	61.50%	●

						<p>and encouraging residents to use the exiting recycling collections better. The trend this year reflects increased residual waste and reduced recycling being collected at kerbside from residents and through the HWRCs. It is difficult to establish the reasons for this as it could be due to a number of factors in combination, for example lighter weight packaging materials, new housing growth, and changing behaviours due to the current economic conditions.</p> <p>To meet Oxfordshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy targets a step change is needed which can only be made by the district councils and OCC acting together, but local authorities nationally have been unable to commit investment in significant changes in waste services because anticipated Government waste policy changes have been repeatedly delayed by Defra.</p> <p>In January 2023 Defra published its consultation response on introducing a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for drinks containers from October 2025. In July Defra then announced the delay of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging until October 2025 to avoid the risk of causing inflationary pressures.</p> <p>Defra also confirmed the deferral of implementation of consistent collections changes until after the introduction of EPR, and published its consultation response on this, now named Simpler Recycling, in October 2023. While the response provides clarity in some areas, others are open to further consultation.</p> <p>Locally, campaign work to inform residents and encourage behaviour change is continuing. For example, an Oxfordshire Reuses event is to be held in Oxford in March promoting reuse, composting, and recycling.</p>	<p>managing packaging waste under the EPR scheme will now not be received until after October 2025.</p>	<p>October 2023, continues to make investment decisions by local authorities in significant service changes very difficult. This is a national issue.</p>			

## Tackle inequalities in Oxfordshire

We will work with our partners and local communities to address health, social and educational inequalities focusing on those in greatest need.

We will seek practical solutions for those most adversely affected by the pandemic.

We will support digital inclusion initiatives that give our residents the skills, connectivity and accessibility to our services and provide alternative options for those who cannot access our services digitally.

Status of Indicators	31/01/2024
OCC02 - Tackle inequalities in Oxfordshire	★

Measure	Director	Portfolio Holder	Period Actual	Period Target	Status	Comment	Finance Impact	Risk Impact	YTD Actual	YTD Target	YTD
OCC02.01 Digital Inclusion through libraries (number of hours of use of library public computers)	Mark Haynes	Cllr N Fawcett	7,845	5,500	★	This figure continues to remain above target and demonstrates a clear ongoing demand for access to free public computers and internet.			71,990	58,000	★
OCC02.03 Number of physical visits to Libraries	Mark Haynes	Cllr N Fawcett	164,013	90,000	★	The number of physical visits to libraries remains well above target, and bounced back after the traditional dip in December. This continuing success is a result of the high number of activities (including school visits) that library staff have organised. This may also be a reflection of the growing demand on library services as the cost of living crisis deepens and customers seek free reading materials, free computers/internet access, and warm spaces (plus the full range of other library services).			1,575,242	1,150,000	★

## Prioritise the health and wellbeing of residents

We will work with the health and wellbeing board and our partners to deliver and support services that make a vital contribution to our residents' physical and mental wellbeing.

We will support the wellbeing of those in our community who have been affected, physically and mentally, by the COVID-19 pandemic and will continue to support our volunteers and the voluntary sector.

Status of Indicators	31/01/2024
OCC03 - Prioritise the health and wellbeing of residents	★

Measure	Director	Portfolio Holder	Period Actual	Period Target	Status	Comment	Finance Impact	Risk Impact	YTD Actual	YTD Target	YTD
OCC03.09 No of people contacted via Making Every Conversation Count	Mark Haynes	Cllr N Fawcett	798	400	★	This figure remains significantly above target, and recovered to normal levels after December, which is traditionally the quietest month in terms of library business. This highly successful partnership with Public Health has seen training for library staff in order to facilitate informal and accessible discussions with customers about health issues, including recommendations, signposting, and referrals as part of libraries' Health and Wellbeing offer (Books on Prescription, healthy living, Reading Well for mental health etc). Anecdotally, this programme has also had an extremely high impact on a small number of individuals, with one customer reporting that he had sought a GP appointment as a direct result of his conversation with library staff, following which was diagnosed with (and successfully treated for) early stage cancer.			7,261	4,350	★

## Support carers and the social care system

We will engage nationally to push for a fair deal for the funding of social care.

Locally, we will support carers, including young carers and help those who want to live independently.

We will work with communities and the voluntary sector to explore new ways to provide services and focus on preventative services, helping people to stay active and supported at all stages of their lives.







We will support intergenerational programmes to build strong and resilient communities.

We will work in collaboration across the health and social care system.

Status of Indicators	31/01/2024
OCC04 - Support carers and the social care system	★

Measure	Director	Portfolio Holder	Period Actual	Period Target	Status	Comment	Finance Impact	Risk Impact	YTD Actual	YTD Target	YTD
OCC04.01 No of people supported with on-going care	Karen Fuller	Cllr T Bearder	6,571		n/a				6,571		n/a
OCC04.02 % of residents 18-64 with Learning Disability support who live on their own or with family	Karen Fuller	Cllr T Bearder	88.29%	86.00%	★				88.29%	86.00%	★
OCC04.03 % of residents aged 65 plus receiving ASC who manage their care by using a direct payment	Karen Fuller	Cllr T Bearder	18.03%	15.50%	★				18.03%	15.50%	★
OCC04.04 % of residents aged under 65 receiving ASC who manage their care by using a direct payment	Karen Fuller	Cllr T Bearder	37.85%	38.40%	●	<p>Performance remains in line with the national position. 12 people would need to transfer to a direct payments in the year to be on target.</p> <p>There are 3 key actions to stabilise this measure</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review of individual team performance at the monthly performance board</li> <li>2. The Adult Social Care forum asks if a Direct Payment has been considered for each new service recipient and we use this data to understand barriers to uptake of direct payments</li> <li>3. Increased communications to teams to actively promote direct payments</li> </ol>	There is no financial risk associated with this measure.	Increasing use of direct payments is seen as improving performance by the Care Quality Commission. Falling numbers could reflect a reputational risk	37.85%	38.40%	●



Measure	Director	Portfolio Holder	Period Actual	Period Target	Status	Comment	Finance Impact	Risk Impact	YTD Actual	YTD Target	YTD
OCC04.05 % of older residents who receive long term care and are supported to live in their own home	Karen Fuller	Cllr T Bearder	57.97%	60.00%		The number of older people supported to live at home continues to increase, as does the number of hours of support provided overall. Performance is 2% points below the 60% target but this is not a significant concern as some fluctuation is expected. The number of older people supported to live at home is 3.9% more than 12 months ago, compared to a 1.1% increase in people in care homes. We are currently supporting 3653 older people with long term support of whom 2118 are supported at home.	The financial risk associated with this would be placing people in more expensive care home placements. There is no evidence of this, but current levels of activity across the service are creating financial pressures.	This increase in the number of people supported at home is monitored closely in conjunction with the number of people entering care and contributes to our overall management of the risk related to demand.	57.97%	60.00%	
OCC04.06 No of residents who have received a formal assessment of their role as a Carer	Karen Fuller	Cllr T Bearder	592	197					6,039	1,970	
OCC04.07 No of Carers who have received a direct payment	Karen Fuller	Cllr T Bearder	1,504		n/a				1,504		n/a
OCC04.08 No of visits to Live Well Oxfordshire	Karen Fuller	Cllr T Bearder	14,083	6,000					127,038	60,000	

## Invest in an inclusive, integrated and sustainable transport network

We will create a transport network that makes active travel the first choice for short journeys and invest in public transport to significantly reduce our reliance on car journeys. In areas of planned housing growth, we will prioritise active and public transport over road capacity for cars.

Status of Indicators	31/01/2024
OCC05 - Invest in an inclusive, integrated and sustainable transport network	★

Measure	Director	Portfolio Holder	Period Actual	Period Target	Status	Comment	Finance Impact	Risk Impact	YTD Actual	YTD Target	YTD
OCC05.03 91 KM (2%) of the highway to be treated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bill Cotton</li> <li>Paul Fermer</li> </ul>	Cllr A Gant	0.00	0.00	★	The annual target for 2023/24 total surfacing programme has been firmed up as 2% of the network (excluding patching). As at 31st January, 86.7km has been treated as programmed. This is on track against the target of 2%. No surfacing works were programmed in January.			86.75	88.30	★
OCC05.05 Number of cycling trips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bill Cotton</li> <li>Owen Jenkins</li> </ul>	Cllr A Gant	534,729.0	532,957.00	★	We have exceeded our target for November 2021 to November 2022 and are on track to meet our cycle trip target of 1 million per week by 2030. This is being achieved by a number of cycling initiatives.			534,729.00	532,957.00	★

## Preserve and improve access to nature and green spaces

We will work with partners to provide safe and clean green spaces across the county that support the physical and mental wellbeing of our residents.  
We will take action to protect and increase biodiversity, supporting nature recovery, in both rural and urban environments.

Status of Indicators	31/01/2024
OCC06 - Preserve and improve access to nature and green spaces	?

Measure	Director	Portfolio Holder	Period Actual	Period Target	Statu	Comment	Finance Impact	Risk Impact	YTD Actual	YTD Target	YTD
OCC06.02 Percentage of newly planted trees still alive on land OCC own & manage	<div><div>■ Bill Cotton</div><div>■ Rachel Wileman</div></div>	Cllr P Sudbury	93.60%		n/a	No change. This figure will not shift before April 2024 as the trees will not be surveyed due to winter dormancy.	No change	No change	93.60%		n/a



## Create opportunities for children and young people to reach their full potential

We will support all our children and young people, and their families, to achieve their very best and to prepare them for their future, including safeguarding, and supporting those more vulnerable and with additional needs.

We will continue to work with partners to provide help early so children and families are less likely to be in need.

Status of Indicators	31/01/2024
OCC07 - Create opportunities for children and young people to reach their full potential	●

Measure	Director	Portfolio Holder	Period Actual	Period Target	Status	Comment	Finance Impact	Risk Impact	YTD Actual	YTD Target	YTD
OCC07.03 Number of multi-agency strength & needs assessment completed in Oxfordshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lisa Lyons</li> <li>Stephen Chandler</li> </ul>	Cllr J Howson		890	?					5,464	?
OCC07.01 Total number of children with Education, Health and Care Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lisa Lyons</li> <li>Stephen Chandler</li> </ul>	Cllr K Gregory	6,418		n/a				6,418		n/a
OCC07.02 No of children we care for who are Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lisa Lyons</li> <li>Stephen Chandler</li> </ul>	Cllr J Howson	89		n/a				990		n/a

Measure	Director	Portfolio Holder	Period Actual	Period Target	Status	Comment	Finance Impact	Risk Impact	YTD Actual	YTD Target	YTD
OCC07.04 Increase the % of children in Foster Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Lisa Lyons</li> <li>■ Stephen Chandler</li> </ul>	Cllr J Howson	62.38%	66.00%		<p>486 children are currently supported in foster care out of a total of 795 cared for children (including unaccompanied asylum seeking children) – 62.4%. This has improved for the second successive month. The vast majority of occasions where we seek a foster care placement result in the child being placed in foster care. A targeted campaign is in place to increase internal foster care looking at specific locality areas where we need to recruit foster carers. You will see adverts for foster carers on the sides of buses. The new South Central Independent Fostering Agency Framework is now in place to provide additional external foster placements. 62.4% of Oxfordshire children are looked after in foster placements whereas nationally the figure is 68%. When a child needs a placement we will always look where possible that we prioritise family based care over alternatives and within this are looking at how we support our foster families to care for more complex children and young people</p>		<p>The average cost of an external residential placement is around £6196 a week; the average cost of external foster care is around £1027 per week. If people are placed in residential care because of a lack of foster care (as opposed to it being the placement that is in the best interests of the child/young person) then there is a pressure on the budget.</p>	62.38%	66.00%	

Measure	Director	Portfolio Holder	Period Actual	Period Target	Status	Comment	Finance Impact	Risk Impact	YTD Actual	YTD Target	YTD
OCC07.05 The percentage of children in residential care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Lisa Lyons</li> <li>■ Stephen Chandler</li> </ul>	Cllr J Howson	16.9%		n/a	<p>The total number of cared for children has reduced from 881 (including unaccompanied children and young people) at the start of the year to 779 at the end of January a reduction of 12%. The number of children supported in residential care has reduced from 143 at the start of the year to 132 at the end of January, a fall of 8%. The reduction in the overall numbers of cared for children masks the improvement in terms of reducing the number of children in residential care.</p> <p>We are increasing the number of in-house children's homes from 4 homes to 9 by March 2025 with the support of the DFE capital grant and council capital resource. In addition, we currently have a block contract arrangement for 16 residential beds in Oxfordshire or within 10 miles of the border. We also have access to up to 15 beds as part of the Cross Regional Contract which offers a therapeutic model of care for children with more complex needs and includes education provision at an inclusive price. We are continually improving communications with block contract providers to ensure that we maximise the potential use of placements for Oxfordshire children. Currently around 70% of the residential placements we use are spot purchased which suggests that current frameworks and block contracts are not able to provide the number of placements required. The South Central residential framework is due to be recommissioned by October 2024 and the issues identified with the current framework such as the uplift controls will be addressed which should increase the number of providers who join which would further reduce the level of spot purchasing.</p> <p>Part of our financial plan is to ensure that we maximise the use of internal and block contract beds - by managing and reducing vacancies in Oxfordshire homes for Oxfordshire children.</p>		The average cost of an external residential placement is around £6196 a week; the average cost of external foster care is around £1027 per week. If people are placed in residential care because of a lack of foster care (as opposed to it being the placement that is in the best interests of the child/young person) then there is a pressure on the budget. We would always avoid considering residential for any child that should or could be cared for in family based care.	15.7%		n/a
OCC07.06 Number of Oxfordshire children we care for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Lisa Lyons</li> <li>■ Stephen Chandler</li> </ul>	Cllr J Howson	690	770	★				690	770	★
OCC07.07 % of Education Health & Care Plans completed within 20 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Lisa Lyons</li> <li>■ Stephen Chandler</li> </ul>	Cllr J Howson	48.2%	50.7%	●				61.4%	50.7%	★

# Play our part in a vibrant and participatory local democracy

- We are committed to taking decisions in an open and inclusive way.
- We will engage and listen to Oxfordshire residents.
- We will be open to scrutiny and regularly provide progress updates.
- We will put the impact on the climate and future generations at the heart of decision making.
- We will manage our own resources carefully.

Status of Indicators	31/01/2024
OCC08 - Play our part in a vibrant and participatory local democracy	?!

This report does not contain any data

This priority has no measures to report in this reporting period

## Work with local businesses and partners for environmental, economic and social benefit

We will help Oxfordshire become a recognised centre of innovation in green and sustainable technologies.

We will use our purchasing power for environmental, social and economic benefit and ensure that our pandemic recovery planning supports sustainable job creation.

Status of Indicators	31/01/2024
OCC09 - Work with local businesses and partners for environmental, economic and social benefit	★

Measure	Director	Portfolio Holder	Period Actual	Period Target	Status	Comment	Finance Impact	Risk Impact	YTD Actual	YTD Target	YTD
OCC09.02 Participation in innovation funding bids or new projects in support of Living Oxfordshire  Page 132	Tim Spiers	Cllr N Fawcett	5.00	2.50	★	<b>Successful bids in January 2024</b> <b>Net Zero Mobility</b> <b>What:</b> Looking at using existing data to detect and alert disruption to low-carbon transport modes (e.g. buses). <b>Why:</b> Accelerating Transport decarbonization, Unlocking value from existing data and feeding into the objectives of PAZCO. <b>Funding:</b> £59,880 for OCC <b>Submitted bids in Jan 2024</b> <b>Innovate UK - GapFinder for Livable Places</b> <b>What:</b> The project focuses on building a new capability, an innovative self-service spatial decision support system, GapFinder Calibrator, to allow Local Authorities to develop and monitor plans for transport decarbonisation, exchange knowledge and calibrations, collaborate and allow replication of policies and best practices UK-wide. <b>Why:</b> To accelerate transport decarbonisation with intuitive geospatial solutions that can reduce up to 80% of the time spent by specialists on data analysis and modeling and reduce the £49.9 billion costs that the current transport system is placing on society (according to the Department of Transport). Reducing time spent of transport consultants. <b>Funding:</b> £125k for OCC <b>Smart Grants</b>			32.00	25.00	★







						<p><b>What:</b> Innovate UK funding to use UTMC/AI use to help define strategies to better manage the transport network.</p> <p><b>Why:</b> Improve efficiency of the UTMC, but helping automate some decision-making and reducing spend on incident management. Enable efficiencies in UTMC using new innovation and technologies.</p> <p><b>Funding:</b> £104K for OCC</p> <p><b>Narrow Street</b></p> <p><b>What:</b> Innovate UK funding to demonstrate the use of flywheel energy storage for EV charging</p> <p><b>Why:</b> Provides a possible solution to constrained electricity supplies - so aiding faster roll out of EV chargers in challenging locations.</p> <p><b>Funding:</b> £37,800</p> <p><b>PINS - Private Infrastructure Network Solution</b></p> <p><b>What:</b> Innovate UK to enable the sharing of charging in private fleet depots to form a shared private charging network.</p> <p><b>Why:</b> Support for fleet operators enabling them to move to EVs – supporting the PAZCO ad OCC fleet requirements.</p> <p><b>Funding:</b> £22,200</p>					

Running the Business - Customer Experience

Status of Indicators	31/01/2024
OCC10 - Customer Service	★

Measure	Director	Portfolio Holder	Period Actual	Period Target	Status	Comment	Finance Impact	Risk Impact	YTD Actual	YTD Target	YTD
OCC10.03 Overall customer satisfaction rate for the Customer Service Centre – telephony	Mark Haynes	Cllr N Fawcett	99%	80%	★	Latest satisfaction survey – In January 2024 22% of calls answered were surveyed (2,680 calls surveyed, which is 2,090 more than December 2023). 99.6% customers surveyed were satisfied or very satisfied, whilst 0.4% were unsatisfied. We continue to interrogate the data to understand the dissatisfied comments so that we can feed this back into the continuous improvement cycle.			99%	80%	★
OCC10.04 First contact resolution for customer enquiries received by the Customer Service Centre	Mark Haynes	Cllr N Fawcett	77%	75%	★	9,277 inbound phone contacts were resolved at first point of contact, with 3.4% of inbound phone contacts deemed avoidable.			77%	75%	★

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Measure	Director	Portfolio Holder	Period Actual	Period Target	Status	Comment	Finance Impact	Risk Impact	YTD Actual	YTD Target	YTD
OCC10.05 The percentage of customer telephone calls abandoned at the Customer Service Centre	Mark Haynes	Cllr N Fawcett	11%	10%		<p>In January 2024, the Customer Service Centre was offered 13,530 calls across all services. During the previous month, we were offered 9,018 calls which is an increase of 4,512 calls due mainly to the increased post-Christmas demand and poor weather. Compared to January 2023 there was an increase of 374 calls which is in line with our forecasts.</p> <p>The number of abandoned calls increased in January by 753 calls (from 647 calls in Dec to 1,400 in January).</p> <p>A total of 33,520 contacts were received during December, which is an increase of 36.0% compared to December (24,721). This consisted of 5,546 outbound calls, 8 webchats, 10 social media enquiries, and 15,876 emails. The latter is an increase of 34% from December 2023.</p> <p>Within the teams, the abandonment rate for Blue Badge has increased from 5% in December to 8% in January (464 more calls presented).</p> <p>Contacts for Concessionary Fares have increased by 67% compared to the previous month with an abandonment rate increase of 0.8% compared to December.</p> <p>Contacts for Children's Social Care has increased in January by 29% due to returning back after the Christmas break. The abandonment rate of 4.2% was slightly higher than December (3.1%).</p> <p>Contacts for School admissions increased by 656 compared to December, this is mainly due to the primary application process for September 2024 intake.</p> <p>Abandonment rate for Adult Social Care has increased in January (28.6%) compared to December (20%).</p>	<b>Increased abandoned calls leads to increased turnover, increased recruitment costs, training times etc. this puts pressure on budgets.</b>	<b>If a higher number of calls are abandoned whilst waiting to be answered in the CSC, this can lead to reputational damage to the organisation, decreased advisor motivation therefore leading to greater turnover of staff and then increased abandoned calls. We have worked to have a greater focus on call handling, by removing the administration to a different team which has seen a positive reduction in abandoned calls. This is however due to a reduced number of offered calls and contacts over the summer period but this is in line with our staffing levels.</b>	12%	10%	
OCC10.06 Overall customer satisfaction rates for standard Registration Service	Mark Haynes	Cllr N Fawcett	100%	95%		<p>The service was delighted to have achieved 100% customer satisfaction in January. Below are a selection of comments received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We wanted a small fuss-free ceremony with our witnesses, and the ceremony at Oxford was just right for us. The</li> </ul>			100%	95%	

						<p>registrar was very lovely and made it a pleasure!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Everything was well organised and we enjoyed our experience.</li> <li>• Incredibly kind and supportive when we had to move our ceremony date due to the passing of a very close family member. Such a lovely team of people from start to finish.</li> <li>• The staff were extremely friendly and very accommodating of our small child who was unsettled during our pre-wedding discussion. The registrar delivered a moving ceremony, commented on by several guests - she went far above and beyond the bare minimum of what is required, and they really enjoyed this (in contrast to others they had attended). Thank you!</li> <li>• This is my second child registration. I've had no issues with this service. It is quick, easy, and convenient. I am grateful for the service that I received.</li> <li>• We had the deputy registrar who was outstanding. Professional and thorough but also kind and compassionate which is exactly what was needed being a new parent out with my new baby. Thank you.</li> <li>• The process was very easy from start to finish, making things much easier to deal with given the very recent death of my mother. The facilities were good and the registrar and lady that greeted us were warm, friendly and understanding. It was also easy to park; given that I had travelled about an hour and a half, this was very helpful.</li> <li>• Every stage in the process was without fuss and it was easy to accomplish what we needed to do.</li> <li>• The Registrar who dealt with the registration of my mother's death was most professional, approachable and dealt with the matter in a friendly manner and made me feel at ease.</li> </ul>					
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Measure	Director	Portfolio Holder	Period Actual	Period Target	Status	Comment	Finance Impact	Risk Impact	YTD Actual	YTD Target	YTD
OCC10.07 Overall customer satisfaction rate for Coroners Inquest Service	Mark Haynes	Cllr N Fawcett	100%	99%	★	<p>We continue to receive overwhelmingly positive feedback, as below:  Thank you very much to Stuart and Stephanie. You have made this journey so easy for me as you have looked after everything for me.  Thank you to all involved. The whole experience was completed with empathy for the family.  The Coroner's Office staff replied promptly to my queries and were courteous and sensitive. I would like to thank them for their support.  No improvements. The level of service you provide is very good.</p>			100%	99%	★

## Running the business - Finance

Status of Indicators	31/01/2024
OCC11 - Finance	▲

Measure	Director	Portfolio Holder	Period Actual	Period Target	Status	Comment	Finance Impact	Risk Impact	YTD Actual	YTD Target	YTD
OCC11.01 Overall forecast revenue variance across the Council	Lorna Baxter	Cllr D Levy	0.00%	0.00%	★				0.67%	0.00%	★
OCC11.02 Achievement of planned savings	Lorna Baxter	Cllr D Levy	81.00%	95.00%	▲				65.89%	95.00%	▲
OCC11.03 General balances are forecast to remain at or above the risk assessed level	Lorna Baxter	Cllr D Levy	£29,661,000	£30,200,000	●				£29,661,000	£30,200,000	●
OCC11.04 Directorates deliver services and achieve planned performance within agreed budget	Lorna Baxter	Cllr D Levy	2.1%	0.0%	▲				2.2%	0.0%	▲
OCC11.05 Total Outturn variation for DSG funded services (schools/early years)	Lorna Baxter	Cllr D Levy	0.00%	0.00%	★				0.00%	0.00%	★
OCC11.06 Total Outturn variation for DSG funded services (high needs)	Lorna Baxter	Cllr D Levy	5.50%	0.00%	▲				1.23%	0.00%	●
OCC11.07 Use of non-DSG revenue grant funding	Lorna Baxter	Cllr D Levy	95.00%	95.00%	★				95.00%	95.00%	★
OCC11.08 % of agreed invoices paid within 30 days	Lorna Baxter	Cllr D Levy	97.69%	95.00%	★				95.73%	95.00%	★
OCC11.09 Invoice collection rate - Corporate Debtors	Lorna Baxter	Cllr D Levy	97.43%	95.00%	★	This measure identifies the percentage of invoices issued that have been paid within 120 days. In this period, we measured invoices issued in October 2023. The collection rate was 97.43%, above the target of 95%.			97.12%	95.00%	★

Measure	Director	Portfolio Holder	Period Actual	Period Target	Status	Comment	Finance Impact	Risk Impact	YTD Actual	YTD Target	YTD
OCC11.10 Debt requiring impairment - Corporate Debtors	Lorna Baxter	Cllr D Levy	£566,882	£300,000	●	<p>Debt requiring impairment is the value of invoices with potential to become unrecoverable. The potential loss requires recording in the accounts at year end. If at year end there is an overall increase in the value of invoices at risk, we are required to top up the impairment balance.</p> <p>Consequently, this figure is tracked through the year.</p> <p>Debt requiring impairment this month is £0.567m. The top five cases account for 50% of the total bad debt and is being actively worked on. The top debtor is £0.158m and has gone into liquidation. A claim has been placed with the liquidators.</p>			£566,882	£300,000	●
OCC11.11 Debt requiring impairment - ASC contribution debtors	Lorna Baxter	Cllr D Levy	£4,894,000	£3,500,000	▲	<p>The 2022-23 year-end adults care contribution impairment for bad debt was £4.60m, bad debt at the end of December is £4.9m, £0.3m higher. However, although higher than last year's closing balances this is a £0.17m decrease since last month. As reported previously wider economic factors have had a significant effect on means tested social care contribution debt levels, as have delays with the court of protection and related activity, this tracks with other local authorities' experience. A bad debt task team has been operational since July 2022 with the objective to resolve £3.7m of historic debt. The service continues to track team performance closely in the lead up to the financial year end with a focus on resolving cases that contribute to bad debt. Additionally, a review of historic cases is underway to better inform the final year-end impairment risk assessment.</p> <p>In relation to the debt focus work the Adults' plan was to fund temporary income collection staff via a reduction in the bad debt impairment, to achieve this the ASC bad debt level needs to finish the year below the 2022-23 year end position. If the impairment is not reduced by year end there will be additional staffing pressures as well as a cost to top up the impairment, the return on investment will not be realised.</p>			£4,894,000	£3,500,000	▲

Measure	Director	Portfolio Holder	Period Actual	Period Target	Status	Comment	Finance Impact	Risk Impact	YTD Actual	YTD Target	YTD
OCC11.12 Average cash balance compared to forecast average cash balance	Lorna Baxter	Cllr D Levy	£489,826,	£480,000,0	★				£475,598,7	£480,000,0	★
OCC11.13 Average interest rate achieved on in-house investment portfolio	Lorna Baxter	Cllr D Levy	3.96%	3.00%	★				3.44%	3.00%	★
OCC11.14 Average annualised return achieved for externally managed funds	Lorna Baxter	Cllr D Levy	3.75%	3.75%	★				3.75%	3.75%	★
OCC11.15 Invoice Collection Rate - ASC contribution debtors	Lorna Baxter	Cllr D Levy	90.98%	92.00%	★	The 120-day invoice collection rate remains at 90.98% this period, below the 92% target but above the average for 22/23, which was 89%. A development to redesign reminder letters went live in October 2023 and is expected to drive an improvement in collection rates by the end of the year. The target is to reach 92% by the end of the financial year 23/24.			90.57%	92.00%	★



## Introduction

1. This annex sets out the fifth financial monitoring update for the 2023/24 financial year and is based on information to the end of January 2024. Key issues, as well as risks relating to inflation, demand and other factors, plus any areas of emerging pressure are explained below.

The following additional information is provided to support the information in this Annex:

Annex B – 1 (a) to (e)	Detailed directorate positions
Annex B – 2b	Virements to note
Annex B – 2c	Supplementary estimate to approve
Annex B – 3	Earmarked reserves
Annex B – 4	Government grants
Annex B – 5	General Balances

## Overall Financial Position

2. As shown below directorates are forecasting an overspend of £12.3m (2.1%). After taking account of additional interest receivable on balances held by the council and the use of funding held in contingency and the COVID-19 reserve, the overall forecast is balanced to the net operating budget.

	Latest Budget Jan-24 £m	Forecast Spend Jan-24 £m	Forecast Variance Jan-24 £m	Forecast Variance Jan-24 %	Forecast Variance Nov-23 £m	Change Since Nov-23 £m
Adult Services	229.3	229.3	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Children's Services	172.0	185.0	13.0	7.5%	12.8	0.1
Environment & Place	75.3	72.4	-2.9	-3.9%	-0.8	-2.1
Public Health	4.1	4.1	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Community Safety	27.7	28.1	0.4	1.4%	0.5	-0.1
Resources	73.5	75.4	1.9	2.6%	2.0	-0.1
<b>Directorate Total</b>	<b>581.7</b>	<b>594.1</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>-2.1</b>
<b>Budgets Held Centrally</b>						
Capital Financing	28.4	28.4	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Interest on Balances	-16.6	-18.9	-2.2	13.5%	-1.8	-0.4
Contingency <sup>1</sup> and Inflation	9.2	0.5	-8.7	-94.5%	-7.0	-1.7
Un-ringfenced Specific Grants	-44.0	-44.0	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Insurance	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Contribution from COVID-19 reserve	-7.4	-8.8	-1.4	19.0%	-1.4	0.0
Contribution from Budget Priority Reserve	-2.4	-2.4	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Contributions to reserves	20.7	20.7	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Contribution to balances	7.6	7.6	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
<b>Total Budgets Held Centrally</b>	<b>-3.1</b>	<b>-15.4</b>	<b>-12.3</b>	<b>400.7%</b>	<b>-10.2</b>	<b>-2.1</b>
<b>Net Operating Budget</b>	<b>578.8</b>	<b>578.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>-4.2</b>
Business Rates & Council Tax funding	-578.8	-578.8	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
<b>Forecast Year End Position</b>	<b>-0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>-4.2</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes £4.2m one – off funding as set out in the Financial Monitoring Report to Cabinet in May 2023.

3. As noted in previous reports, financial risks which include inflation and demand pressures for children's social care, as well as workforce shortages, continue to make it much more challenging for the council to forecast activity and expenditure.
4. The overall forecast has reduced by £4.2m since November 2023. This reflects the reduction in the forecast directorate overspend and the use of contingency and additional interest on cash and other balances to manage the directorate pressure.
5. The forecast for Adult Services remains balanced to the budget. Risks within the council elements of the pooled budgets are being managed by the service.
6. The forecast overspend for Children's Services has increased by £0.1m since November 2023. Whilst the Home to School transport has remained unchanged from the £3.6m overspend reported to Cabinet in January, additional unbudgeted expenditure of £0.9m is required to fund temporary senior management posts within Education. In addition, there is £0.5m pressure relating to the reallocation of staffing savings. As reported throughout the year on-going underlying pressures are driven by a combination of increased care placements costs, and reliance on agency staff to cover vacancies. Action continues to be taken through a range of organisational, governance and business process controls as well as market management activity to address the underlying pressures but it is taking time for these to have an impact.
7. There is a forecast overspend of £0.4m for Community Safety as a result of reallocated budgeted staffing savings and an increase in training costs. A one-off payment of £0.2m made for a disabling injury/illness is recommended to be funded by a supplementary estimate.
8. The forecast underspend for Environment & Place has increased by £2.1m compared to the November 2023 forecast. There is a reduction in energy costs from lower energy activity, a reduction in waste management costs and additional income from enforcement activity.
9. The forecast overspend for Resources has reduced by £0.1m, mainly due to a number of vacancies in Communications, Strategy and Insight.
10. 73% of the budgeted savings of £10.2m which were not achieved as planned in 2022/23 are currently assessed as delivered or are expected to be delivered in 2023/24. 27% are assessed as amber or red.
11. 81% of the 2023/24 savings are assessed as delivered or are expected to be delivered and 19% are still assessed as amber or red. Action is continuing to be taken to ensure that the delivery of both existing planned savings and new budget reductions is maximised in 2023/24. The anticipated achievement of savings is incorporated into the forecast directorate position. Where relevant savings that are not expected to be achieved have been considered through the Budget & Business Planning Process for 2024/25.
12. The forecast 2023/24 deficit compared to Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding

for High Needs is £22.9m. This is £4.6m higher than the £18.3m forecast deficit approved by Cabinet in May 2023. The CIPFA code of practice currently requires negative High Needs DSG balances to be held in an unusable reserve. The forecast deficit would increase the cumulative negative High Needs DSG balance held in this reserve from £41.1m as at 31 March 2023 to £64.0m at 31 March 2024.

13. £0.5m continues to be held in corporate contingency to meet the cost of pay inflation for vacant posts as they are recruited to. The balance of £8.7m, which includes £4.2m one – off funding, has been used to support directorate pressures. After taking account of the use of contingency and funding from the COVID-19 reserve to support the overall forecast position, as well as supplementary estimates agreed earlier in the year balances would be £29.8m at year end, £0.4m lower than the risk assessed level of £30.2m.

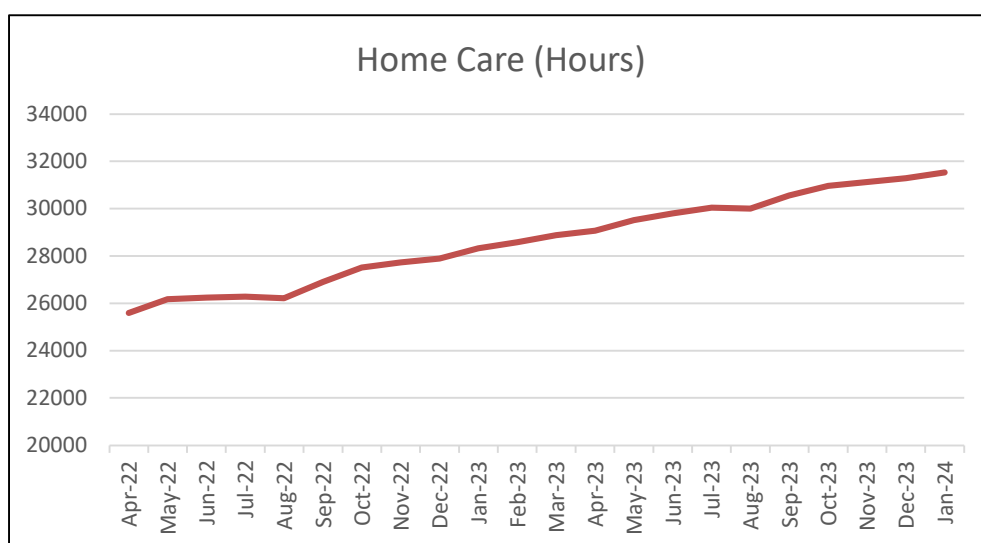
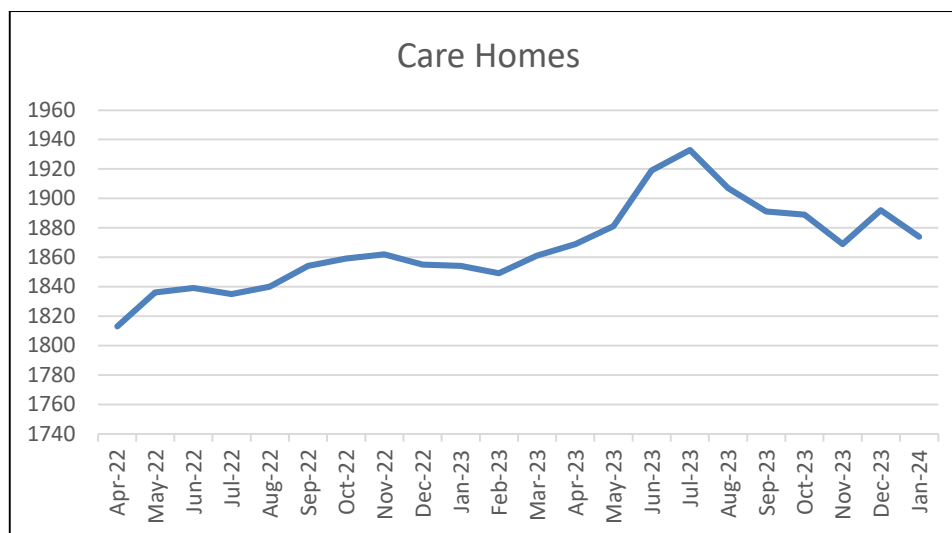
## Directorate Forecasts

### Adult Services

14. Adult Services is forecasting a breakeven position against a budget of £229.3m. This is unchanged from the November 2023 position.

Service Area	Latest Budget Jan-24 £m	Forecast Spend Jan-24 £m	Forecast Variance Jan-24 £m	Forecast Variance Nov-23 £m	Change Since Nov-23 £m
Adult Social Care	25.8	26.4	0.6	0.8	-0.2
Health, Education & Social Care Commissioning	5.4	4.8	-0.6	-0.7	0.1
Housing & Social Care Commissioning	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Business Support Service	1.1	1.0	-0.1	-0.1	0.0
Pooled Budgets	195.5	195.6	0.1	0.0	0.1
<b>Total Adult Services</b>	<b>229.3</b>	<b>229.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

15. The forecast reflects an agreement on the sharing of costs for adults with Section 117 aftercare support under the Mental Health Act with the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board, bringing the health and social care system funding more in line with other local authorities and care boards.
16. While the overall forecast is balanced forecast expenditure continues to be impacted by an increase in the number of care packages during the year. This has been particularly noticeable within care homes and home support as shown in the activity graphs below. Expenditure will increase further if demand continues to rise over the remainder of the year.



17. To address demand pressures, a number of actions continue to be taken. These include ensuring that all spend is aligned to the “Oxfordshire Way” approach through supporting people to remain in their own homes for as long as possible and the result of this is beginning to be seen in the care home graph above since July 2023.

### **Pooled Budgets**

#### Age Well Pooled Budget

18. The Age Well pool combines health and social care expenditure on care homes, activity relating to hospital avoidance and prevention and early support activities for older people.
19. Budgets within the pool are managed on an aligned basis with the Integrated Care Board (ICB) for Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire West (BOB) so each partner is responsible for the variation against their element of the funding.
20. The council elements of the Age Well pool are forecast to overspend by £0.4m. Care Home activity has increased largely because of an increase of 32 backdated

threshold cases identified since the last report.

21. This position assumes that the required savings have been achieved and is after using the Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund (MSIF) grant of £3.4m.
22. The council's share of the Better Care Fund (BCF) being utilised within the pool is £29.4m.
23. While certainty has increased as the year has progressed, there are still risks and assumptions within the forecast. These include:
  - The level of backdated threshold cases continues to increase.
  - The level of client contribution is assumed at a consistent level for the remainder of the year based on past trends.
  - Growth in placements, particularly residential, through the remainder of the year. Although there is a seasonal trend, it is difficult to predict accurately how activity will move. There is also a risk relating to improvements in the timeliness of assessments which may increase the number of new placements in the remaining months of the year.

#### Live Well Pooled Budget

24. The Live Well pool supports a combination of health and social care needs for adults of working age with learning disabilities, acquired brain injury or mental health needs and adults with physical disabilities.
25. Budgets within the pool are managed on an aligned basis with the Integrated Care Board (ICB) for Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire West (BOB).
26. The council elements of the Live Well pool are forecasting a £0.3m underspend after taking account of the following:
  - A £3.0m underspend within the Higher Functioning Autism, Learning Disabilities and Acquired Brain Injury areas of the pool. This has increased by £0.3m since the last report as a result of changes in care packages.
  - A £2.7m overspend within Physical Disabilities relates to an increase in demand for both care homes and home support during late 2022/23 creating a pressure in 2023/24. Over the last 12 months, up to December 23, there has been a 12% increase in care home placements (10 placements) and a 9% increase in the number of homecare hours delivered per week (275 hours).

Risks or uncertainties in both service groups relate to:

- Growth in care packages, particularly for supported living and home support, through the year. Although there is a seasonal trend it is difficult to predict accurately how activity will move throughout the remaining months of the year. There is also a risk relating to the timeliness of assessments which may increase the number of new packages made in year.

27. Having overspent in 2022/23 it is anticipated that following changes to the budget and contracts for 2023/24, the Mental Health services provided through the Outcome Based Contract with Oxford Health will spend in line with budget this year.

### **Non-Pool Services**

28. A breakeven position is forecast across all other services.

### **Reserves**

29. £0.4m held in the Budget Priorities reserve for Adult Social Care as at 31 March 2023 is being used to fund intensive support costs and the wider directorate position in 2023/34.
30. Most of the £2.1m held as a result of additional contributions made by Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group over the last three financial years is also committed to be used in 2023/24. £0.2m is committed against spend in 2024/25 and 2025/26. The ICB are working through a spending plan to utilise this funding.
31. £0.3m added to the Government Initiative Reserve in 2022/23 related to charging reform, reflecting elements of the Trailblazer programme where costs will continue to be incurred in 2023/24 and 2024/25 ahead of the revised date for charging reform in autumn 2025.

### **Ringfenced Grants**

32. As set out in Annex 4, ring-fenced government grants expected to be received by Adult Services in 2023/24 total £21.1m.
33. The Improved Better Care Fund Grant is £10.7m, with no change since 2022/23. The conditions attached to the grant funding require it to be used for the purposes of meeting adult social care needs, including contributing to the stabilisation of local care markets and supporting the NHS in addressing pressures such as delayed discharges.
34. The Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund is £5.4m and is being used to support the provider fee uplift in 2023/24 in line with the terms of the grant, to enhance the uplift, and to maintain uplifts from 2022/23 funded through the Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care grant which now forms part of this grant.
35. The Market Sustainability and Improvement Workforce Fund is £3.5m and is being used to increase social care capacity through increasing social care workforce capacity and retention, reducing social care waiting times and increasing fee rates paid to social care providers.
36. The Adult Social Care Discharge Fund is £1.5m. This will be used to provide interventions that improve discharge of patients from hospital to the most appropriate location for their ongoing care.

### **Virements**

37. Virements to note reflect budget movements within the pools and the realignment

of staffing budgets within Adult Social Care.

## **Children's Services**

38. Children's Services is forecasting an overspend of £13.0m against a budget of £172.0m.

39. As reported throughout the year the underlying pressures in Children's Services highlighted in the overspend in 2022/23 reported to Cabinet in June 2023, have remained a significant challenge in 2023/24. These are driven by a combination of care placements costs, staffing, particularly the reliance on agency staff to cover vacancies, and Home to School Transport.

Service Area	Latest Budget Jan-24 £m	Forecast Spend Jan-24 £m	Forecast Variance Jan-24 £m	Forecast Variance Nov-23 £m	Change Since Nov-23 £m
Education & Learning	39.7	43.9	4.2	3.6	0.6
Schools <sup>2</sup>	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Subtotal Education</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>44.2</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>0.6</b>
Early Help, Front Door & Social Care	75.8	78.7	2.8	2.2	0.7
Provider Services & Safeguarding	44.8	50.0	5.2	6.0	-0.8
Children's Services Central Costs	11.5	12.1	0.6	1.0	-0.4
<b>Subtotal Children's Social Care</b>	<b>132.1</b>	<b>140.8</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>-0.5</b>
<b>Total Children's Services</b>	<b>172.0</b>	<b>182.0</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>0.1</b>
<b>Overspend on High Needs DSG that will be transferred to the unusable reserve</b>	<b>265.3</b>	<b>288.2</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>1.7</b>

## **Education & Learning**

40. Within Education & Learning, the Home to School Transport and the Special Educational Needs (SEN) service continue to be high risk in terms of budget variance.

41. The £3.6m forecast overspend for Home to School transport remains unchanged from the position reported in November 2023. The pressure reflects higher activity in the service than was budgeted for and the impact of rolling annual tenders for bus routes. In addition, the service has reviewed a planned saving commitment of £1.0m and confirmed that it will not be delivered in year.

42. Additional unbudgeted expenditure of £0.6m is required to fund temporary senior management posts and SEND Transformation support within Education.

43. Within the Special Education Needs (SEN) service there are considerable ongoing pressures on the SEN casework team and Educational Psychologists due to the continued high number of Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) requests. An

<sup>2</sup> \*Maintained Schools are funded by Dedicated Schools Grant

additional on-going investment of £0.5m was included in the 2023/24 budget to fund additional staff to manage demand for EHCPs.

### **Children's Social Care**

44. Forecast pressures of £8.7m within Children's Social Care continue to be driven by a combination of care placement costs and staffing. This particularly relates to the reliance on agency staff to cover vacancies and an emerging gap relating to joint funding with Health Partners. £0.5m relates to the reallocation of budgeted agency staffing savings.

45. Underlying pressures remain despite additional budget added in 2023/24 and actions to prevent and reduce costs. This is due to a combination of:

- The on-going effect of the 2022/23 overspend. Because this increased in the last quarter of the year it was not fully anticipated in the Budget & Business Planning process for 2023/24.
- Changes in practice, interventions to prevent unnecessary referrals and reduce the number and cost of cases is taking more time to impact on expenditure than anticipated.
- The financial volatility in the market for care together with the impact of spiralling inflation and shortages in local capacity are undermining the service Sufficiency Strategy to manage the market. As a consequence, the service continues to experience an accelerating increase in placement fees especially 'Spot' rates.

46. The drivers of the pressures remain the same as in 2022/23 and include:

- Continued workload pressure, increased vacancies and recruitment difficulties within front-line services especially Family Solutions Plus.
- Though the number of children in care is reducing the rate of decrease is slower than anticipated and is being offset by increases in underlying unit cost rates especially the growing number of very complex cases.

47. The most significant variances include:

- Children with Disabilities: £2.4m forecast overspend due to £2.1m pressures on placement budgets (a combination of an increased more complex level of care and higher rates) and £0.3m pressures on team budgets. The improvement in the forecast overspend by £0.6m compared to the previously reported position is due to a combination of a reduction in the forecast of new placements and a reduction in the level of care required in existing placements.
- High Cost and Unregistered Placements: £4.5m forecast overspend including a reduction of £0.5m since the last report due to:
  - the anticipated impact of the introduction of a new framework contract to ensure compliance, standardise fees and deliver better value.
  - additional arrangements to monitor, track, control and forecast placements.



- Continued dependence on high-cost agency staff to cover vacancies due to shortages of staff in the marketplace: £2.1m
- Conversely the pressure has been mitigated to some extent by:
  - Substantial forecast underspends on staffing.
  - Underlying reductions in legal and transport costs
  - An increase in NHS Health partner joint funding for Continuing Healthcare and Mental Health (Section 117)
  - Progress in managing to reduce the scale of high-cost placements including unregistered placements during the year. These have reduced from 17+ in August 2022 to 6 and under throughout this year.

### **Children's Social Care: Pressures, Drivers, and Action Plan**

48. Given the scale of the £19.1m overspend for Children's Social Care in 2022/23, the time needed for the actions taken to date to have an impact and the urgent need to address the shortfalls in market capacity, the service has undertaken a comprehensive review of its vision and strategy. The Financial Strategy sets out a new baseline and financial investment, cost reduction and timeline to bring spend within current budget and recover the overspend. The on-going impacts of the strategy have been considered through the Budget & Business Planning process for 2024/25.

### **Actions to Turn the Position around and Evidence of Improvement**

49. The service has implemented organisational, governance and business process controls and market management actions to address the underlying pressures. These include:

- Continued scrutiny of spend by senior management and the leadership team.
- Streamlining of referrals at the 'front door' (MASH) - revising thresholds & practices.
- The Family Solutions Plus (FSP) teams are working to reduce the backlog of assessments and intervention measures.
- Development of a robust recruitment and retention policy.
- Working to reduce the number of children in care and tracking those where care placements are due to cease.
- Ongoing reduction in the number of children living in high-cost placements.
- Brokerage action plan to ensure timely, suitable, cost-effective placements are sourced.
- A 'LEAN' review of the placement process and identification of efficiencies.

50. Evidence that the actions are having an impact is reflected in the number of Children We Care For (CWCF).

	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	Aug 2023	Sept 2023	Oct 2023	Nov 2023	Dec 2023	Jan 2024
Oxfordshire born children	778	755	735	709	687	658	653	655	645	637
Disabled Children	61	62	58	56	49	49	49	51	50	49
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>817</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>736</b>	<b>707</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>706</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>686</b>
Unaccompanied	69	73	108	100	91	99	107	110	108	93
<b>Total</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>901</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>827</b>	<b>806</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>779</b>

51. The downward trend in the number of CWCF is due to the above actions and in particular the use of strengths based proportionate assessment, resulting in a greater number of families and their children being supported in their own homes and fewer children becoming children we care for.

52. In addition, emphasis is also being placed on permanence planning and finding other more suitable (and usually more cost-effective) placements, including reunification to the family home and adoption.

53. Though the activity has reduced the underlying costs of care placements continue to rise and are offsetting and undermining the improvement in activity.

54. The forecast also reflects unachieved savings from previous years which have been considered through the Budget & Business Planning Process for 2024/25 plus £0.5m of re-allocated budgeted staffing savings.

55. The focus of the Financial Strategy is to ensure the improvements are continued and grown while also applying the same rigor and focus to managing the market, the escalation in rates, the challenge of greater complexity and encouraging joint partnership work to address Continuing Healthcare (CHC) needs and resource.

### **Children's Services Central Costs**

56. £0.6m forecast overspend relating to a claim for historic legal fees.

### **Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)**

57. The forecast overspend against High Needs DSG funding is a deficit of £22.9m. This is £4.6m higher than the £18.3m forecast deficit approved by Cabinet in May 2023.

Summary of DSG funding	2023/24 Budget £m	2023/24 Projected Outturn £m	Variance January 2023 £m
Schools block	131.2	131.2	0.0
Central Services Schools block	5.0	5.0	0.0
High Needs block	84.7	107.6	22.9
Early Years block	44.4	44.4	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>265.3</b>	<b>288.2</b>	<b>22.9</b>

58. Key issues impacting on spend that are impacting on and being managed as part of the forecast are the cost of placements from September 2023, tribunal challenges to placement decisions and the impact of inflation on providers' fees.

59. There is no change forecast on Central and Schools DSG.

60. The Chancellor announced significant changes to childcare arrangements in the Spring Budget 2023. This included:

- an uplift to rates payable for the period September 2023 to March 2024. The funding for this is received via a specific grant which will be subsumed within DSG from April 2024. The grant is in the region of £3.0m, and the exact amount will be known in June 2024, after the schools' census return. The council will need to pass the grant to providers in full.
- New Grant of £0.3m for Schools in Financial Difficulty. The grant was recently announced and has just been received. There is no criteria other than schools in financial difficulty for the allocation of this grant which must be spent in year. The service is considering the options for investing with the schools.

61. The DfE have announced support for the September 2023 Teachers Pay Award via the Teachers Pay Additional Grant. Of the 6.5% pay award, the DfE are providing 3%, based on the assumption that there is 3.5% within school budget. The grant will be passed on in full to establishments and will be subsumed within the DSG from 2025/26.

## **Environment & Place**

62. Environment & Place is forecasting an underspend of £2.9m against a budget of £75.3m.

Service Area	Latest Budget Jan-24 £m	Forecast Spend Jan-24 £m	Forecast Variance Jan-24 £m	Forecast Variance Nov-23 £m	Change Since Nov-23 £m
Transport& Infrastructure	13.6	12.3	-1.3	-0.6	-0.7
Planning, Environment & Climate Change	37.6	37.0	-0.6	0.1	-0.7
Highways & Operations	21.5	20.4	-1.1	-0.4	-0.7
Directorate Support	2.6	2.7	+0.1	0.1	0.0
<b>Total Environment &amp; Place</b>	<b>75.3</b>	<b>72.4</b>	<b>-2.9</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>-2.1</b>

### **Transport & Infrastructure**

63. Transport & Infrastructure comprises Transport Policy, Place Making and Infrastructure Delivery. An underspend of £1.3m is forecast mainly due to a £1.0m underspend on community transport initiatives. More time is required to deliver on the on-going investment of £1.2m agreed in February 2023 due to a lack of interested operators for the new transport services in rural areas. The service is exploring other options for the provision of these services and is engaging with stakeholders on proposed schemes.

64. The Infrastructure Delivery and Place Making service areas are currently forecasting a £0.3m underspend as a result of funding received to support Programme Management Office costs and other specialist functions needed to support the delivery of the Major Infrastructure capital programme.

### **Planning, Environment & Climate change**

65. The Planning, Environment & Climate change service area is made up of Strategic Planning, Climate Change and Environment & Circular economy. The service area is forecasting to underspend by £0.6m.

66. Strategic Planning are forecasting to breakeven. The overspend forecast previously has now been mitigated through an overachievement of income.

67. Climate Change is forecasting an underspend of £0.3m due to vacancies within the team.

68. Waste Management is forecasting an underspend of £0.3m. This has improved by £0.7m compared to the November 2023 position mainly due to service pressures being offset by underspends on the Lead Local Flood Authority initiative. Although the service is now fully resourced, it has taken time to utilise the investment in this financial year and the full effect will be reflected in 2024/25.

69. Issues which continue to impact on the service are:

- Tonnages at the Energy Recovery Facility are continuing to increase over and above historic trends and there are further pressures resulting from an increase in the volume of green waste due to a warmer than usual autumn. Kerbside residual waste recycling levels have decreased due to a decline in household recycling mirroring the national trend. These pressures are offset partially through underspends in staffing.
  - Implementation of the new legislative requirements for the Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) waste stream where a change in the law means the council needs to fund the cost of storing, shredding, and burning soft furnishings, as an alternative to landfill. An additional budget allocation of £0.2m to support this was included in the budget for 2023/24 but this is costing more than anticipated.
  - Legislative changes around DIY charges will create an additional pressure in the last quarter of the year which will be mitigated by the service.
70. The Waste team is continuing to work on waste prevention campaigns with the district and city councils. They are also monitoring the market, particularly around POPs, to ensure current prices are the best achievable and are planning as far as possible with the information available to mitigate the increased costs arising from changes to DIY charges.
71. There is a pressure in the Tree Service due to additional work associated with tree services in Oxford City. The service is mitigating the pressure through working with Oxford City partners, by moving the works schedule to a reactive programme to reduce the level of spend, as well as the utilisation of directorate reserves.
72. There are inflationary pressures within Public Rights of Way but it is anticipated that these can be managed within existing budgets.

### **Highways & Operations**

73. Highways & Operations is forecasting an underspend of £1.1m due to an over achievement of income through enforcement in Network Co-ordination and a reduction in energy cost baskets provided by Crown Commercial Services.
74. Within the Highway Maintenance service there was a significant increase in highways defects that needed repair in the first quarter of the financial year. This was primarily attributable to the consequence of the bad weather on roads that are not in particularly good condition and is similar to higher levels of activity seen across the country. The number of defects reduced in the summer but increased in October, November and December and remains higher than the same month in 2022. Although the number of defects is greater than last year, the overall number of defects across the network is starting to level out.

Month	Defects 2022/23	Defects 2023/24	% Increase
April	3,320	4,143	24.8%
May	2,927	4,944	68.9%
June	2,212	4,695	112.2%
July	1,979	4,134	108.9%
August	1,888	2,553	35.1%
September	1,715	2,363	37.8%
October	1,650	2,927	77.39%
November	1,980	3,088	55.96%
December	1,840	2,837	54.18%
January	3,057	3,574	16.91%

75. Additional personnel continue to be deployed to manage the current defect volumes. The increase in defect numbers and the cost increase of associated repairs is currently being managed within the service area budgets through reduction on other operational spend where possible, though there remains a risk if activity increases in the remaining months of the year.

76. Energy for street lighting is obtained through Crown Commercial Services. An update received during the year set out a secured reduced energy price of £0.23, £0.26 lower than assumed when the budget was set. In addition to the reduction in energy prices, there is also a 38% reduction in consumption on the network as a result of the LED replacement programme. Taken together these mean there is a forecast underspend of £1.9m. However, energy prices remain volatile and there are also risks relating to unmetered energy consumption.

77. Network Management is currently forecasting an underspend of £0.9m due to income achieved through the enforcement on the network and staff vacancies. It is anticipated that this may increase if the volume of utility works on the network continues at the current rate. A further underspend is anticipated as a result of additional enforcement income on the network.

78. Supported transport is forecasting an overspend of £0.6m as a result of savings of £0.4m from 2022/23 plus a further saving of £0.2m in 2023/24 that are not expected to be delivered. The on-going impact has been removed through the Budget & Business Planning Process for 2024/25.

### **Directorate Support**

79. The Directorate Support service area is currently forecasting an underspend of £0.1m due to staff vacancies as a result of service transformation. The teams will be fully resourced by the end of the financial year. This underspend is largely offset by the reallocation of additional staffing savings.

### **Budget Virements**

80. Cabinet is asked to note virements relating to the allocation of transformation savings in line with the revised structure.

### **Public Health and Community Safety**

81. Public Health and Community Safety are forecasting a £0.4m overspend against a budget of £31.7m.

Service Area	Latest Budget Jan-24 £m	Forecast Spend Jan-24 £m	Forecast Variance Jan-24 £m	Forecast Variance Nov-23 £m	Change Since Nov-23 £m
Public Health Functions	37.8	37.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Public Health Recharges	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Income	-0.7	-0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grant Income	-33.6	-33.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Transfer to Public Health Reserve	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Total Public Health</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Total Community Safety</b>	<b>27.6</b>	<b>28.1</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
<b>Total Public Health &amp; Community Safety</b>	<b>31.7</b>	<b>32.1</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>-0.1</b>

### **Public Health**

82. A break-even position is forecast for services funded by the Public Health grant after transferring a £0.2m underspend to the Public Health reserve at year end. The underspend is made up of:

- £0.2m overspend on the substance misuse service due to increased activity in residential rehabilitation and detoxification treatment service which improves outcomes for people with complex treatment needs. This is a £0.1m reduction from the previously reported overspend as the budget now reflects the virement from other public health services as noted in the previous report.
- £0.1m overspend on National Health Service health checks because of the high level of activity in primary care which is in line with the national trend post COVID-19; offset by
- £0.1m underspend reported within the obesity service as service delivery changes will not take place until 2024/25.
- £0.2m underspend on Sexual health services linked to activity levels.
- £0.1m underspend on staffing, linked to in-year delays in recruiting to vacant roles.
- £0.1m underspend within other public health services due to delayed implementation of access to nature programmes and the change in estimated costs of Better Housing Better Health work. This is a £0.3m reduction from the previous report as the budget has been moved to partly offset the financial pressure within the substance misuse services.

### **Community Safety**

83. Community Safety are forecasting a £0.4m overspend as a result of the following:

- The reallocation of budgeted agency savings of £0.2m which are unlikely to be achieved by the end of the year.
- A one-off payment of £0.2m made for a disabling injury/illness which is recommended to be met by a supplementary estimate.
- £0.2m additional staff costs linked to the Botley Road closure and the Rewley Road property development.
- £0.1m linked to the impact of inflation on the cost of maintaining the services fleet of vehicles and an increase in the cost of training resulting from the need to provide training to new recruits following staff leaving unexpectedly. This has now been offset by a £0.1m underspend within trading standards relating to delays in recruitment, and the receipt of unexpected one-off income.

### **Ringfenced Government Grants**

84. The ringfenced Public Health grant totals £33.6m in 2023/24. A 2.3% uplift has been confirmed for 2024/25.

### **Use of Un-ringfenced Government Grant Funding**

85. Un-ringfenced grants held centrally and agreed to be used to support expenditure budgets within Public Health and Community Safety include:

- £1.2m Domestic Abuse Duty Grant supporting the provision of accommodation-based support to victims of domestic abuse and their children.
- £0.6m Substance Misuse Treatment & Recovery Housing Grant being used to deliver the Government's aim that by 2024/25 there will be more people recovering from addiction in stable and secure housing.
- £0.6m Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery grant. This is the second year of a three-year scheme where the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) is working alongside other government departments to support a process of investment in a whole system approach to tackling illicit drug use, including enforcement, diversion and treatment and recovery interventions.
- £1.2m Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol Grant is being used to provide specialist support for rough sleepers and those at risk. This includes an increase of £0.1m for inpatient detox and residential rehabilitation.
- £1.3m Firefighter's Pension Fund Grant and £0.1m from the New Dimensions Fund
- £0.1m Firelink Grant - The council has been notified of a 20% reduction in this grant from the previous year and that this grant will continue to reduce by 20% in each of the next four years.

### **Reserves**

86. £5.9m unspent grant funding was held in Public Health reserve at 1 April 2023. £1.9m is forecast to be spent in 2023/24, £1.8m in 2024/25 and £1.2m in 2025/26, leaving a balance of £1.0m. Options to utilise all the funding by 2027/28 in line with the grant requirements are being considered.



87. £2.7m is held in reserves for the renewal of fire and rescue vehicles and breathing apparatus equipment, this will increase by a further £0.3m during 2023/24. A fleet replacement strategy is being agreed which will require the use of this funding.
88. £0.9m is being held to cover the cost of the replacement of Airwave for Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service and the implementation of the new national Emergency Service Mobile Communications Programme.
89. £0.5m is being held in the Fire Uplift Grant reserve to fund employee costs expected to be incurred over the next three to five years.
90. £0.2m is being held to expand the Making Every Contact Count work programme in Oxfordshire; £0.1m will be spent in 2023/24 with the remaining balance being used in 2024/25.
91. £0.1m of the Community Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) allocated to Public Health will be used to part fund the healthy homes

### **Virements**

92. Cabinet is recommended to approve a £0.2m supplementary estimate to Community Safety to cover the one-off payment made for a disabling injury/illness cost.

## **Resources and Law & Governance**

93. The services within Resources are forecasting a combined overspend of £1.9m (3.0%) against a budget of £73.5m. This is a reduction of £0.1m compared to the November forecast.

Service Area	Latest Budget Jan-24 £m	Forecast Spend Jan-24 £m	Forecast Variance Jan-24 £m	Forecast Variance Nov-23 £m	Change Since Nov-23 £m
Corporate Services	2.3	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Human Resources & Organisational Development	4.8	4.2	-0.5	-0.3	-0.2
Communications, Strategy & Insight	3.5	3.4	-0.1	0.0	-0.1
IT, Innovation & Digital	10.5	11.1	0.6	0.7	-0.1
Culture & Customer Experience	12.7	13.3	0.5	0.4	0.1
Finance & Procurement	8.9	9.4	0.5	0.4	0.1
Property, Investment & Facilities Management	19.7	20.2	0.4	0.4	0.0
Law & Governance	8.0	8.5	0.5	0.4	0.1
Delivery & Partnership	3.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>73.5</b>	<b>75.4</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>-0.1</b>

94. **Corporate Services** are forecasting a breakeven position.

95. **Human Resources & Organisational Development (HR&OD)** is forecast to

underspend by £0.5m.

96. **Communications, Strategy & Insight** are forecasting to underspend by £0.1m due to a number of vacancies in the team.
97. **IT, Innovation & Digital** are forecasting an overspend of £0.6m, after taking account of a reduction of £0.1m relating to non-achievement of cross directorate savings agreed as part of the 2023/24 budget. Action to achieve these is at risk, due to the nature of the work and time taken to realise benefits.
98. **Culture and Customer Experience** are forecasting an overspend of £0.5m. This is mainly in the Coroners Service where the appointment of an Area Coroner has created an in-year pressure and the demand for coronial activity continues to increase year on year. There are also pressures in the Customer Service Centre where firm savings have not yet been identified in the corporate customer service consolidation programme. Additionally, increased income in Music Services has not materialised and the re-allocation of staffing savings has also contributed to the overspend. Work continues to ensure that the Music Services and Registration Services are able to maximise their income opportunities to meet customer demand.
99. **Finance and Procurement** are forecasting a £0.5m overspend due to the cost of agency staff being utilised to cover hard to fill vacancies, and an increase in staff costs following a job evaluation review.
100. **Property Services** are forecasting an overspend of £0.4m. The School Catering service is forecasting to overspend due to inflationary pressures, but this will be mitigated by savings in other areas. £0.5m funding for the Community Hub Strategy is assumed to be fully utilised by year end. Anticipated savings from vacating one of the council's office buildings will be offset by estimated dilapidation costs in 2023/24.
101. **Law and Governance** are forecasting an overspend of £0.5m. 2023/24 is a transition year for the new structures which were implemented in Governance in the second quarter of 2023/24 and are anticipated to be implemented in Legal Services in quarter four of 2023/24. As a result, higher locum costs in Legal Services are still expected to be incurred for most of the year.
102. **Delivery & Partnership** includes the delivery of cost-of-living measures and the council's migration and asylum programmes, including Homes for Ukraine. The budget is mainly funded from earmarked reserves and specific government grants and is forecast to break even.

### **Medium Term Financial Strategy Savings**

103. After taking account of new and previously agreed savings the 2023/24 budget agreed includes planned directorate savings of £28.2m.
104. £10.2m of the 2022/23 savings were not achieved as planned in the last

financial year. 73% of these savings are assessed as delivered or are expected to be delivered. 27% are still assessed as amber or red. Any planned savings not delivered in 2022/23, where the on-going impact was not adjusted through the 2023/24 Budget & Business Planning Process, need to be achieved in 2023/24 as well as new savings agreed in February 2023.

105. 81% of the 2023/24 savings are assessed as delivered or are expected to be delivered. 3% are currently assessed as amber and 17% are assessed as red. Work is continuing to ensure that these savings are achieved.

	2023/24 Planned Savings	Forecast Delivery of 2023/24 Planned Savings	2022/23 Savings that need to be delivered in 2023/24	Forecast Delivery of 2022/23 Savings In 2023/24
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Adult Services	-18.4	-17.9	-4.0	-3.6
Children's Services	-3.9	-1.7	-1.9	0.0
Environment & Place	-1.6	-1.2	-2.3	-1.9
Community Safety	-0.4	-0.2	0.0	0.0
Resources & Cross Directorate	-3.9	-1.7	-2.0	-1.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-28.2</b>	<b>-22.8</b>	<b>-10.2</b>	<b>-7.4</b>
<b>TOTAL DELIVERED</b>		<b>81%</b>		<b>73%</b>

#### Adult Services

106. The 2023/24 budget includes planned savings of £18.4m. 97% of savings are forecast to be delivered. 2.5% are forecast as undeliverable in this financial year, although further work is being undertaken to look for alternative savings.

107. Undeliverable savings include reductions in the cost of vehicles used by council services expected to be achieved through the "One Fleet" Strategy and those which relate to managing demand, particularly in care homes.

108. There are also £4.0m of savings brought forward from 2022/23 to be delivered in 2023/24. 90% of these are expected to be delivered, but 10% of the savings are proving very challenging to deliver.

109. Some savings have overdelivered and will offset the undelivered savings.

#### Children's Services

110. The 2023/24 budget includes planned savings of £3.9m. 45% of these savings are forecast to be delivered. 55% of the savings are assessed as red and include £0.5m relating to service reviews of non-statutory / non-case holding areas, and £1.0m relating to reduction in agency staffing spend.

111. There are also £1.9m of savings brought forward from 2022/23 that need to be

delivered in 2023/24. All of these savings are assessed as red and include Home to school transport savings of £1m. The on-going impact has been considered through the Budget & Business Planning process for 2024/25.

#### Environment & Place

112. The 2023/24 budget includes planned savings of £1.6m. 75% are expected to be achieved. 16% assessed as red relate to savings on the use of technology to reduce costs relating to the home to school contract management and Countywide community transport initiatives schemes.
113. Whilst the directorate is currently working to deliver all savings, due to the timing of service transformation taking place part way through the financial year some of the savings will not be fully realised. Any resulting pressures are being managed within the overall budget for Environment & Place.
114. 85% of the £2.3m savings brought forward from 2022/23 are expected to be delivered in 2023/24. The on-going impact of a £0.6m unachieved saving relating to a home to school contract management system has been considered through the Budget & Business Planning Process for 2024/25.

#### Public Health & Community Safety

115. The 2023/24 budget includes planned savings of £0.2m. All savings are expected to be achieved.

#### Resources and Cross Directorate

116. The 2023/24 budget includes planned savings of £4.0m. 44% of these savings are forecast to be delivered following the reallocation of the £1.5m budgeted reduction in agency costs to directorates with the expectation that action will need to be taken by directorates to achieve this through reductions in employee costs. 42% savings assessed as red include agency staff savings and IT services digital transformation savings which haven't materialised.
117. 95% of the £2.0m savings not achieved in 2022/23 have been delivered in 2023/24.

### **Debt Management**

#### **Corporate Debtors**

118. The combined collection rate, based on invoice volumes, for December 2023 and January 2024 was 97.4%, 2.4% above the 95% target. The collection rate based on the value of invoices for the same period was 98.8%. The year-to-date collection rates are 97.7% and 99.41% respectively.
119. Debt requiring impairment is currently £0.6m, £0.3m above the year-end target of £0.3m and the top five debt cases account for 50% of all bad debt. The highest debt, (28% of the total), is owed by a company in administration and recovery is not expected at this stage. The remaining four cases are being tracked and progressed by the corporate income recovery team.

### **Adult Social Care Debtors**

120. The combined 120-day invoice collection rate for December 2023 and January 2024 was 91%, compared to the target collection rate of 92%. As reported changes to automated reminders were implemented in October and improvement to collection rates is expected by the last quarter of the year. The service continues to develop plans for improvements to business process and operations and an improvement project has been started.
121. The 2022/23 year-end adults care contribution impairment for bad debt was £4.6m. Projected bad debt as at the end of January is £4.8m, £0.2m higher than the current impairment balance. This has reduced by £0.2m since the last report. As reported previously the on-going impacts of COVID-19 and wider economic factors have had a significant effect on means tested social care contribution bad debt levels since 2020/21. The bad debt project, seeking resolution of £3.7m of historic debt, will conclude at the end of March 2024.
122. Cabinet is recommended to write off eleven Adult Social Care contribution debts totalling £0.2m. Six cases are those where arrears were not resolved before the person passed away and the estate was confirmed as insolvent. One case is a long running dispute linked to threshold dates, and the other three cases are circumstances where an individual has not managed their finances and have no available assets to settle the debts. In the final case the individual has been the victim of fraud; funds are not accessible for formal action to be taken.

### **Budgets Held Centrally**

123. After taking account of the use of one – off funding and contingency to support the forecast directorate overspend, there is a combined underspend of £12.3m against budgets held centrally.

#### Capital Financing Costs

124. The borrowing costs and minimum revenue provision (MRP) for capital projects funded by Prudential Borrowing are either recharged to directorates where savings arising from the scheme are expected to meet them or met corporately from the budget for capital financing costs. It is anticipated that after taking account of recharges to directorates the actual costs of the capital financing will be broadly aligned with the budget in 2023/24.

#### Interest on Balances

125. The current forecast outturn position for in house interest receivable is £19m, which is £8.0m above budget. It is estimated that £2.0m of this will need to be applied to developer contributions at year end.
126. The additional interest is a result of higher than forecast cash balances coupled with higher than forecast deposit rates. Currently, every extra £5m within the cash balance forecast will earn approximately £0.25m of interest annually.

127. Interest payable is currently forecast to be £12.9m. This is £0.2m below budget, as a result of the early repayment of two £5m LOBOs in August and October 2023.
128. The forecast outturn position for external fund returns is £4.0m, which is £0.2m above budget.
129. £2.2m additional interest on balances is currently factored into the forecast and is offsetting the directorate overspend. Depending on the final year end position a decision on the use of any remaining funding to top up balances to the risk assessed level for 2024/25 and for other purposes will be made through the Provisional Outturn Report to Cabinet in June 2024 and/or the Business Management & Monitoring Reports to Cabinet in 2024/25.
130. Cash balances for the year are forecast to be £51.9m lower than they would otherwise have been as a result of negative DSG balances (see paragraph 136). The impact of this is an estimated opportunity cost of £1.5m in unearned interest during 2023/24.

#### Pay Inflation and Contingency

131. The £12.4m contingency budget for 2023/24 included £4.2m one- off council tax and business rates funding agreed to be added as part of the Provisional Outturn Report 2022/23 to Cabinet in June 2023.
132. Virements reflecting the impact of the 2023/24 pay award were actioned at the end of December 2023. Further virements will be transacted to add funding for the pay award to vacant posts when those are recruited to and £0.5m has been held to meet possible costs relating to this in 2023/24.
133. The underspend against the remaining contingency budget is forecast to be £8.7m at 31 March 2024 after taking into account the pay award virements and estimated provision for inflation on vacant posts.

#### **Reserves**

134. As set out in Annex B - 3 Earmarked Reserves are forecast to be £167.4m at 31 March 2024.
135. **Business Rates Reserve** – This reserve is held to manage fluctuations in Business Rate income that the Council receives. In March 2024, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) notified the council of a Section 31 business rate relief outturn adjustment payment due of £0.6m relating to the financial years prior to and including 2022/23, and an additional grant of £0.1m to offset business rates reliefs for the green plant and machinery exemption. £0.6m additional funding relating to the distribution of the surplus Business Rates levy for 2023/24 was also notified by DLUHC in February 2024. The net increase of £0.1m will be added to the Business Rates Reserve.
136. An unusable reserve was created in 2020/21 to hold **negative High Needs DSG balances** in line with a change to the CIPFA code of practice on DSG High Needs

deficits. The net deficit of £22.9m for 2023/24 will increase the total High Needs deficit held in the reserve to £64.0m as at 31 March 2024. The regulations which require the negative balance to be held in an unusable reserve will come to an end on 31 March 2026. The impact of the unusable reserve on the council's ability to set a balanced budget over the medium term will need to be considered through the Budget & Business Planning Process for 2024/25.

137. As part of the Spring Budget 2024 the government announced £0.500m funding nationally for a six-month extension of the Household Support Fund at the current level from April to September 2024. Further information is awaited on the council's allocation and grant conditions.

138. Annex D sets out an update on the Cost of Living Programme that was set out in a report to Cabinet in March 2023. The following actions are proposed to maximise the cost of living and financial inequality resource in 2024/25:

- £0.5m unspent funding from the 2023/24 cost of living programme will be used to fund equivalent holiday support for free school meals in the Easter 2024 school holiday.
- £0.054m not required to be drawn down from the Budget Priorities reserve in 2023/24 will be held in the reserve and used to increase the 2025/26 emergency welfare fund to £0.354m.
- A report to Cabinet in early 2024/25 will set out proposals for the use of the Household Support Fund as well as other opportunities for tackling financial deprivation and inequality, including an update on the use of additional funding included in the 2024/25 budget.

## **Grants**

139. As set out in Annex B - 4 government grants totalling £472.4m are expected to be received by the Council during 2023/24. This includes £15.5m in schools grants for additional mainstream funding, early years funding and pupil premium, plus Adult Social Care Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund - Workforce Fund (£3.5m).

### Homes for Ukraine

140. At the end of 2022/23 £16.9m unspent grant funding for the Homes for Ukraine scheme and £2.1m unspent funding for education costs relating to the scheme was held in the Grants & Contributions Reserve.

141. Funding was initially provided as a one-off payment of £10,500 per guest and then reduced to £5,900 for arrivals from 1 January 2023 onwards. For eligible minors the tariff remains at £10,500.

142. A further grant claim up to the end of December 2023 was submitted in January 2024. Based on the position as at the end of January 2024, £20.2m of the grant

funding received to date has now been allocated and £3.0m remains unallocated. A further £1.0m funding is expected to be received following the quarter 3 claim.

143. The use of funding received to date to support the on-going operation of the scheme in Oxfordshire is set out in Annex C.

### **General Balances**

144. The risk assessed level of balances for 2023/24 is £30.2m. During the year £0.2m has been agreed to be used to fund a supplementary estimate for staffing costs to support development of One - Fleet approach to the council's vehicles and £0.2m has been used to fund a supplementary estimate to fund a deficit budget for a school with a forced academisation.
145. Cabinet are recommended to approve a further £0.2m Supplementary Estimate request to meet one-off ill health/injury costs incurred in Community Services in 2023/24.
146. After taking account of the use of contingency and funding from the COVID-19 reserve to support the overall forecast breakeven position, balances would be £29.8m, £0.4m below the risk assessed level of £30.2m at year end.



**Business Management & Monitoring Report**  
**Position to the end of January 2024**  
**Budget Monitoring**

Directorate	Net Budget (Latest Estimate)	Projected Full Year Spend	Projected Year End Variance underspend- overspend+	Projected Year End Variance	Variance Last Cabinet Reporting Month	Change in Variance	Projected Year End Traffic Light
	£000	£000	£000	%	£000	£000	Red > 1.5% Amber >1.1% <1.5% Green on track
Adult Services	229,257	229,257	0	0.00%	0	0	G
Children's Services	172,007	184,961	12,954	7.53%	12,818	136	R
Environment and Place	75,342	72,395	-2,947	-3.91%	-847	-2,100	G
Public Health	4,076	4,076	0	0.00%	0.0	0	G
Community Safety	27,656	28,056	400	1.45%	485.0	-85	A
Resources	73,496	75,389	1,893	2.58%	1,976	-83	R
<b>Directorate Total Net</b>	<b>581,834</b>	<b>594,134</b>	<b>12,300</b>	<b>2.11%</b>	<b>14,432</b>	<b>-2,132</b>	<b>R</b>

**Business Management & Monitoring Report**  
**Position to the end of January 2024**  
**Budget Monitoring**

Directorate	Net Budget (Latest Estimate)	Projected Full Year Spend	Projected Year End Variance underspend- overspend+	Projected Year End Variance	Variance Last Cabinet Reporting Month	Change in Variance	Projected Year End Traffic Light
	£000	£000	£000	%	£000	£000	Red > 1.5% Amber >1.1% <1.5% Green on track
<b>Budget held Centrally</b>							0
Capital Financing	28,402	28,402	0	0.00%	0	0	
Interest on Balances	-16,629	-18,869	-2,240	13.47%	-1,821	-419	
Contingency and Inflation	9,160	500	-8,660	-94.54%	-7,000	-1,660	
Unringfenced Specific Government Grants	-43,954	-43,954	0	0.00%	0	0	
Insurance	1,436	1,436	0	0.00%	0	0	
Contribution from COVID-19 Reserve	-7,380	-8,780	-1,400	18.97%	-1,400	0	
Contribution from Budget Priorities Reserve	-2,370	-2,370	0	0.00%	0		
Contributions to (+)/from (-)reserves	20,665	20,665	0	0.00%	0	0	
Contribution to (+)/from(-) balances	7,600	7,600	0	0.00%	0	0	
<b>Total Budget held Centrally</b>	<b>-3,069</b>	<b>-15,369</b>	<b>-12,300</b>	<b>400.79%</b>	<b>-10,221</b>	<b>-2,079</b>	
<b>Net Operating Budget</b>	<b>578,765</b>	<b>578,765</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>4,211</b>	<b>-4,211</b>	
							0
Business Rates & Council Tax Funding	-578,765	-578,765	0			0	
<b>Forecast Year End Position</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,211</b>	<b>-4,211</b>	

**Business Management and Monitoring Report: Adult Services**  
**Position to the end of January 2024**  
**Revenue Budget Monitoring**

		Net Budget (Latest Estimate)	Projected Full Year Spend	Projected Year End Variance	Variance Last Cabinet Reporting Month	Change in Variance
		£000	£000	underspend- overspend+	£000	£000
SCS1	Adult Social Care	25,846	26,446	600	800	-200
SCS2	Other Adult Social Care Services	5,425	4,825	-600	-700	100
SCS3	Housing & Social Care Commissioning	1,378	1,378	0	0	0
SCS4	Business Support Service	1,141	1,041	-100	-100	0
SCS5	Pooled Budget Contributions	195,467	195,567	100	0	100
<b>Total Adult Services</b>		<b>229,257</b>	<b>229,257</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Business Management & Monitoring Report: Children's Services**  
**Forecast Position at the end of January 2024**  
**Revenue Budget Monitoring**

		Net Budget (Latest Estimate)	Projected Full Year Spend	Projected Year End Variance	Variance Last Cabinet Reporting Month	Change in Variance
		£000	£000	underspend-overspend+	£000	£000
<b>CEF1</b>	<b><u>Education &amp; Learning</u></b>					
CEF1-1	Management & Central Costs	199	1,039	840	234	606
CEF1-2	SEND	7,499	7,499	0	1	-1
CEF1-3	Learning & School Improvement	1,345	1,345	0	0	0
CEF1-4	Access to Learning	30,378	33,678	3,300	3,300	0
CEF1-5	Learner Engagement Service	282	382	100	99	1
<b>Total Education &amp; Learning</b>		<b>39,703</b>	<b>43,943</b>	<b>4,240</b>	<b>3,634</b>	<b>606</b>
<b>CEF2</b>	<b><u>Early Help, Front Door + Social Care</u></b>					
CEF2-1	Family Help	9,962	8,876	-1,086	-812	-274
CEF2-2	Front Door	5,295	5,082	-213	110	-323
CEF2-3	Childrens Social Care - NEW	60,167	64,461	4,294	2,881	1,413
CEF2-9	Change - NEW	407	260	-147	0	-147
<b>Total Early Help, Front Door + Social Care</b>		<b>75,831</b>	<b>78,679</b>	<b>2,848</b>	<b>2,179</b>	<b>669</b>

**Business Management & Monitoring Report: Children's Services**  
**Forecast Position at the end of January 2024**  
**Revenue Budget Monitoring**

		Net Budget (Latest Estimate)	Projected Full Year Spend	Projected Year End Variance	Variance Last Cabinet Reporting Month	Change in Variance
		£000	£000	underspend-overspend+	£000	£000
<b>CEF3</b>	<b><u>Provider Services &amp; Safeguarding</u></b>					
CEF3-1	Provider Services	40,867	45,794	4,927	5,690	-763
CEF3-2	QA Safeguarding + Recruit & Retention	3,899	4,217	318	332	-14
CEF3-3	Services for Disabled Children - OLD	0	0	0	0	0
CEF3-4	Youth Offending Service - OLD	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Total Provider Services &amp; Safeguarding</b>	<b>44,766</b>	<b>50,011</b>	<b>5,245</b>	<b>6,022</b>	<b>-777</b>
<b>CEF4</b>	<b><u>Schools</u></b>					
CEF4-1	Delegated Budgets	0	0	0	0	0
CEF4-2	Nursery Education Funding (EY)	0	0	0	0	0
CEF4-3	Non-Delegated School Costs	216	216	0	0	0
CEF4-4	School Support Non-Negotiable Recharges	0	0	0	0	0
CEF4-5	Capitalised Repairs & Maintenance	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Total Schools</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Business Management & Monitoring Report: Children's Services**  
**Forecast Position at the end of January 2024**  
**Revenue Budget Monitoring**

		Net Budget (Latest Estimate)	Projected Full Year Spend	Projected Year End Variance	Variance Last Cabinet Reporting Month	Change in Variance
		£000	£000	underspend-overspend+	£000	£000
<b>CEF5</b>	<b><u>Children's Services Central Costs</u></b>					
CEF5-1	Management & Administration	8,280	8,828	548	863	-315
CEF5-2	Premature Retirement Compensation	3,211	3,284	73	120	-47
CEF5-3	Commissioning Recharge - OLD	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Children's Services Central Costs</b>		<b>11,491</b>	<b>12,112</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>983</b>	<b>-362</b>
<b>Total Children's Services</b>		<b>172,007</b>	<b>184,961</b>	<b>12,954</b>	<b>12,818</b>	<b>136</b>
<b>MEMORANDUM: DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT - DSG Funded Expenditure (Gross)</b>						
	Schools DSG	131,169	131,169	0	0	0
	High Needs DSG	84,694	107,694	23,000	21,200	1,800
	Early Years DSG	44,435	44,435	0	0	0
	Central DSG	4,992	4,992	0	0	0
<b>Total DSG Funded Expenditure</b>		<b>265,290</b>	<b>288,290</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>21,200</b>	<b>1,800</b>

**Business Management & Monitoring Report: Environment and Place**  
**Position to the end of January 2024**  
**Revenue Budget Monitoring**

		Net Budget (Latest Estimate)	Projected Full Year Spend	Projected Year End Variance	Variance Last Cabinet Reporting Month	Change in Variance
		£000	£000	underspend-overspend+	£000	£000
EP1	Transport & Infrastructure	13,587	12,287	-1,300	-600	-700
EP2	Planning, Environment & Climate Change	37,600	37,000	-600	100	-700
EP3	Highways & Operations	21,530	20,430	-1,100	-400	-700
EP4	Directorate Support	2,625	2,678	53	53	0
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND PLACE</b>		<b>75,342</b>	<b>72,395</b>	<b>-2,947</b>	<b>-847</b>	<b>-2,100</b>

**Business Management & Monitoring Report : Public Health & Community Safety**  
**Position to the end of January 2024**  
**Revenue Budget Monitoring**

		Net Budget (Latest Estimate)	Projected Full Year Spend	Projected Year End Variance	Variance Last Cabinet Reporting Month	Change in Variance
		£000	£000	underspend- overspend+	£000	£000
<b>PH 1 &amp; 2</b>	<b>Public Health Functions</b>					
PH1-1	Sexual Health	6,440	6,240	-200	-200	0
PH1-2	NHS Health Check Programme	645	745	100	100	0
PH1-3	Health Protection	8	8	0	0	0
PH1-4	National Child Measurement Programme	150	150	0	0	0
PH1-5	Public Health Advice	150	150	0	0	0
PH1-6	0 - 5 year olds	8,848	8,848	0	0	0
PH2-1	Obesity	1,324	1,224	-100	-100	0
PH2-2	Physical Activity	420	420	0	0	0
PH2-3	Public Health General	2,536	2,436	-100	0	-100
PH2-4	Smoking and Tobacco Control	615	615	0	0	0
PH2-5	Children's 5-19 Public Health Programmes	2,297	2,297	0	0	0
PH2-6	Other Public Health Services	1,734	1,634	-100	-100	0
PH2-7	Drugs and Alcohol	10,517	10,717	200	300	-100
PH2-8	Domestic Violence	1,448	1,448	0	0	0
	<b>Total Public Health Functions</b>	<b>37,132</b>	<b>36,932</b>	<b>-200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-200</b>
<b>PH3</b>	<b>Public Health Recharges</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>PH4</b>	<b>Grant Income</b>	<b>-33,632</b>	<b>-33,632</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Transfer to Public Health Reserve</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>200</b>
	<b>Total Public Health</b>	<b>4,076</b>	<b>4,076</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>



**Business Management & Monitoring Report : Public Health & Community Safety**  
**Position to the end of January 2024**  
**Revenue Budget Monitoring**

		Change in Variance	Variance Last Cabinet Reporting Month	Projected Year End Variance	Projected Full Year Spend	Net Budget (Latest Estimate)
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
				underspend- overspend+		
CDA3	Community Safety	-85	485	400	28,056	27,656
Total Community Safety		-85	485	400	28,056	27,656

**Business Management & Monitoring Report: Resources**  
**Position to the end of January 2024**  
**Revenue Budget Monitoring**

		<b>Net Budget (Latest Estimate)</b>	<b>Projected Full Year Spend</b>	<b>Projected Year End Variance</b>	<b>Variance Last Cabinet Reporting Month</b>	<b>Change in Variance</b>
		<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>underspend- overspend+</b> <b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
COD1	Corporate Services	2,334	2,334	0	0	0
COD2	Human Resources & Organisational Development	4,797	4,248	-549	-273	-276
COD3	Communications, Strategy & Insight	3,470	3,372	-98	25	-123
COD4	ICT & Digital	10,520	11,102	582	657	-75
COD5	Culture & Customer Experience	12,734	13,282	548	402	146

**Business Management & Monitoring Report: Resources**  
**Position to the end of January 2024**  
**Revenue Budget Monitoring**

		Net Budget (Latest Estimate)	Projected Full Year Spend	Projected Year End Variance	Variance Last Cabinet Reporting Month	Change in Variance
		£000	£000	underspend-overspend+	£000	£000
COD6	Finance	8,919	9,399	480	347	133
COD7	Property, Investment & FM	19,743	20,173	430	371	59
COD8	Law & Governance	8,016	8,516	500	447	53
COD9	Delivery & Partnership	2,963	2,963	0	0	0
<b>Total Resources</b>		<b>73,496</b>	<b>75,389</b>	<b>1,893</b>	<b>1,976</b>	<b>-83</b>

**Business Management Report**  
**Position to the end of January 2024**

**CABINET IS RECOMMENDED TO APPROVE THE VIREMENTS AS DETAILED BELOW:**

Directorate (CD = Cross Directorate)	Month of Cabinet meeting	Month of Directorate MMR	Narration	Budget Book Line	Service Area	Permanent / Temporary	Expenditure + increase / - decrease £000	Income - increase / + decrease £000
Grand Total							0	0

**Business Management Report**  
**Position to the end of January 2024**

**NEW VIREMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN ACTIONED FOR CABINET TO NOTE**

Directorate (CD = Cross Directorate)	Month of Cabinet Meeting	Month of Directorate MMR	Narration	Budget Book Line	Service Area	Permanent / Temporary	Expenditure + increase / - decrease £000	Income - increase / + decrease £000
CD	Mar	Jan	Supporting families PBR Q3 23.24	CEF3-2	QA Safeguarding + Recruit + Retention	T	173	0
				VSMGT	Strategic Measures	T	0	-173
			Budget moved in 2022-23. Virement for NI adjustment this year	COD6	Finance & Procurement	P	1	0
				SCS1	Adult Social Care	P	-1	0
			Knights Court budget closure - budget relocation	COD7	Property, Investment & FM	P	0	0
				SCS1	Adult Social Care	P	0	0
			2024 Gold Pay Award 3 mths part year Jan-Mar	COM4-2	Fire & Rescue	T	5	0
				VSMGT	Strategic Measures	T	-5	0
			SLT Move to their respective CC	COD1	Corporate Services	P	-574	0
				COD4	ICT & Digital	P	-18	0
				COD8	Law & Governance	P	187	0
				EP4-1	Records & Systems	P	214	0
				SCS1	Adult Social Care	P	191	0
CS	Mar	Dec	DSG Contribution re Teachers Pay Awards 2023-23	CEF1-2	SEND Service	T	0	0
				CEF1-5	Learner Engagement	T	2	-2
				CEF4-3	Non-Delegated Schools Costs	T	-2	2
			EY DSG contribution re pay award 2023-24 Children	CEF1-2	SEND Service	P	2	-2
				CEF1-3	Learning & School Improvement	P	13	-13
				CEF1-4	Access to Learning	P	17	-17
				CEF4-2	Early Years Funding Formula	P	-34	34
				CEF5-1	Management & Admin	P	2	-2
			Pay Award 2023-24 HN DSG Contribution - Green Book Leavers	CEF1-2	SEND Service	T	0	0
				CEF1-5	Learner Engagement	T	0	0

**Business Management Report**  
**Position to the end of January 2024**

**NEW VIREMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN ACTIONED FOR CABINET TO NOTE**

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			HN DSG Contribution re Pay Award 2023-24 - Green Book Filled Posts	CEF1-2	SEND Service	P	-54	54
				CEF1-3	Learning & School Improvement	P	9	-9
				CEF1-5	Learner Engagement	P	8	-8
				CEF3-2	QA Safeguarding + Recruit + Retention	P	3	-3
				CEF5-1	Management & Admin	P	33	-33
			CB DSG contribution re pay award 2023-24 Children re Green Book Filled Posts	CEF1-3	Learning & School Improvement	P	0	0
				CEF1-4	Access to Learning	P	39	-39
				CEF1-5	Learner Engagement	P	24	-24
				CEF4-3	Non-Delegated Schools Costs	P	-101	101
				CEF5-1	Management & Admin	P	39	-39
			DSG Central Block Pay Award 2023-24 Arrears re leavers Apr-Oct 2023	CEF1-5	Learner Engagement	T	1	-1
				CEF4-3	Non-Delegated Schools Costs	T	-1	1
			Dedicated Recruitment Officer Roles	CEF2-9	Change	P	-80	0
				CEF5-1	Management & Admin	P	80	0
			Amendment to ESFA funded places	CEF1-2	SEND Service	P	-30	30
		Permanenet funding for shortfall in Childrens Housing	CEF2-3	Childrens Social Care	P	-100	0	
			CEF3-1	Provider Services	P	70	30	
		Jan	MASH, IAS, Strengthening Families re-align	CEF2-1	Early Help	P	30	0
				CEF2-2	Front Door	P	692	0
				CEF2-3	Childrens Social Care	P	-190	0
				CEF2-9	Change	P	-532	0
			QA, Safeguardng, R&R re-alignment	CEF2-3	Childrens Social Care	P	-125	0
				CEF2-9	Change	P	-394	0
				CEF3-2	QA Safeguarding + Recruit + Retention	P	519	0
			Additional Funding 23-24 YJ Grant	CEF3-1	Provider Services	T	7	-7
			Create income & Expenditure budget for S31 Grant Implementation of Supported Accommodation	CEF3-1	Provider Services	P	299	-299

**Business Management Report**  
**Position to the end of January 2024**

**NEW VIREMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN ACTIONED FOR CABINET TO NOTE**

AS	Mar	Dec	ASC Inflation Budget Realloc 23/24	ACSNPOOL	Live Well Pool	P	434	-434
				BCFPOOL	Age Well Pool	P	12	-12
				SCS5	Pooled Budget Contributions	P	0	0
			Health Reserves Drawdown	ACSNPOOL	Live Well Pool	T	52	-52
				SCS5	Pooled Budget Contributions	T	0	0
			23AS19 saving realignment	ACSNPOOL	Live Well Pool	P	1,100	-1,100
				SCS5	Pooled Budget Contributions	P	0	0
			CQC Review and Assessment Grant 2023/24	SCS1	Adult Social Care	T	27	-27
		Jan	HESC adjustments	SCS2	Other Adult Social Care Services	P	-6	6
			24AD4 Saving stretch move to Live Well	ACSNPOOL	Live Well Pool	P	-500	500
				SCS5	Pooled Budget Contributions	P	0	0
RES	Mar	Jan	reallocate budgets to align with expenditure	COD7	Property, Investment & FM	P	44	-44
EP	Mar	Jan	TRO and Traffic signals from Ops to Network	EP3-1	Highway Maintenance	P	-430	0
				EP3-2	Network Management	P	430	0
Grand Total							1,581	-1,581

**Business Management Report**  
**Position to the end of January 2024**

**CABINET IS RECOMMENDED TO APPROVE THE SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE AS DETAILED BELOW:**

Directorate (CD = Cross Directorate)	Month of Cabinet meeting	Month of Directorate MMR	Narration	Budget Book Line	Service Area	Permanent / Temporary	Expenditure + increase / - decrease £000	Income - increase / + decrease £000
CD	March	Jan	Supplementary estimate to cover the one-off ill health/injury costs incurred during 2023/24 in Community Services	COM4-2	Fire & Rescue	T	159	
				VSMMGT	Strategic Measures	T	-159	
Grand Total							0	0



**Business Management & Monitoring Report**  
**Position to the end of January 2024**  
**Earmarked Reserves**

	2023/24			Description
	Balance at 1 April 2023	Forecast Movement	Forecast Balance at 31 March 2024	
	£m	£m	£m	
<b>Revenue Grants Unapplied</b>				
Grants and Contributions Reserve	37.0	-16.9	20.1	This reserve holds unspent ring-fenced grants and contributions committed to be spent in future years. This includes the Public Health ringfenced grant and funding for the on-going cost of the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.
COVID-19 Reserve	15.4	-9.3	6.1	This reserve is set up to meet ongoing and emerging pressures and longer term service demands arising from the COVID-19 Pandemic. The use of £13.4m funding from the reserve is built into the council's Medium Term Financial Plan agreed in February 2023. After taking account of the additional £1.6m use of the reserve in 2023/24 £0.4m remains uncommitted.
Government Initiatives Reserve	2.3	-0.5	1.8	This reserve is used to hold underspends on budgets funded by unringfenced grants held that relate to specific agreed outcomes or the implementation of Government initiatives.
<b>Subtotal Revenue Grants Unapplied</b>	<b>54.8</b>	<b>-26.7</b>	<b>28.0</b>	
<b>Corporate Priorities</b>				
Budget Priorities Reserve	11.4	-9.8	1.6	This reserve is being used to support the implementation of the Council's priorities and the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
Transformation Reserve	1.5	0.0	1.5	This reserve is needed to fund the implementation costs of the Council's Transformation programme.
Zero Emissions Zone	0.5	0.0	0.5	This reserve holds surpluses generated by Network Coordination for the development and expansion of the ZEZ in the future years.

**Business Management & Monitoring Report**  
**Position to the end of January 2024**  
**Earmarked Reserves**

	2023/24			Description
	Balance at 1 April 2023	Forecast Movement	Forecast Balance at 31 March 2024	
	£m	£m	£m	
Youth Provision Reserve	0.3	-0.3	0.0	Funding for locality based youth provision
<b>Subtotal Corporate Priorities</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>-10.1</b>	<b>3.6</b>	
<b>Funding for Risk</b>				
Insurance Reserve	12.9	0.0	12.9	This reserve covers the County Council for insurance claims that, based on the previous experience of the County Council, are likely to be received, as well as a number of insurance related issues.
Demographic Risk Reserve	13.0	4.0	17.0	In light of the significant pressures relating to High Needs DSG and other budgets with demographic volatility. This reserve will help to manage demographic risk.
Council Elections	0.4	0.2	0.6	This will be used to fund future elections. In years where no County Elections take place any underspend on the Council Elections budget will be transferred to this reserve.
Redundancy Reserve	2.4	0.0	2.4	This reserve is available to fund redundancy costs arising from Transformational Change.
Trading Accounts	0.2	-0.2	0.0	This reserve holds funds relating to traded activities to help manage volatility year to year or future investments.
Council Tax Collection Fund Reserve	3.0	0.0	3.0	This reserve holds any surplus/ deficit as a result of income from council tax being more or less than originally estimated
Business Rates Reserve	9.5	0.1	9.6	This reserve is to smooth the volatility of Business Rates income and to mitigate risk around future changes to Business Rates. The use of the reserve will be considered through the Budget & Business Planning Process for 2024/25.
<b>Subtotal Risk</b>	<b>41.3</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>45.4</b>	

**Business Management & Monitoring Report**  
**Position to the end of January 2024**  
**Earmarked Reserves**

	2023/24			Description
	Balance at 1 April 2023	Forecast Movement	Forecast Balance at 31 March 2024	
	£m	£m	£m	
<b>Capital &amp; Equipment</b>				
Capital Reserves	67.8	0.3	68.1	This reserve has been established for the purpose of financing capital expenditure in future years. Drawdown will be confirmed later in the year.
Vehicle and Equipment Reserve	3.4	0.3	3.7	This reserve is to fund future replacements of vehicles and equipment.
Investment Pump Priming Reserve	2.0	-1.9	0.1	Funding held to meet the costs of self-financing schemes which require pump priming until the funds are returned. Agreed to be used to support the following schemes as part of the 2023/24 budget: Low Carbon Business Travel Project (grey fleet) £0.8m, Energy Efficiency Recycling Fund for OCC Maintained Schools £0.8m, Initial funding to develop plans for the workplace charging levy £0.2m.
<b>Subtotal Capital &amp; Equipment</b>	<b>73.2</b>	<b>-1.3</b>	<b>72.0</b>	
<b>Other Reserves</b>				
Schools' Reserves	12.9	0.0	12.9	In accordance with the Education Reform Act 1988, the scheme of Local Management of Schools provides for the carry forward of individual schools surpluses and deficits. These reserves are committed to be spent on schools. Other School Reserves cover a number of miscellaneous education activities, including amounts loaned to individual schools against school reserves, and School Partnership Accounts which are operated in respect of inter-school activities.
Partnership Reserves	1.9	-1.6	0.3	This relates to funding for the Growth Deal
On Street Car Parking Reserve	4.9	0.2	5.1	This surplus has arisen under the operation of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (section 55). The purposes for which these monies can be used are defined by statute.
<b>Subtotal Other Reserves</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>18.4</b>	
<b>Total Earmarked Reserves</b>	<b>202.7</b>	<b>-35.4</b>	<b>167.4</b>	

**Business Management & Monitoring Report**  
**Position to the end of January 2024**  
**Earmarked Reserves**

	2023/24			Description
	Balance at 1 April 2023	Forecast Movement	Forecast Balance at 31 March 2024	
	£m	£m	£m	
DSG Unusable Reserve *	-41.1	-22.9	-64.0	
DSG High Needs deficit within Unusable Reserve *	-46.8	-22.9	-69.7	
Total Earmarked Reserves after DSG Unusable Reserve	161.6	-58.3	103.4	

**Business Management Report**  
**Position to the end of January 2024**  
**Government Grants 2023/24**

Ringfenced	Directorate	Issued By	Estimate 2023/24	In year Adjustments / New Allocations previously reported	In year Adjustments/ New Allocations reported this time	Latest Allocation
			£000	£000	£000	£000
Page 185	<b>Adult Services</b>					
	R Improved Better Care Fund	DHSC	10,705	0	0	10,705
	R Adult Social Care Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund	DHSC	5,366	0	0	5,366
	R Adult Social Care Discharge Fund	DHSC	1,501	0	0	1,501
	R Adult Social Care Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund - Workforce Fu	DHSC	0	3,485	27	3,512
	<b>TOTAL ADULT SERVICES</b>		<b>17,572</b>	<b>3,485</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>21,084</b>
	<b>Children's Services</b>					
	<b>Dedicated School Grants</b>					
	R Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) - Schools Block	DfE	131,138	31	0	131,169
	R Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) - Central Block	DfE	4,992	0	0	4,992
	R Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) - Early Years Block	DfE	44,341	94	0	44,435
	R Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) - High Needs Block	DfE	85,288	-564	0	84,724
	<b>Subtotal DSG Grants</b>		<b>265,759</b>	<b>-439</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>265,320</b>
	<b>School Grants</b>					
	R Pupil Premium	DfE	7,663	531	0	8,194
	R Teacher's Pension Grant	DfE	274	-264	0	10
	R Teacher's Pay Grant	DfE	95	-95	0	0
	R Coronavirus (COVID-19) National Testing Programme	DfE	0	0	0	0
	R Coronavirus (COVID-19) Alternative Provision Y11 Transition	DfE	0	0	0	0
	R Coronavirus (COVID-19) Education Recovery NQT	DfE	0	0	0	0

**Business Management Report**  
**Position to the end of January 2024**  
**Government Grants 2023/24**

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Ringfenced	Directorate	Issued By	Estimate 2023/24 £000	In year Adjustments / New Allocations previously reported £000	In year Adjustments/ New Allocations reported this time £000	Latest Allocation £000
R	Coronavirus (Covid-19) Schools Fund	DfE		0	0	0
R	National Professional Qualification Grant	DfE	0	15	0	15
R	Early Career Framework - Mentor	DfE	0	93	0	93
R	Early Career Framework - Off Timetable	DfE	0	161	0	161
R	Education Funding Agency - Sixth Form Funding and Threshold	DfE	280	39	0	319
R	Coronavirus (COVID-19) Recovery Premium	DfE	0	462	0	462
R	Coronavirus (COVID-19) School Let Tutoring Grant	DfE	0	408	0	408
R	PE and Sport Grant	DfE	2,266	-49	0	2,217
R	Teacher's Pay Additional Grant	DfE	0	1,404	0	1,404
R	Universal Infant Free School Meals	DfE	3,938	109	0	4,047
R	Early Year Supplement Grant	DfE	0	2,978	0	2,978
R	Mainstream Schools Additional Grant	DfE	0	4,285	0	4,285
	<b>Subtotal School Grants</b>		<b>14,516</b>	<b>10,077</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24,593</b>
	<b>Other Children's Services Grants</b>					
R	School Improvement Monitoring & Brokering Grant	DfE	0	0	0	0
R	Additional support for schools in financial difficulty	DfE			331	331
R	Youth Justice Board	YJB	674	30	7	711
R	Asylum (USAC and Post 18)	HO	3,997	2,580	0	6,577
R	Afghan Resettlement Education Grant	DfE	0	0	0	0
R	Afghan Settler Holding Hotel Grant	DfE	0	0	0	0
R	Extension of Virtual School Heads - children with social worker	DfE	0	135	0	135
R	Extension of Virtual School Heads - previously looked after children	DfE	0	66	0	66
R	Pupil Premium Plus Post 16 pilot	DfE	0	45	0	45

**Business Management Report**  
**Position to the end of January 2024**  
**Government Grants 2023/24**

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Ringfenced	Directorate	Issued By	Esimate 2023/24	In year Adjustments / New Allocations previously reported	In year Adjustments/ New Allocations reported this time	Latest Allocation
			£000	£000	£000	£000
R	Extended Personal Adviser Duty Grant	DfE	103	9	0	112
R	Leaving Care Allowance Uplift	DfE			136	136
R	Staying Put Implementation Grant	DfE	288	0	0	288
R	Remand Framework	YJB	72	-36	0	36
R	Reducing Parental Conflict Workforce Development Grant	YJB	0	48	0	48
R	Supported Internships for Young People with SEND	DWP	54	0	0	54
R	Holiday Activities and Food Programme	DfE	296	1,203	0	1,499
R	Attach ASF	DfE	0	15	0	15
R	Intervention Delivering Better Value in SEND - Grant for Data Analysis	DfE	0	0	1,000	1,000
R	Fam Grp Conferences	DfE	0	54	0	54
R	Multiply	DfE	899	0	0	899
R	Home for Ukraine Education	DfE	0	0	0	0
R	Turnaround Programme	YJB	64	63	0	127
R	Strengthening Multi-Agency Leadership for reform	DfE			47	47
R	Implementation of Supported Accommodation Reforms	DfE			299	299
	Subtotal Other Children's Services Grants		<b>6,447</b>	<b>4,212</b>	<b>1,820</b>	<b>12,479</b>
	<b>TOTAL CHILDREN'S SERVICES</b>		<b>286,722</b>	<b>13,850</b>	<b>1,820</b>	<b>302,392</b>
	<b>Environment &amp; Place</b>					
R	Bus Service Operators Grant	DfT	514	0	0	514
R	Natural England	DEFRA	227	0	0	227
R	Energy Mapping	DEFRA	0	0	0	0
R	COVID BSSG	DfT	0	48	0	48
R	Biodiversity Net gain Grant	DEFRA	0	27	0	27

**Business Management Report**  
**Position to the end of January 2024**  
**Government Grants 2023/24**

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Ringfenced	Directorate	Issued By	Estimate 2023/24 £000	In year Adjustments / New Allocations previously reported £000	In year Adjustments/ New Allocations reported this time £000	Latest Allocation £000
R	Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund (WCAF)	DEFRA	0	75	0	75
R	Air Quality SSCL Grant	DEFRA			127	127
R	Capability Fund	DFT			260	260
R	Zero Emission Zone Pilot	DEFRA	0	0	0	0
	<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT &amp; PLACE</b>		<b>741</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>1,278</b>
R	<b>Public Health</b>					
	Public Health Grant	DHSC	33,632	0	0	33,632
	<b>TOTAL PUBLIC HEALTH</b>		<b>33,632</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>33,632</b>
	<b>Community Safety</b>					
R	Fire Fighter's Pension Fund Grant	DLUHC	1,361	0	0	1,361
R	Fire Protection Uplift Grant	DLUHC	0	303	0	303
R	Fire Fighter's New Dimensions Grant	DLUHC	40	0	0	40
	<b>TOTAL COMMUNITY SAFETY</b>		<b>1,401</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,704</b>
	<b>Resources</b>					
R	Homes for Ukraine *	DLUHC	6,503	0	0	6,503
R	Music Service	AC	844	0	0	844
R	MaaS:CAV	Innovate UK	313	0	0	313
R	Park & Charge	Innovate UK	206	0	0	206
R	Virgin Park & Charge	Innovate UK	7	0	0	7
R	Data Driven Safety Tool	Innovate UK	91	0	0	91
R	Quantum Gravitometer	Innovate UK	69	0	0	69



**Business Management Report**  
**Position to the end of January 2024**  
**Government Grants 2023/24**

Ringfenced	Directorate	Issued By	Esimate 2023/24	In year Adjustments / New Allocations previously reported	In year Adjustments/ New Allocations reported this time	Latest Allocation
			£000	£000	£000	£000
R	Resilient CAV	Innovate UK	25	0	0	25
R	Heart Park Project	DfT	90	0	0	90
R	GTC DfT Congestion Tool	DfT	59	0	0	59
R	CAVL4R	DfT	11	0	0	11
	<b>TOTAL RESOURCES</b>		<b>8,219</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,219</b>
	<b>Strategic Measures</b>					
U	Lead Local Flood Authority	DEFRA	45		-45	0
U	Extended Rights to Free Travel	DfE	278	531		809
U	Firelink	DLUHC	213	-83		130
U	Local Authority Delivery Support Funding	DLUHC	0	123		123
U	Key Stage 2 Moderation & Phonics	DLUHC	0	21		21
U	Supporting Families - previously Troubled Families	DLUHC	1,048	204	173	1,425
U	New Homes Bonus	DLUHC	1,700			1,700
U	Local Reform & Community Voices	DfE	328			328
U	Social Care in Prisons Grant	DfE	187			187
U	Social Care Support Grant (including Independent Living Fund)	DLUHC	32,669			32,669
U	Services Grant	DfE	2,800			2,800
U	Domestic Abuse Duty Grant	DLUHC	1,141		26	1,167
U	Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment & Recovery Grant	OHID	0	635		635
U	Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment & Recovery Housing Grant	OHID	0	641	-19	622
U	Supplementary Substance Misuse Inpatient Detox & Rehabilitation	OHID	0	80		80
U	Rough Sleeping Drugs & Alcohol Grant	DLUHC	0	1,140		1,140
U	Rough Sleeping Strategy - care leavers	DLUHC	0	95		95

**Business Management Report**  
**Position to the end of January 2024**  
**Government Grants 2023/24**

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Ringfenced	Directorate	Issued By	Estimate 2023/24 £000	In year Adjustments / New Allocations previously reported £000	In year Adjustments/ New Allocations reported this time £000	Latest Allocation £000
U	Dual Running & Client Level Data	DHSC	0	20		20
	<b>Subtotal Strategic Measures</b>		<b>40,409</b>	<b>3,406</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>43,950</b>
	<b>Business Rates</b>					
U	Section 31 Grant for Business Rate Compensation	DLUHC	14,427	4,671		19,098
U	Business Rates S31 Grant Top-Up	DLUHC	42,662	-2,686		39,976
	<b>Subtotal Business Rates</b>		<b>57,089</b>	<b>1,985</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>59,074</b>
	<b>Grants held on behalf of Local Enterprise Partnership</b>					
R	Oxford Innovation Business Support	BEIS	205		0	205
R	European Regional Development Fund		900		-900	0
R	DCLG (Local Enterprise Partnership Funding)	DLUHC	500		335	835
	<b>Subtotal Grants held on behalf of Local Enterprise Partnership</b>		<b>1,605</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-565</b>	<b>1,040</b>
	<b>TOTAL STRATEGIC MEASURES</b>		<b>99,103</b>	<b>5,391</b>	<b>-430</b>	<b>104,064</b>
	<b>Total All Grants</b>		<b>447,390</b>	<b>23,179</b>	<b>1,804</b>	<b>472,373</b>

R	Ringfenced grant	DLUHC	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
U	Un-ringfenced grant	BEIS	Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
	<u>Issued by</u>	OHID	Office for Health Improvement and Disparities
HO	Home Office	DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DHSC	Department of Health & Social Care	AC	Arts Council
DfT	Department for Transport	YJB	Youth Justice Board
DfE	Department for Education	NDTi	National Development team for Inclusion

**Business Management & Monitoring Report**  
**Position to the end of January 2024**  
**General Revenue Balances**

	<b>Forecast 2023/24</b>	
	£m	£m
General Balances: Outturn 2022/23	22.643	
County Fund Balance		<b>22.643</b>
Planned Contribution to Balances (February 2023)		6.800
Planned Contribution from Balances (June 2023)		0.800
<b>Original forecast outturn position 2023/24</b>		<b>30.243</b>
<b>Additions</b>		0.000
<b>Calls on balances deducted</b>		
Staffing costs to support development of One - Fleet approach to the council's vehicles (Supplementary Estimate agreed May 2023)		-0.180
Supplementary estimate for a school with a forced academisation that has a deficit budget		-0.200
		<b>-0.380</b>
<b>Automatic calls on/returns to balances</b>		0.000
<b>Additional Strategic Measures</b>		
Forecast Strategic Measures Overspend /Underpend		0.000
<b>Net General Balances</b>		<b>29.863</b>
<b>Calls on / returns to balances requested in this report</b>		0.000
<b>Forecast Variation at Year End</b>		
Less forecast overspend (as set out in Annex 1)		0.000
<b>Forecast Outturn position</b>		<b>29.863</b>
<b>Risk Assessed Level of Balances for 2023/24</b>		<b>30.200</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) balances compared to risk assessed level</b>		<b>-0.34</b>

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## **Annex C**

Homes for Ukraine funding: to report updated spending and additional allocations

Following the launch of the Homes for Ukraine (HfU) scheme by the UK government in March 2022, upper tier councils have been in receipt of a tariff fund for individual arrivals in their area of responsibility. Funding is provided as a one-off payment at the level of £10,500 per guest, falling to £5,900 for all new arrivals from 1 January 2023. For eligible minors the tariff will continue at £10,500.

This funding is to support Ukrainian guests and their hosts. Oxfordshire residents have been exceptionally welcoming, with Oxfordshire's per-resident population hosting levels been amongst the highest in the country.

In two-tier areas it is a condition of the funding that councils must agree a plan locally to:

- make prompt payments to lower-tier councils in relation to all the services which they provide to guests under the scheme, during the full duration of the scheme, including for services such as homelessness assistance for which lower-tier councils are responsible
- make an immediate payment to lower-tier councils in relation to any upfront costs.

This tariff funding is in addition to separate funding received for: education, payments to host households and the specific funding to reduce homelessness, including the capital funding through the Local Authority Housing Funding (LAHF), for the city and district councils.

### **Response in Oxfordshire**

Oxfordshire's councils, supported by statutory services including Thames Valley Police, OxLEP and the NHS, organised a Homes for Ukraine response through the Oxfordshire Migration Partnership ('Oxfordshire Silver'). Over the past year, the partnership has moved from an initial focus on basic welfare and safeguarding, to managing the transition of guests into sustainable accommodation through support for employment, skills and access to accommodation.

Working through the Migration Partnership, Oxfordshire councils - represented by their chief executives - agreed an outline allocation of tariff funding early in the scheme. The funding was apportioned based on the costs incurred by each council and for specific cross-cutting programmes led by either the county council or by one of the city and district councils, on behalf of all partners.

These schemes have been overseen and managed through the decision making, finance and procurement processes of the relevant organisations.

Formal grant agreements for the funding were allocated to the city and district councils, which was apportioned in outline before the volume of Ukrainian guests in Oxfordshire was known – the number of guests drives the tariff funding we receive. The level of the funding, given the numbers of guests in the county, meant that the conclusion of the grant agreements was a key decision. Initial allocations were agreed by Cabinet in July 2023 with further allocation to be agreed by the County Council's Executive Director for Finance and Resources, in consultation with district and city Section 151 officers. This Annex is provided to Cabinet to give an update on further allocations up to January 2024.

### **Original and additional allocations**

The table below presents the original allocations, alongside the new allocations as of January 2024.

Programme element - allocations	Allocation at July 2023 £ m	Allocation at Jan 2024 £ m
Guest payments, DBS etc.	0.6	0.6
Wraparound support	0.4	0.6
Community Liaison Officers	0.3	0.5
Rematching resources (lead authority: Oxford City Council)	0.2	0.4
Funding allocated to County, City and Districts	5.8	7.4
Top-up payments for hosts	1.6	1.8
Bus passes	1.0	1.0
Move-on (lead authority: South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils)	6.0	6.2
Employment and Skills programme (lead authority: Oxfordshire County Council)	1.2	1.6
Football Inclusion Officer (Lead authority: Cherwell)		0.035
Community Grants (Lead authority: Cherwell)		0.050
Aspire Employment Project (Lead authority: OCC)		0.013
Impact Assessment (Lead authority: OCC)		0.020
<b>Total allocated funding (May 2023/ Dec 2023)</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>20.2</b>
<b>Total tariff funding (May 2023/ Dec 2023)</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>23.0</b>
<b>Unallocated funding (May 2023/ Dec 2023)</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>3.0</b>

### Guest Payments

*£482,600 spend by Jan 2024 – no increase in allocation.*

£200 paid to Ukrainian guests when they arrive at host accommodation in Oxfordshire. This is a one-off 'welcome' payment managed by Oxfordshire County Council.

### Wraparound support for Ukrainian guests

*£362,162 spend by Jan 2024 – allocation increased to £0.6m (new contract awarded)*

Support provided through a contract with a community/ voluntary sector provider to provide a range of interventions, activities and events to support Ukrainians living in Oxfordshire, as well as helping new arrivals settle in and find their bearings. The support included help to access to suitable accommodation, finding employment, supporting volunteering and training opportunities and accessing vital support/ health/ welfare services. A new one-year contract (option to extend for another year – included in costings) will start in March 2025 and will focus more on signposting to existing services, as well as providing additional health and wellbeing support.

### Community Liaison Officers

*£229,262 spend by Jan 2024 - allocation increased to £0.5m (resource extended to March 2025)*

These officers are linked to city and district council areas and work closely with the wrap around support provided through the contract above. The officers provide support for Ukrainian hosts and guests in their localities and provide an overview of community services and support.

### **Rematching resources**

*£202,481 spend by Jan 2024 - allocation increased to £0.4m (resource extended to March 2025)*

Led by a team located in Oxford City Council, this partnership work enables a county-wide approach to prevent Ukrainian guests from becoming homeless by rematching them with hosts, when necessary. This reduces the risk of homelessness and the need for emergency temporary accommodation. By working together across Oxfordshire, this enables strategic policies and processes to be put in place to support consistency across the county.

### **Initial funding allocated for Administration/ discretionary costs**

*£3,869,077 spend by Jan 2024 – allocation increased to £7.4m resource extended to March 2025)*

Funding for city, district and county councils to cover the costs of administering the Homes for Ukraine scheme. This work delivers the objectives of the Oxfordshire Migration Partnership, which is to ensure a warm welcome for all new arrivals and embrace and support independent living for those staying in the county.

Administration costs include:

- Communications
- Finance/payment provision
- Customer contact centre
- Housing support
- Social care support (adults and children)

An initial payment of £500,000 was made to each district / city area with additional funding being paid according to costs and need from the unallocated funded.

### **Top up for host payments**

*£678,100 spend by Jan 2024 - allocation increased to £1.8 (host top-up payments)*

On-going, additional payment made to hosts as a 'top up' over and above Government agreed payments. Each sponsor (host) in Oxfordshire receives £550 per month. The reason for increasing the payments to all hosts is to encourage on-going hosting arrangements and maintain a consistent payment level through variably national offers.

Government 'standard' payments are £350 a month during the first 12 months of guest's stay, increasing to £500 once the guest has been in the UK for 12 months, for a duration of a further 24 months.

System partners have agreed that the locally funded host payment top-ups will continue at least until March 2025 with eligibility in-line with the national scheme.

### **Bus passes for Ukrainian guests**

*£769,835 spend by Jan 2024 – no additional allocation*

A 12-week free bus pass scheme was introduced for Ukrainians guests, to help them travel in Oxfordshire during their first few months in the UK. The initial scheme (introduced in June 2022) was extended by another 12 weeks, so all guests could apply for free bus passes for a period of up to 24 weeks. The free bus pass scheme has ended, with individual requests being considered on a case-by-case basis.

### **Move on: Staffing support and to Private Rented Sector (PRS)**

*£454,443 spend by Jan 2024 – total allocation is £3.9m (Resource agreed to March 2025)*

The Housing Capacity Team cross-county team works to ensure the smooth transition of Ukrainian guests from their hosts into independent accommodation. Led by a team allocated in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Councils, this partnership work encompasses a range of activities covering:

- Staffing support
- Moving on private rental support
- Moving on guest support
- Moving on Homes for Multiple Occupancy (HMO) license application support.

Whilst current spend is very low there are significant risks related to rising homelessness across all cohort groups and therefore it is essential to have the budget available to reduce the risk of homelessness and support Ukrainians to move into settled accommodation. The cost

### **Employment support**

*£464,800 spend by Jan 2024 – increased allocation to £1.6m (if the project is extended to 24 months, rather than current 18 months) – any extension will require approval by Gold (Oxfordshire Chief Executives)*

This is a new scheme, being led by Oxfordshire County Council, working closely with partners across the county.

Stable employment is critical for Ukrainian guests to be able to access sustainable accommodation and minimise homelessness. The new support includes:

- Preparing for work in the UK
- Into work (including the securing of jobs, childcare, transport)
- Work experience
- Voluntary work
- Training and conversion courses
- Courses for English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and work based ESOL (WBESOL)
- Self-employment
- Information and signposting.

### **District and City Council grant agreements**

The additional funding allocation is set out in the table below, with further funding as required by each council within the overall Homes for Ukraine envelope, agreed by the Director of Finance on the presentation of a business case, in consultation with city and district councils s151 officers.

Initial spending was agreed in outline by Chief Executive's in compliance with the funding scheme requirement to passport funding from upper tier to lower tier authorities in two tier areas, as set out above and therefore significant elements of this funding is being provided in retrospect.



Funding element	County	City	CDC	SODC	VOWH	WODC
Guest payments, DBS etc.	650312					
Wraparound contract	625495					
Community Liaison Officers 12 months		50000	50000	50000	50000	0
Community Liaison Officers extension		71137	78153	84653	49873	22459
Rematching resources		429330	0	0	0	0
Admin/Discretionary (initially capped at £500k)	3578840	1050000	500000	1019000	670000	500000
Host payment top ups	1800000					
Bus passes	1029000					
Football Inclusion Officer			35000			
Employment and Skills Programme	1600000					
Aspire Employment Project	13060					
Community Grants Scheme			50000			
Impact assessment	20000					
Moving on staffing support		0	0	404000	0	0
Moving on Private Rental Support		633000	544000	977000	693000	655000
Moving on - not yet allocated	2330000					
<b>Total funding</b>	<b>£11,646,707</b>	<b>£2,233,467</b>	<b>£1,257,153</b>	<b>£2,534,653</b>	<b>£1,462,873</b>	<b>£1,177,459</b>

The reason there is a discrepancy between the admin/discretionary allocations is because some districts have budget remaining from their original allocations which will cover their requests for additional funding for staffing to March 2025. Ongoing monitoring will enable us to check whether further funding will be required beyond this.

### Finance plan

A finance plan is in place to maintain oversight of the funding and manage payments to the District/City councils.

Draw down of additional funding is via issuing of a letter that acts as an additional schedule to the existing grant agreement.

Quarterly finance reports are presented to the partnership to maintain oversight of the HfU funding.

Additional funding is being sourced via the city and district councils' wider asylum resettlement funds to finance the adaptation of HfU services to support other refugees and asylum seekers in the county, as requested by chief executives. For 2024-25, it was agreed that 20% (£13,326.67 from each district) of the staff costs for the central system support teams - the Programme Management Team based in the County Council, and the Housing Capacity Team based at South & Vale District Councils – will be financed using this resettlement funding. A process has been set up to claim this funding back from the city and district councils through the new round of grant funding letters associated with the HfU agreement – this will avoid the need for a separate 'reverse' grant agreement.

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## **Cost of Living Update and Proposed Use of Funding in 2024/25 and 2025/26**

The 2024/25 cost of living programme has successfully delivered £9m cost of living funding to Oxfordshire residents. This has included launching a new Resident Support Scheme, providing £0.610m crisis grants to 1,100 households up to January 2024. In addition, £1.550m cost of living support was paid to 3,400 qualifying residents who missed out on national funding, a take up rate of over 84%.

In the last three years funding has been provided in the form of the Household Support Fund (HSF), with the fourth iteration providing £6.7m grant funding for the current financial year. In 2023/24 this has been supplemented by £2.3m one – off funding agreed as part of the council's budget in February 2023 as well as £0.5m from the emergency welfare fund (funded from the COVID-19 reserve), to create the 2023/24 Cost of Living programme as set out in the report to Cabinet in March 2023.

As part of the Budget Statement on 6 March 2024 the government announced £0.500m funding nationally for a six month extension of the Household Support Fund at the current level from April to September 2024. Further information is awaited on the council's allocation and grant conditions.

Monies provided through the 2023/24 Household Support Fund (HSF4) are required to be spent by 31 March 2024 or otherwise returned to government so priority has been given to ensuring this funding is fully spent. In the absence of any previous information about further funding in 2024/25, projects within the programme have been prudently managed in 2023/24 to minimise the need to draw down from the emergency welfare fund, rather than being recycled into other projects on the basis that this would mean there was some resource for welfare projects in 2024/25 when the HSF was expected to have ended.

The extension of the HSF means that plans can be made for a new programme of expenditure in the first half of 2024/25. The largest item of expenditure in the Cost of Living programme has been support with food costs for families of children entitled to Free School Meals (FSM), at £3.5m. Given that the announcement of a fifth round of HSF (HSF5) provides more cost of living funding in 2024/25 than previously anticipated, it is proposed to use £0.5m from the 2023/24 Cost of Living programme to meet the costs of providing FSM equivalent support during the 2024 Easter Holidays. This funding will be provided to schools ahead of the Easter holiday period to allow them to purchase the support.

A £0.380m allocation from the Budget Priorities reserve to match fund council tax discount schemes for people on low incomes was agreed by Cabinet on 20 September 2022. Based on take up across all the districts £0.054m of this funding was not needed in 2023/24.

The following actions are proposed to maximise the cost of living and financial inequality resource in 2024/25:

- £0.5m unspent funding from the 2023/24 cost of living programme will be used to fund equivalent holiday support for free school meals in the Easter 2024 school holiday.
- £0.054m not required to be drawn down from the Budget Priorities reserve will be held in the reserve and used to increase the 2025/26 emergency welfare fund to £0.354m<sup>1</sup>.
- A report to Cabinet in early 2024/25 will set out proposals for the use of HSF5 as well as other opportunities for tackling financial deprivation and inequality, including the utilisation of additional funding included in the 2024/25 budget.

The table on the next page provides a summary of the financial position for the funding included in the 2023/24 budget.

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<sup>1</sup> £0.2m funding that was originally expected to support the emergency welfare fund in 2025/26 was brought forward into 2022/23 by a Cabinet decision in September 2022 in order to accelerate cost of living support during the most acute period of inflation and uncertainty related to the anticipated end of the energy price cap.

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>23/24 Outturn projection</b>	<b>Action Required</b>
Emergency Welfare Fund (£2,000,000 over 22/23 to 25/26)	£500,000	Covid Reserve	Provide financial support for household essentials	£500,000 available to fund FSM Holiday Support at Easter. The balance is available from the original allocations as follows: Take up of Cost of Living payment to people in receipt of Housing Benefit (£100,000) Holiday food vouchers for families of children entitled to FSM (£320,000) Returned credit from Post Office in relation to 2022/23 pensioner Cost of Living (CoL) payment	Expenditure to be reclaimed from Household Support Fund for 2024/25
Accelerated cost of living support (2022/23)	£200,000	Emergency Welfare Fund (25/26)	Cost of Living Support delivered by VCS organisations	Spent in full	None, but note that this is part of the £2m in the above line
Household Support Fund (23/24)	£6,720,000	DWP Household Support Fund (23/24)	Cost of Living (CoL) support for vulnerable households	Spent in full	
Additional CoL measures (23/24)	£2,300,000	Base budget	Cost of living support to be delivered by District Councils and VCS organisations	Spent in full	
Additional CoL measures (22/23)	£380,000	Budget Priorities Reserve	To provide matched funding to Districts Council Tax hardship schemes	£54,000 not drawn down by Council Tax authorities	£54,000 to remain earmarked in budget priorities reserve for draw down to top up emergency welfare fund in 2025/26



## Strategic Risk Management Overview

18. A strategic risk is a risk to the council's strategic priorities or long-term outcomes; or a risk with a significance that has an impact at the corporate level.
19. The table below provides an overview of the current strategic risk position. Strategic risks are reviewed monthly as part of the Business management and monitoring process. Risks can be added and escalated at any time during the year.
20. Update following the 2024/2025 budget being agreed by Council. The 2024/2025 budget has been agreed by Council on 20 February 2024. This has seen an improvement in the residual risk score and residual risk rating of the strategic risk 08 'The Inability to seek agreement in relation to the policy and budget framework from a minority administration' from 20, Red status in January 2024 to 12, Amber status in February 2024.

Risk Name	Risk Description	31 Jan 2024				
		Inherent Score	Previous Residual Risk Score	Current Residual Risk Score	Current Residual Risk Rating	Direction of Travel
01. Financial Resilience	The council is not financially sustainable in the immediate/medium term.	25	12	12	●	➡
02. Cyber security	A successful and significant Cyber-attack leading to disruption, damage or compromise of any of the council's computer services, information systems, infrastructure or data.	25	15	15	●	➡
03. HIF1&HIF2	HIF1 and HIF2 become undeliverable and/or potential financial risk to the council	16	12	12	●	➡
04. Managing Demand across Adult's and Children's Services	Fluctuating demand of community across Oxfordshire can result in varying requirements in resource.	15	12	12	●	➡
05. Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)	Local area SEND partnership inspection outcomes found widespread systemic failure. Delay for children having their SEND needs met. Reputational damage (locally, regionally, and nationally).	25	16	16	▲	➡
06. Oxford Core Schemes	Failure to deliver Oxford Core Schemes (Traffic Filters, Workplace Parking Levy, Zero Emissions Zone and associated city area schemes such as Low Traffic Neighbourhoods) with public support.	20	16	16	▲	➡
07. Strategic Workforce Planning	A risk that the county council's workforce does not have capacity, capability or resilience to deliver key functions, statutory services or transformational changes required to ensure the councils objectives and long-term priorities are met. Further, that the diversity of the workforce satisfies statutory requirements.	16	12	12	●	➡
08. Policy & Budget	Inability to seek agreement in relation to the policy and budget framework from a minority administration.	25	20	12	●	✅
09. Delivering the Future Together	Failure to deliver organisation wide transformation.	25	16	16	▲	➡

Table 9: Strategic Risk Overview for January 2024. Please note that a strategic risk regarding resilience in the face of climate change will be forthcoming early in 2024. The 2024/2025 budget has been agreed by Council on 20 February 2024. This has seen an improvement in the residual risk score and residual risk rating of the strategic risk 08 'The Inability to seek agreement in relation to the policy and budget framework from a minority administration' from 20, Red status in January 2024 to 12, Amber status in February 2024.

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**OXFORDSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL**

# **Forward Plan**

**May - August 2024**

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Liz Leffman  
Leader of the Council  
County Hall, Oxford OX1 1ND

Date Issued: 2 April 2024



## The Cabinet's Forward Plan: Introduction

This Forward Plan outlines the decisions which are expected to be made over the coming four-month period by or on behalf of the County Council's Cabinet. **NB Also included, for ease of reference, are items for the current month.**

The Plan is arranged in Committee date order, Cabinet or Delegated Decision by Cabinet Member. (The members and their portfolios are listed in the table on the next page.) Each entry briefly describes the subject and scope of the decision; indicates the "target date" on which the decision is expected to be taken and by whom (eg whether the full Cabinet or an individual Cabinet Member); what documents (normally a report by an officer) are expected to be considered; and contact details for the officer(s) dealing with the matter.

Where consultation is being carried out prior to the decision being taken, the principal consultees are specified. The method of consultation will normally be by letter or – where the views of the wider public are to be sought – by press coverage, supplemented by local notices if the decision affects a particular area. Other methods, such as exhibitions, opinion surveys, community forums etc, may be used to supplement these.

The lists include any "key decisions" - those which are "significant" under the terms of government regulations. In general, a key decision may not be taken unless notice of it has been included in the Forward Plan. More detailed information on what is a key decision can be found in the Council's Constitution on the Council's website.<sup>1</sup> This can also be inspected at County Hall.

However, the Council has decided that Oxfordshire's Forward Plan should include all those matters which are expected to come before the Cabinet in the period of the Plan, whether or not they may give rise to key decisions.

If any key decisions are expected to be taken by officers within the Plan period under powers delegated by the Cabinet, these are included in the Plan.

Unless of a confidential nature, reports and other documents for any meeting can be inspected, from approximately a week before the meeting, at County Hall and online<sup>2</sup>. Copies can be supplied on request, at a charge to cover copying costs.

### Making Representations about Forward Plan Items

Anyone who wishes to make representations about a particular matter listed in the Plan should send their comments so as to reach the County Council at least a week before it is due to be considered. Comments should be either:

Posted to "Forward Plan", Law & Governance (Democratic Services), Corporate Services, County Hall, Oxford OX1 1ND, delivered in person to the same address or e-mailed to [forward.plan@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:forward.plan@oxfordshire.gov.uk).

There is also a facility for making a short address to the Cabinet or Cabinet Member in person. The deadline for any request to do this is 9.00 am on the fourth working day before the matter is due to be considered. Requests should be emailed to [committeesdemocraticservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:committeesdemocraticservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk) or a form is available from Democratic Support Team, Law & Governance (Democratic Services), (contact as above, or telephone Oxford 810806) or online<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> [Decision Making including Key Decisions](#) – Main Menu > About your Council > Meetings > The Constitution > Part 2, Article 14 – Decision Making

<sup>2</sup> [Agendas, Minutes & Reports](#) – Main Menu > About your Council > Meetings > Browse Committee Papers

<sup>3</sup> [Get Involved in Meetings](#) – Main Menu > About your Council > Meetings > Get involved in meetings

**Members of the Cabinet**

[Oxfordshire's Cabinet | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

## The Forward Plan

### Cabinet Meetings

**23 April 2024**

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
<b>Approval of new managed service recruitment contract</b> <i>(Ref: 2023/343)</i> Follow the retender exercise of the current Comensura contract and evaluation of bids for the new contract, we would like to seek cabinet approval to proceed to award stage	Cabinet <i>(23 April 2024)</i>	Yes - Revenue Expenditure > £500,000	None	N/A		Cabinet Member for Community & Corporate Services	Sue Galvin, Administrative Officer Support Tel: (01865) 328547	Director of Human Resources
<b>Future Generations</b> <i>(Ref: 2023/361)</i> For Cabinet to agree to the adoption of a Future Generations	Cabinet <i>(23 April 2024)</i>	No	None	N/A		Cabinet Member for Climate Change Delivery & Environment	Elena Grant, Policy Officer Tel: 07825 403173	Executive Director: Resources

## The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
mission statement								
<b>Biannual Climate Action Report</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/024)</i>  This report updates Cabinet on progress on Climate Action.	Cabinet <i>(23 April 2024)</i>	Yes - Affects more than 1 division	None			Deputy Leader of the Council with Responsibility for Climate Change, Environment & Future Generations	Sarah Gilbert, Climate Action Team Leader Tel: 07867 467797	Corporate Director Environment & Place
<b>Vision Zero Strategy</b> <i>(Ref: 2023/317)</i>  To seek approval of the Vision Zero Strategy	Cabinet <i>(23 April 2024)</i>	Yes - Affects more than 1 division	None	There will be a public consultation held via Lets Talk Oxfordshire	Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 27/02/2024 to 23/04/2024. Reason: Further work required	Cabinet Member for Highway Management	Caroline Coyne, Assistant Project Manager	Corporate Director Environment & Place
<b>Customer Experience Strategy</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/029)</i>  To approve the Council's Customer Experience Strategy	Cabinet <i>(23 April 2024)</i>	No	None			Cabinet Member for Community & Corporate Services	Mark Haynes, Director for Customer & Culture Services Tel: 07586 479051	Executive Director: People
<b>Capital Programme Approvals - May 2024</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/059)</i>  Report on variation to the capital programme for approval (as	Cabinet <i>(23 April 2024)</i>	Yes - Capital Expenditure >£1m	None	N/A		Cabinet Member for Finance	Natalie Crawford, Capital Programme Manager	Executive Director: Resources

## The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
required).								
<b>PSTN Withdrawal Programme</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/109)</i>  Approval to proceed with this programme to reduce risks and mitigate the impacts of the withdrawal of Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) Services.  This is the legacy telephony network that connects calls via physical copper phone lines.	Cabinet <i>(23 April 2024)</i>	Yes - Affects more than one division and Capital Expenditure >£1m	None	N/A		Cabinet Member for Community & Corporate Services	Tim Spiers, Director of IT, Innovation, Digital & Transformation Tel: 07753 243223	Executive Director: Resources
<b>Delegated Powers Report for January to March 2024</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/110)</i>  To report on a quarterly basis any executive decisions taken under the specific powers and functions delegated	Cabinet <i>(23 April 2024)</i>	No	None	N/A		Leader	Colm Ó Caomhánaigh, Democratic Services Manager Tel: 07393 001096	Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer

# The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
under the terms of Part 7.2 (Scheme of Delegation to Officers) of the Council's Constitution – Paragraph 6.3(c). It is not for Scrutiny call-in.								

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14 May 2024

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
<b>Oxfordshire Councils Charter</b> <i>(Ref: 2023/351)</i>  Adoption of a charter to underpin our ways of working and commitment with Town and Parish Councils across Oxfordshire. This is a	Cabinet <i>(14 May 2024)</i>	Yes - Affects more than 1 division	None	N/A	Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 19/03/2024 to 23/04/2024. Reason: Further work required  Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 23/04/2024 to 14/05/2024. Reason: Further	Leader	Emily Schofield, Acting Head of Strategy Tel: 07881 311707	Chief Executive



## The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
joint charter with Districts and City Councils and OALC.					work required			
<b>Workforce Report and Staffing Data - Quarter 4 - January to March 2024</b> <i>(Ref: 2023/279)</i>  Quarterly staffing report providing details of key people numbers and analysis of main changes since the previous report.	Cabinet <i>(14 May 2024)</i>	No	None	N/A		Cabinet Member for Corporate Services	Cherie Cuthbertson, Director of Workforce and Organisational Development	Director of Finance
<b>Cost of Living programme for 2024/25</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/069)</i>  To agree an expenditure programme following the government's announcement of a six month extension to the Household Support Fund	Cabinet <i>(14 May 2024)</i>	Yes - Revenue Expenditure > £500,000	None	N/A		Cabinet Member for Public Health, Inequalities & Community Safety	Paul Wilding, Paul Wilding, Programme Manager (Cost of Living)	Executive Director: People

## The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
<b>Financial Monitoring Report</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/060)</i>  To note and seek agreement of the report and any recommendations.	Cabinet <i>(14 May 2024)</i>	Yes - Revenue Expenditure > £500,000	None	N/A		Cabinet Member for Finance	Kathy Wilcox, Head of Financial Strategy Tel: 07788 302163	Executive Director: Resources

**18 June 2024**

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
<b>Business Management &amp; Monitoring Report - Annual Report, Provisional Revenue Outturn 2023/24 Provisional Capital Outturn 2023/24 and Outcomes Framework 24/25</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/061)</i>  To note the report and agree the recommendations	Cabinet <i>(18 June 2024)</i>	No	None	N/A		Cabinet Member for Finance	Kathy Wilcox, Head of Financial Strategy Tel: 07788 302163	Executive Director: Resources

## The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
<b>Modern Slavery Statement</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/002)</i>  Raising awareness and visibility of our newly-written Modern Slavery Statement.	Cabinet <i>(18 June 2024)</i>	No	None		Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 19/03/2024 to 23/04/2024. Reason: Further work required  Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 23/04/2024 to 18/06/2024. Reason: Further work required	Leader	Serin Gioan, Policy Officer	Chief Executive
<b>Capital Programme Approvals - June 2024</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/062)</i>  Report on variation to the capital programme for approval (as required).	Cabinet <i>(18 June 2024)</i>	Yes - Capital Expenditure >£1m	None	N/A		Cabinet Member for Finance	Natalie Crawford, Capital Programme Manager	Executive Director: Resources

# The Forward Plan

16 July 2024

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
<b>Business Management &amp; Monitoring Report - May 2024</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/063)</i>  To note the report and approve the recommendations	Cabinet <i>(16 July 2024)</i>	No	None	N/A		Cabinet Member for Finance	Kathy Wilcox, Head of Financial Strategy Tel: 07788 302163	Executive Director: Resources

# The Forward Plan

## Cabinet Member Decision Meetings

### Deputy Leader of the Council with Responsibility for Climate Change, Environment & Future Generations

**25 April 2024**

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
<p><b>Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) - New CCTV provision with ANPR camera's.</b> (Ref: 2024/056)</p> <p>To approve installation of new enhanced CCTV system across all HWRC's. including new ANPR (Automated Number Plate Recognition)</p>	Delegated Decisions by Deputy Leader of the Council with Responsibility for Climate Change, Environment & Future Generations (25 April 2024)	Yes - Capital Expenditure >£1m	None	N/A		Deputy Leader of the Council with Responsibility for Climate Change, Environment & Future Generations	Steve Burdis, Group Manager Waste Contracts	Corporate Director Environment & Place

## The Forward Plan

### Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Young People's Services

**10 April 2024**

<p><b>Family Safeguarding Plus Model (FSPM) - Domestic Abuse.</b> (Ref: 2024/047)</p> <p>Seek approval to proceed with the retender of the Family Safeguarding Plus Model (FSPM) Domestic Abuse service, and the application of the preferred option (Option 2) as outlined in the Business Case and presented at DLT 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024.</p>	<p>Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Children, Education &amp; Young People's Services (10 April 2024)</p>	<p>Yes - Revenue Expenditure &gt; £500,000</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Approach consulted on as part of Partnership agreement and the requirement to re-commission the FSPM service.</p>	<p>Decision due date for Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Children, Education &amp; Young People's Services changed from 10/04/2024 to 15/05/2024. Reason: Further work required</p> <p>Decision due date for Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Children, Education &amp; Young People's Services changed from 15/05/2024 to 10/04/2024. Reason: Brought forward</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Children, Education &amp; Young People's Services</p>	<p>Caroline Kelly, Lead Commissioner Start Well, Kerrie Evans, Commissioning Officer Start Well</p>	<p>Corporate Director for Children's Services</p>
<p><b>Renewal of Language contracts: Interpretation, translation and BSL</b> (Ref: 2023/203)</p> <p>To seek approval on the approach to renew the Interpretation, translation and BSL contracts which</p>	<p>Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Children, Education &amp; Young People's Services (10 April 2024)</p>	<p>Yes - Revenue Expenditure &gt; £500,000</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Internal staff user survey. Exploring the potential to engage residents groups who use the services.</p>	<p>Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 21/11/2023 to 27/02/2024. Reason: further work required.</p> <p>Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 27/02/2024 to 23/04/2024. Reason: Further work required</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Children, Education &amp; Young People's Services</p>	<p>Louise McMartin, Joint Senior Commissioner Start Well</p>	<p>Corporate Director for Adults Services</p>

## The Forward Plan

expire in mid 2024.								
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**15 May 2024**

<b>Aston Rowant CE Primary School - Change of Category</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/088)</i>  Whether to approve the Governing Body's request to change category from Voluntary Controlled to Voluntary Aided.	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Young People's Services <i>(15 May 2024)</i>	No	None			Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Young People's Services	Barbara Chillman, Pupil Place Planning Manager Tel: 07554 103418	Corporate Director for Children's Services
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**12 June 2024**

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
<b>Didcot Special School - Education Specification and Approval to Start LA Presumption Process</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/089)</i>  Whether to approve the education specification for a	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Young People's Services <i>(12 June 2024)</i>	No	None			Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Young People's Services	Barbara Chillman, Pupil Place Planning Manager Tel: 07554 103418	Corporate Director for Children's Services

The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
new special school, and move forward with identifying an academy sponsor								

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Cabinet Member for Community & Corporate Services

**14 May 2024**

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
<b>Re procurement of CCaaS platform</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/087)</i>  To seek approval to procure a replacement to the	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Community & Corporate Services <i>(14 May 2024)</i>	Yes - Revenue Expenditure > £500,000	None	N/A		Cabinet Member for Community & Corporate Services	Clare Martin, Quality and Performance Manager	Executive Director: People



## The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
current 8x8 telephony platform for contact centre function enabling an improved customer experience in line with the Customer Experience Strategy								

**18 June 2024**

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
<p><b>DSIT 5G Innovation Regions project - England's Connected Heartland</b> (Ref: 2024/050)</p> <p>DSIT have grant funded OCC with £3.8m. OCC needs to procure two contracts, each estimated at c £1.5m, using the DSIT grant. Decision will be required for award of contracts</p>	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Community & Corporate Services (18 June 2024)	Yes - Capital Expenditure >£1m	None	N/A	Decision due date for Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Community & Corporate Services changed from 23/04/2024 to 18/06/2024. Reason: Further work required.	Cabinet Member for Community & Corporate Services	Craig Bower, Programme Director Tel: 07711 411744	Director of Digital & ICT

## The Forward Plan

### Cabinet Member for Transport Management

**25 April 2024**

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
<b>Oxford: Proposed Parking Permit Eligibility &amp; CPZ Admin Amendments</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/025)</i> Minor amendments to parking permit eligibility for properties within Oxford City. These changes are generally required to meet planning conditions associated with new developments and change of use.	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(25 April 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management		Corporate Director Environment & Place
<b>Ardley with Fewcott: 20mph and 30mph Speed Limit Proposals</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/019)</i>	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Geoff Barrell, Senior Infrastructure Planner Tel:	Corporate Director Environment & Place

# The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
Part of County-wide 20mph Speed Limit Project	Transport Management (25 April 2024)						07740 779859	
<b>Wheatley Waiting Restriction Review 23/24</b> (Ref: 2024/017)  Officers have been working with the Parish Council to bring forward proposals for waiting restrictions which better manage the demand for parking, improve road safety and reduce incidents of obstruction.	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management (25 April 2024)	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation	Decision due date for Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management changed from 21/03/2024 to 25/04/2024. Reason: Further work required	Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Mike Horton, Technical Officer - Traffic & Road Safety Tel: 07912 474356	Corporate Director Environment & Place
<b>Aston Tirrold/Upthorpe: 20mph Speed Limit Proposals</b> (Ref: 2024/026)  Part of County-wide 20mph speed limit project.	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management (25 April 2024)	No	None.	Standard traffic scheme consultations.		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Geoff Barrell, Senior Infrastructure Planner Tel: 07740 779859	Corporate Director Environment & Place

## The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
<b>Eaton Hastings: A417 - 40mph Speed Limit Proposals</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/028)</i>  Part of County-wide 20mph speed limit project.	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(25 April 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultations.		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Geoff Barrell, Senior Infrastructure Planner Tel: 07740 779859	Corporate Director Environment & Place
<b>North Leigh: Village 20mph Limit &amp; A4095 40mph Limit Proposals</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/031)</i>  Part of County-wide 20mph Speed Limit Project	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(25 April 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Geoff Barrell, Senior Infrastructure Planner Tel: 07740 779859	Corporate Director Environment & Place
<b>Blackbird Leys District Centre, Oxford - Proposed Highway Waiting Restrictions and Highway Improvements</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/053)</i>  As part of the planning approval for the development, Condition 44 states The development shall not be occupied	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(25 April 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Julian Richardson, Senior Engineer (Road Agreements Team C&W) Tel: 07825 052736	Corporate Director Environment & Place

The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
<p>until double yellow lines have been painted on both sides of Blackbird Leys Road for the entirety of the section between the northern most extent of Blackbird Leys Road, as shown on approved plan DC_00_DR_A_1210 P20 to the junction between Blackbird Leys Road and Pegasus Road. These should also continue for 10m along any side road which adjoins this land. In the interests of Highway Safety.</p>								
<p><b>Proposed Permit Parking Zone - Main Road (Access Road), Long Hanborough</b> (Ref: 2024/051)</p> <p>A proposal is being brought forward to</p>	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management (25 April 2024)	No		Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	James Whiting, Principal Officer - Parking Tel: 07584 581187	Corporate Director Environment & Place

The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
change the parking restrictions in the access road, close to Long Hanborough train station. The current single yellow line restrictions impact residents living in the road who have no off-street parking and so the restrictions can be properly enforced a change to permit holders parking is being promoted to better fit the needs of residents.								
<b>Steeple Aston: 20 Mph Speed Limit Proposals</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/048)</i>  To determine speed limits after consideration of any formal consultation responses	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(25 April 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Geoff Barrell, Senior Infrastructure Planner Tel: 07740 779859	Corporate Director Environment & Place

# The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
<b>Iffley Road, Oxford - Safer Roads Project</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/046)</i>  A traffic calming consultation will be required to improve safety for active travel users at priority junctions where number of accidents and collisions are high. Traffic calming consultation is required for the implementation of raised tables at junctions which will act as a speed hump to slow drivers down when approaching the junctions.	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(25 April 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Claire Springett	Corporate Director Environment & Place
<b>Middleton Stoney: 20 Mph Speed Limit Proposals</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/043)</i>  To determine speed limits after consideration of any formal consultation	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(25 April 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Geoff Barrell, Senior Infrastructure Planner Tel: 07740 779859	Corporate Director Environment & Place

The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
responses								
<b>Little Faringdon: 20 Mph Speed Limit Proposals</b> <i>(Ref: )</i>  To determine speed limits after consideration of any formal consultation response	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(25 April 2024)</i>	No		Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Geoff Barrell, Senior Infrastructure Planner Tel: 07740 779859	Corporate Director Environment & Place
<b>Proposed banned turns - Skimmingdish Lane, Bicester</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/041)</i>  To seek approval for the introduction of banned right turns from a development access onto Skimmingdish Lane, Bicester	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(25 April 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Adam Barrett, Senior Engineer (Road Agreement Team - Cherwell & West) Tel: 07919 175889	Corporate Director Environment & Place



The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
<b>Proposed shared footway/ cycleways - East Carterton</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/040)</i>  To seek approval for the introduction of shared use footway/ cycleways associated with a S106 agreement for a development site	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(25 April 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Julian Richardson, Senior Engineer (Road Agreements Team C&W) Tel: 07825 052736	Corporate Director Environment & Place
<b>Proposed 18t structural weight limit - Mill Lane Highway over Railway Bridge, Henley-on-Thames</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/038)</i>  To seek approval for a change to the existing 17t weight limit to be increased to 18t	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(25 April 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Robin Calver, Principal Officer (Structures) Tel: 07741 607453	Corporate Director Environment & Place
<b>Shipton under Wychwood: Village 20mph Limit Proposals</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/036)</i>  To consider any comments arising	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(25 April 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Geoff Barrell, Senior Infrastructure Planner Tel: 07740 779859	Corporate Director Environment & Place

The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
from consultation and determine amended limits accordingly								
<b>Road Safety - RAF Barford St John</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/082)</i>  Key Decision required to approve OCC expenditure of £1.36m DfT grant for highway safety improvements in vicinity of RAF Barford St John	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(25 April 2024)</i>	Yes - Capital Expenditure >£1m	None	N/A		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Matt Archer, Portfolio Manager	Corporate Director Environment & Place
<b>Proposed two way cycling - Sheep Street, Bicester (experimental order) 2024</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/070)</i>  To seek approval to proceed with an experimental order which allows cyclists to proceed along Sheep Street, Bicester	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(25 April 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Hanai Faour, Assistant Transport Planner	Corporate Director Environment & Place

# The Forward Plan

**23 May 2024**

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
<b>Thame: Radial Routes &amp; Heythrop Way - 20mph &amp; 30mph Speed Limit Proposals</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/027)</i>  Part of County-wide 20mph Speed Limit Project	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(23 May 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultations.	Decision due date for Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management changed from 25/04/2024 to 23/05/2024. Reason: Further work required.	Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Geoff Barrell, Senior Infrastructure Planner Tel: 07740 779859	Corporate Director Environment & Place
<b>Wallingford: Radial routes &amp; Hithercroft Road - 20mph Speed Limit Proposals</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/018)</i>  Part of County-wide 20mph Speed Limit Project	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(23 May 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation.	Decision due date for Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management changed from 25/04/2024 to 23/05/2024. Reason: Further work required.	Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Geoff Barrell, Senior Infrastructure Planner Tel: 07740 779859	Corporate Director Environment & Place
<b>Proposed Raised Table Mini-Roundabout - Coxwell Road, Faringdon</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/044)</i>  Scheme is being proposed in conjunction with planning permission	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(23 May 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation	Decision due date for Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management changed from 25/04/2024 to 23/05/2024. Reason: Further work required	Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Ryan Moore, Senior Engineer (Road Agreement Team - S&V) Tel: 07557 082568	Corporate Director Environment & Place

# The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
reference: P17/V1082/O This is required in order to improve safety for vehicles and cyclists using mini roundabout and maintain safety for pedestrians' crossing the carriageway in the close vicinity of the mini roundabout.								
<p><b>Aston Rowant &amp; Kingston Blount: Proposed 20 Mph Speed Limits</b> (Ref: 2023/300)</p> <p>To consider the responses to Formal Consultation and determine the level and extent of speed limits to be implemented</p>	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management (23 May 2024)	No	None	Standard statutory consultees	<p>Decision due date for Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management changed from 14/12/2023 to 25/01/2024. Reason: Further work required</p> <p>Decision due date for Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management changed from 25/01/2024 to 25/04/2024. Reason: Further work required</p>	Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Geoff Barrell, Senior Infrastructure Planner Tel: 07740 779859	Corporate Director Environment & Place

## The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
					Decision due date for Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management changed from 25/04/2024 to 23/05/2024. Reason: Further work required			
<b>Appleton with Eaton: 20mph Speed Limit Proposals</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/020)</i> Part of County-wide 20mph Speed Limit Project	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(23 May 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation	Decision due date for Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management changed from 25/04/2024 to 23/05/2024. Reason: Further work required.	Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Geoff Barrell, Senior Infrastructure Planner Tel: 07740 779859	Corporate Director Environment & Place
<b>Bicester: 20 mph Speed Limit Proposals</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/013)</i> Part of the County-wide 20mph Speed Limit Project	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(23 May 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation	Decision due date for Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management changed from 25/04/2024 to 23/05/2024. Reason: Further work required	Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Geoff Barrell, Senior Infrastructure Planner Tel: 07740 779859	Corporate Director Environment & Place
<b>Proposed 30mph Extension - A4155, Shiplake</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/052)</i> Construction of new	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Yes	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation	Decision due date for Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management changed from	Cabinet Member for Transport Management		Corporate Director Environment & Place

## The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
residential development access requires the extension to the existing 30mph limit in accordance with OCC's S106 agreement, to improve highway's safety.	(23 May 2024)				25/04/2024 to 23/05/2024. Reason: Further work required			
<b>Kidlington with Aspleigh: Village 20mph Limit Proposals</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/037)</i> To consider any comments arising from consultation and determine amended limits accordingly	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(23 May 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation	Decision due date for Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management changed from 25/04/2024 to 23/05/2024. Reason: Further work required.	Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Geoff Barrell, Senior Infrastructure Planner Tel: 07740 779859	Corporate Director Environment & Place
<b>Chesterton: 20 Mph Speed Limit Proposals</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/049)</i> To determine speed limits after consideration of any formal consultation responses	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(23 May 2024)</i>	Yes	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Geoff Barrell, Senior Infrastructure Planner Tel: 07740 779859	Corporate Director Environment & Place

The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
<b>Black Bourton: 20 Mph Speed Limit Proposals</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/045)</i>  To determine speed limits after consideration of any formal consultation responses	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(23 May 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Geoff Barrell, Senior Infrastructure Planner Tel: 07740 779859	Corporate Director Environment & Place
<b>A420 Botley Road in the Vicinity of Rail Station - Highway Improvements</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/077)</i>  Under the planned works for Oxford Train Station, ancillary improvements are being promoted the vicinity in the Botley Road area. These will include improvements to cycle lanes / paths, traffic calming features and waiting restrictions around new accesses.	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(23 May 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Julian Richardson, Senior Engineer (Road Agreements Team C&W) Tel: 07825 052736	Corporate Director Environment & Place

## The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
<b>Banbury: 20 Mph Speed Limits Scheme</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/080)</i>  To reconsider strategic route speed limits following local concerns to original proposals	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(23 May 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Geoff Barrell, Senior Infrastructure Planner Tel: 07740 779859	Corporate Director Environment & Place
<b>Barford St John &amp; Barford St Michael: 20 Mph Speed Limit Proposals</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/066)</i>  To determine speed limits after consideration of any formal consultation responses	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(23 May 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Geoff Barrell, Senior Infrastructure Planner Tel: 07740 779859	Corporate Director Environment & Place
<b>Baulking: 20 Mph Speed Limit Proposals</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/068)</i>  To determine speed limits after consideration of any formal consultation responses	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(23 May 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Geoff Barrell, Senior Infrastructure Planner Tel: 07740 779859	Corporate Director Environment & Place



## The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
<b>Berinsfield: 20 Mph Speed Limit Proposals</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/071)</i>  To determine speed limits after consideration of any formal consultation responses	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(23 May 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Geoff Barrell, Senior Infrastructure Planner Tel: 07740 779859	Corporate Director Environment & Place
<b>Bix &amp; Assendon: 20 Mph Speed Limit Proposals</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/072)</i>  To determine speed limits after consideration of any formal consultation responses	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(23 May 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Geoff Barrell, Senior Infrastructure Planner Tel: 07740 779859	Corporate Director Environment & Place
<b>Bloxham: 20 Mph Speed Limit Scheme Review</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/078)</i>  To reconsider 20 mph speed limits following local concerns to original proposals	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(23 May 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Geoff Barrell, Senior Infrastructure Planner Tel: 07740 779859	Corporate Director Environment & Place

# The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
<b>Broadwell: 20 Mph Speed Limit Proposals</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/067)</i>  To determine speed limits after consideration of any formal consultation responses	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(23 May 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Geoff Barrell, Senior Infrastructure Planner Tel: 07740 779859	Corporate Director Environment & Place
<b>Proposed No waiting at any time restrictions - Main Street, Tadmarton</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/081)</i>  To seek approval for the introduction of proposals to introduce double yellow lines	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(23 May 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Mike Wasley, Principal Officer - Traffic Schemes Tel: 07393 001045	Corporate Director Environment & Place
<b>Yarnton: Amended Speed Limit Proposals</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/076)</i>  To consider more extensive 20 mph speed limits following local concerns to original proposals	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(23 May 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Geoff Barrell, Senior Infrastructure Planner Tel: 07740 779859	Corporate Director Environment & Place

The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
<b>Fringford: 20 Mph Speed Limit Proposals</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/075)</i>  To consider any views expressed at formal consultation and determine speed limits	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(23 May 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Geoff Barrell, Senior Infrastructure Planner Tel: 07740 779859	Corporate Director Environment & Place
<b>Garford: 20 Mph Speed Limit Proposals</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/074)</i>  To determine speed limits after consideration of any formal consultation responses	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(23 May 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Geoff Barrell, Senior Infrastructure Planner Tel: 07740 779859	Corporate Director Environment & Place
<b>Culham: 20 Mph Speed Limit Proposals</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/073)</i>  To determine speed limits after consideration of any formal consultation responses	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(23 May 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Geoff Barrell, Senior Infrastructure Planner Tel: 07740 779859	Corporate Director Environment & Place

The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
<p><b>Cherwell and West Oxon Districts - Various Locations: Proposed New and Deleted Disabled Persons Parking Places</b> (Ref: 2024/057)</p> <p>To seek approval for the introduction and amendments to Disabled Person Parking Spaces. Following requests from the public for the introduction of disabled parking places, the county council has consulted on new locations which have met our criteria. The report will present feedback on sites where there have been objections.</p>	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management (23 May 2024)	No	None			Cabinet Member for Transport Management	James Whiting, Principal Officer - Parking Tel: 07584 581187	Corporate Director Environment & Place
<p><b>Hethe: 20mph Speed Limit Proposals</b> (Ref: 2024/065)</p> <p>Part of County-wide</p>	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Anthony Kirkwood, Principal Engineer - Traffic & Road Safety Tel: 07392	Corporate Director Environment & Place


The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
20mph speed limits project.	(23 May 2024)						318871	
<p><b>Proposed 24hr Exemption for Hackney &amp; Private Hire Vehicles through Westgate Bus Link, Oxford</b> (Ref: 2024/101)</p> <p>On completion of Westgate development, taxis and PHVs were originally not allowed in the bus link. Following lobbying by COLTA, an ETRO was agreed to allow HCVs and PHVs to use the bus link (without pick up/drop) off 7am-7pm. This was subsequently made permanent. COLTA have continued to lobby to allow access 24 hours a day. Cabinet Member is keen for us to consult on this proposal (permanent</p>	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management (23 May 2024)	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Craig Rossington, Senior Transport Planner Tel: 07880 945891	Corporate Director Environment & Place

The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
TRO).								
<b>Proposed Amendments to Headington Quarry CPZ Parking Scheme 2024</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/100)</i>  Following the implementation of Headington Quarry CPZ, officers have reviewed requests for changes to the scheme in consultation with local members.	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(23 May 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Vicki Neville, Technical Officer, Parking Management Tel: 07917 921437	Corporate Director Environment & Place
<b>Proposed No Waiting Restrictions - Mansfield Road, Oxford</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/099)</i>  In response to a planning decision for a new development on Mansfield Road, Oxford (Planning decision notice: Decision Notice 20/02471/FUL) – There is a	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(23 May 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Adam Barrett, Senior Engineer (Road Agreement Team - Cherwell & West) Tel: 07919 175889	Corporate Director Environment & Place

The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
requirement for the removal of 2 no. parking bays and extension of double yellow lines to facilitate widened access and associated visibility splays.								
<b>Wheatley Waiting Restriction Review 2023/24</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/098)</i>  Officers have been working with the Parish Council to bring forward proposals for waiting restrictions which better manage the demand for parking, improve road safety and reduce incidents of obstruction.	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(23 May 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Mike Horton, Technical Officer - Traffic & Road Safety Tel: 07912 474356	Corporate Director Environment & Place
<b>Proposed Banned Turns - Skimmingdish Lane, Bicester</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/097)</i>	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Adam Barrett, Senior Engineer (Road Agreement Team - Cherwell	Corporate Director Environment & Place

The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
As required under planning - the county council is seeking to introduced banned right turns from a new access on the highway in order to ensure road safety is maintained.	Transport Management (23 May 2024)						& West) Tel: 07919 175889	
<b>Proposed 30 &amp; 40mph Limits - Long Whitham</b> (Ref: 2024/091)  Changes to speed limits are required to promote road safety in the village.	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management (23 May 2024)	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Jon Beale, Traffic and Traffic Schemes Technical Officer Tel: 07860 330031	Corporate Director Environment & Place



# The Forward Plan

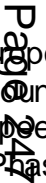
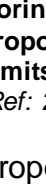

20 June 2024

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
<b>Fulbrook: Proposed 20 Mph Speed Limits</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/084)</i>  This proposal is part of the County-wide 20 Mph Speed Limit Project.	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(20 June 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Anthony Kirkwood, Principal Engineer - Traffic & Road Safety Tel: 07392 318871	Corporate Director Environment & Place
<b>Souldern: Proposed 20 Mph Speed Limits</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/083)</i>  This proposal is part of the County wide 20 Mph Speed Limit Project (Phase 3).	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(20 June 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Anthony Kirkwood, Principal Engineer - Traffic & Road Safety Tel: 07392 318871	Corporate Director Environment & Place
<b>Oxford City - Various Locations: Proposed New and Deleted Disabled Persons Parking Places</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/058)</i>  To seek approval for the introduction and amendments to disabled persons parking places.	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(20 June 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	James Whiting, Principal Officer - Parking Tel: 07584 581187	Corporate Director Environment & Place

# The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
Following requests from the public for the introduction of disabled parking places, the county council has consulted on new locations which have met our criteria. The report will present feedback on sites where there have been objections.								
<p><b>Chilton-on-Otmoor: Proposed 20 Mph Speed Limits</b> (Ref: 2024/081)</p> <p>Part of County-wide 20 Mph Speed Limit Project</p>	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management (20 June 2024)	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Anthony Kirkwood, Principal Engineer - Traffic & Road Safety Tel: 07392 318871	Corporate Director Environment & Place
<p><b>Proposed No Waiting Restrictions: Newtown Road, Henley-on-Thames</b> (Ref: 2024/108)</p> <p>In response to planning permission to redevelop a vacant</p>	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management (20 June 2024)	No		Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Jacob Mowlem, Technician Engineer, Road Agreements Team	Corporate Director Environment & Place

## The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
industrial building on Newtown Road, Henley there is a condition to make changes to parking in the area to ensure highway safety and access is maintained.								
<b>Moreton (Thame): Proposed 20mph Speed Limits</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/106)</i>  Proposal is part of County-wide 20mph Speed Limit Project (Phase 3)	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(20 June 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Anthony Kirkwood, Principal Engineer - Traffic & Road Safety Tel: 07392 318871	Corporate Director Environment & Place
<b>Goring Heath: Proposed 20mph Speed Limits</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/105)</i>  Proposal part of County-wide 20mph Speed Limit Project (Phase 3)	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(20 June 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Anthony Kirkwood, Principal Engineer - Traffic & Road Safety Tel: 07392 318871	Corporate Director Environment & Place
<b>Crawley: Proposed 20mph Speed Limits</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/104)</i> 	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Anthony Kirkwood, Principal Engineer - Traffic	Corporate Director Environment & Place

# The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
This proposal is part of the County-wide 20mph Speed Limits Project (Phase 3)	Transport Management (20 June 2024)						& Road Safety Tel: 07392 318871	
<b>Middle Aston: 20mph Speed Limit Proposals</b> (Ref: 2024/103)  Part of County-wide 20mph speed limit project.	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management (20 June 2024)	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Anthony Kirkwood, Principal Engineer - Traffic & Road Safety Tel: 07392 318871	Corporate Director Environment & Place
<b>Taughton: 20mph Speed Limit Proposals</b> (Ref: 2024/102)  Part of County-wide 20mph speed limit project.	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management (20 June 2024)	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Anthony Kirkwood, Principal Engineer - Traffic & Road Safety Tel: 07392 318871	Corporate Director Environment & Place
<b>Fencott &amp; Murcott: Proposed 20mph Speed Limits</b> (Ref: 2024/095)  Proposal is part of the County-wide 20mph speed limit projects.	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management (20 June 2024)	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Anthony Kirkwood, Principal Engineer - Traffic & Road Safety Tel: 07392 318871	Corporate Director Environment & Place

## The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
<b>Rotherfield Greys: Proposed 20mph Speed Limits</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/094)</i>  Proposal is part of the County-wide 20mph speed limit project.	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(20 June 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Anthony Kirkwood, Principal Engineer - Traffic & Road Safety Tel: 07392 318871	Corporate Director Environment & Place
<b>Tetsworth: Proposed 20mph Speed Limits</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/093)</i>  This proposal is part of the County-wide 20mph speed limit project.	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(20 June 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Anthony Kirkwood, Principal Engineer - Traffic & Road Safety Tel: 07392 318871	Corporate Director Environment & Place
<b>Over Norton: 20mph Speed Limit Proposals</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/092)</i>  Part of the County-wide 20mph Speed Limit Project.	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(20 June 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Anthony Kirkwood, Principal Engineer - Traffic & Road Safety Tel: 07392 318871	Corporate Director Environment & Place
<b>Cottisford: 20 Mph Speed Limit Proposals</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/086)</i>  Part of County-wide 20 Mph Speed Limit	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(20 June 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Anthony Kirkwood, Principal Engineer - Traffic & Road Safety Tel: 07392 318871	Corporate Director Environment & Place

## The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
Project	2024)							
<b>Freeland: 20 Mph Speed Limit Proposals</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/085)</i>  Part of the County-wide 20 Mph Speed Limit Project.	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(20 June 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Anthony Kirkwood, Principal Engineer - Traffic & Road Safety Tel: 07392 318871	Corporate Director Environment & Place

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18 July 2024

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
<b>Woodstock Road Sustainable Travel</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/107)</i>  A package of works to deliver improvements for sustainable travel modes on the Woodstock Road in	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management <i>(18 July 2024)</i>	No	None	Standard traffic scheme consultation		Cabinet Member for Transport Management	Rob Freshwater, Senior Transport Planner Tel: 07775 007926	Corporate Director Environment & Place

The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
Oxford. Measures will include improvements to cycle lanes / paths, traffic calming features and bus priority measures.								

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**Cabinet Member for Infrastructure & Development Strategy**

**23 May 2024**

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
<b>Tramway Accessibility Improvements - Contracts and Agreements</b>	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for	Yes - Capital Expenditure >£1m	None	N/A		Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and	Cris Butler	Corporate Director Environment & Place

The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
<p>(Ref: 2024/096)</p> <p>Delegate authority to the Director of Transport and Infrastructure in consultation with the Head of Legal and Deputy Monitoring Officer to finalise the target cost and programme for Stage 2 (Construction) and issue a Notice to Proceed to Milestone Infrastructure Ltd under the existing NEC 4 Engineering and Construction Contract for the Tramway Accessibility Improvements</p>	<p>Infrastructure &amp; Development Strategy (23 May 2024)</p>					Development Strategy		
<p><b>Didcot Northern Perimeter Road (Section 3) scheme - appointment of contractor</b> (Ref: 2024/112)</p> <p>To seek approval to</p>	<p>Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Infrastructure &amp; Development Strategy</p>	<p>Yes - Capital Expenditure &gt;£1m</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>N/A</p>		<p>Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Development Strategy</p>	<p>Dan Hammond, Senior Project Manager</p>	<p>Corporate Director Environment &amp; Place</p>



The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
<p>appoint a contractor under an NEC4 Professional Service Contract (PSC) Option A for planning, detailed design, ECI and target cost setting and an NEC4 Engineering Construction Short Contract (ECSC) for enabling works, surveys and/or investigation works (if required)</p> <p>10 8 6 5</p>	(23 May 2024)							
<p><b>A4130 Steventon Lights Integrated Transport Corridor Scheme - Approval to Issue a Task Order for the Construction of the Scheme</b> (Ref: 2024/079)</p> <p>Capital expenditure will exceed £1m and, as such, authority/approval is sought for a Task Order to be issued to</p>	<p>Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Infrastructure &amp; Development Strategy (23 May 2024)</p>	Yes - Capital Expenditure >£1m	None	N/A		Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Development Strategy	Dan Hammond, Senior Project Manager	Corporate Director Environment & Place

The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
Milestone Infrastructure Limited for the construction of the A4130 Steventon Lights Integrated Transport Corridor Scheme								

# The Forward Plan

## Cabinet Member for Finance

**12 April 2024**

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
<b>St Nicholas Primary School, Wallingford</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/039)</i>  To seek approval to enter into contract with Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust to provide funding for the design and construction of a new school	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Finance <i>(12 April 2024)</i>	Yes - Capital Expenditure >£1m	None	Strategic Capital Board	Decision due date for Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Finance changed from 09/04/2024 to 12/04/2024. Reason: Incorrectly listed for 9 April.	Cabinet Member for Finance	Liz Clutterbrook, Head of Major Projects	Executive Director: Resources
<b>Deddington Depot Salt Barn</b> <i>(Ref: 2024/055)</i>  To seek approval to enter into contract with a main contractor for the construction of a salt barn and washdown facility and demolition of existing derelict site cabins at Deddington Highway Depot.	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Finance <i>(12 April 2024)</i>	Yes - Capital Expenditure >£1m	None	N/A		Cabinet Member for Finance	Liz Clutterbrook, Head of Major Projects	Director of Property

## The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by

### Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

**18 June 2024**

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
<p><b>Recommissioning of Learning Disability Respite Services</b> (Ref: 2023/234)</p> <p>Key Decision needed to proceed with the procurement of Learning Disability Respite services.</p>	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care (18 June 2024)	Yes - Revenue Expenditure > £500,000	None	Learning Disability community within Oxfordshire	<p>Decision due date for Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care changed from 17/10/2023 to 27/02/2024. Reason: not required as urgently as first advised.</p> <p>Decision due date for Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care changed from 27/02/2024 to 21/11/2023. Reason: this needs</p>	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	Melanie de Cruz, Commissioning Manager Live Well	Corporate Director of Adult Social Care

The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
Page 257					<p>to be brought forward to meet the procurement timeline.</p> <p>Decision due date for Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care changed from 21/11/2023 to 23/01/2024. Reason: Further work required</p> <p>Decision due date for Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care changed from 23/01/2024 to 19/03/2024. Reason: Further work required</p>			

**Cabinet Member for Public Health, Inequalities & Community Safety****7 May 2024**

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
<b>Fire and Rescue Service Appliance Tender</b> (Ref: 2024/111)  Due to a previous pause in purchasing new fire appliances, the existing fleet are now superceeding recommended lifespan periods, leading to increased expense for breakdowns, maintenance and repairs and a risk of parts becoming obsolete. Aproval is sough for an additional £1.3m in 25/26 and £1.46m from 26/27 onwards, alongside an initial investment of £2.1m	Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Public Health, Inequalities & Community Safety (7 May 2024)	Yes - Revenue Expenditure > £500,000	Paragraph 3	N/A		Cabinet Member for Public Health, Inequalities & Community Safety	Matt Chapman, Group Manager, Business and Transformation	Chief Fire Officer

The Forward Plan

Item to be considered	Decision Maker	Key Decision (yes/no)	Exempt Information	Consultation	Reason for Amendment (if any)	Cabinet Member	Contact Officer	Report by
in 2024 to ensure the minimum lifespan of appliances is met.								

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**Work Programme 2024/2025**  
**Education and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Cllr E Reeves, Chair | Richard Doney, Scrutiny Officer, [richard.doney@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:richard.doney@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

Topic	Relevant strategic priorities	Purpose	Type	Report Leads
20 September 2024				
22 November 2024				
28 February 2025				
28 March 2025				

**SUB GROUP / WORKING GROUP**

SUB GROUPS / WORKING GROUPS				
Name	Relevant strategic priorities	Description	Outcomes	Members

**BRIEFINGS FOR MEMBER INFORMATION**

BRIEFINGS				
Name	Relevant strategic priorities	Description	Outcomes	Members

## Overview & Scrutiny Recommendation Response Pro forma

*Under section 9FE of the Local Government Act 2000, Overview and Scrutiny Committees must require the Cabinet or local authority to respond to a report or recommendations made thereto by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Such a response must be provided within two months from the date on which it is requested<sup>1</sup> and, if the report or recommendations in questions were published, the response also must be so.*

*This template provides a structure which respondents are encouraged to use. However, respondents are welcome to depart from the suggested structure provided the same information is included in a response. The usual way to publish a response is to include it in the agenda of a meeting of the body to which the report or recommendations were addressed.*

### Issue: Oxfordshire Education Commission

**Lead Cabinet Member(s):** Cllr Liz Leffman, Leader of the Council; Cllr John Howson, Cabinet Member for Children, Education, and Young People's Services; Cllr Kate Gregory, Cabinet Member for SEND Improvement

**Date response requested:**<sup>2</sup> **19 December 2023** *Recommendations were submitted by People Overview & Scrutiny Committee but will be received by Education and Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee which has since been established.*

### Response to report:

*Education is a key priority for the Council, Cabinet and Officers. The recommendations are accepted or partially accepted. Where there is partial acceptance, this is as a result of technical aspects or further clarity of scope is required.*

### Response to recommendations:

Recommendation	Accepted, rejected or partially accepted	Proposed action (if different to that recommended) and indicative timescale (unless rejected)

<sup>1</sup> Date of the meeting at which report/recommendations were received

<sup>2</sup> Date of the meeting at which report/recommendations were received

## Overview & Scrutiny Recommendation Response Pro forma

<b>1. That the Council should prepare itself to provide officer resource and expertise in the expectation of a deep dive into early years provision.</b>	Partially accepted	Clarity is required on the scope and scale of a deep dive into early years provision, so that resource can be prepared.
<b>2. That the Council should ensure regular updates are issued to each meeting of Cabinet on educational outcomes and that these are provided to the Committee for noting.</b>	Partially accepted	We will provide updates to Committee on the academic cycles at the times they are validated and published. These will be regular within the year but may not match each scheduled EYPS because of the academic cycle.
<b>3. That the Council should explore how to establish and manage panels, such as a children's panel, a parents/carers' panel, and an educational providers' panel, to ensure the insights of key stakeholders are heard to build collaborative and clear partnership working.</b>	Accepted	Panels across children and young people, parents and carers and with educational establishments already exist. Information about those panels can be provided and summary reports outlining insights and work plans can be provided. As vehicles already exist in many places, we are further strengthening those partnerships.
<b>4. That the Council should consider whether a professional-led board for educational improvement should be established.</b>	Accepted	We are in the process of establishing this in partnership with lead professionals.
<b>5. That the Council should consider the adoption of a long-term plan for educational improvement in the county under an heading such as <i>Oxfordshire Charter for Future Generations</i></b>	Accepted	The council are working in partnership to produce an education and Inclusion strategy with key partners, of which school improvement will be an element. The role of the Council will be to support partners on the development of a self-supporting system in line with the legal roles of the LA.
<b>6. That the Leader should continue to work with the leaders of other councils to address the problems</b>	Accepted	The Leader of the Council and Cabinet continues to work with other Councils and examples of best practice and innovation.

## Overview & Scrutiny Recommendation Response Pro forma

associated with key worker recruitment and retention.		Cabinet has a focus upon 'place based' developments for residents and key workers.
<b>7. That the Council should ensure there is sufficient budgetary capacity for the Commission's report's proposals to be implemented.</b>	Accepted	Budgetary capacity has been accounted for to address the Commission's proposals.

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