

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 24 March 2026 commencing at 10.30 am and finishing at 3.50 pm

Present:

Councillor Mark Lygo – in the Chair

Councillors:

Ted Fenton (Vice-Chair)	Andrew Gant	Gavin McLauchlan
Thomas Ashby	Emma Garnett	Lesley McLean
Brad Baines	Sean Gaul	Ian Middleton
James Barlow	Stefan Gawrysiak	Toyah Overton
Ron Batstone	Laura Gordon	Glynis Phillips
Tim Bearder	Andy Graham	James Plumb
Will Boucher-Giles	Tom Greenaway	Susanna Pressel
Chris Brant	Kate Gregory	Leigh Rawlins
Liz Brighthouse OBE	Jane Hanna OBE	Judy Roberts
Mark Cherry	Jenny Hannaby	James Robertshaw
Andrew Coles	David Henwood	Paul-Austin Sargent
Nicholas Michael Cotter	Ben Higgins	Geoff Saul
Andrew Crichton	David Hingley	John Shiri
Hao Du	Johnny Hope-Smith	Roz Smith
Imade Edosomwan	Robin Jones	Ian Snowdon
Gareth Epps	Emily Kerr	Peter Stevens
Lee Evans	Liz Leffman	Bethia Thomas
Neil Fawcett	Dan Levy	Liam Walker
Nick Field-Johnson	Diana Lugova	Matt Webb
Maggie Filipova-Rivers	Saj Malik	Tony Worgan
Rebekah Fletcher	Kieron Mallon	
James Fry	Emma Markham	

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

9/26 MINUTES

(Agenda Item 1)

The Chair welcomed Members and stated that Item 11 would be considered before Item 10.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2026 be approved and signed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

10/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(Agenda Item 2)

Apologies were received from Councillors Creed, Edwards and Heritage.

11/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - SEE GUIDANCE NOTE

(Agenda Item 3)

There were no declarations of interest.

12/26 OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

(Agenda Item 4)

The Chair noted that on 11 March, Oxfordshire County Council recognised outstanding members of the Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service through the annual Fire and Community Safety Service Awards. He extended congratulations to all those awarded medals for their service.

The Chair was honoured to attend annual community Ramadan Iftar events at Mansfield College, Blenheim Palace, and the Oxford Academy. At the Oxford Academy, he spoke to a diverse audience on their chosen theme, 'Building Community Trust'. He thanked the Dialogue Society for hosting these events.

The Chair reminded Members of The Chair's Birthday Charity Quiz, to be held on Friday, 17 April at OXSRAD Sports Centre, Court Place Farm, Oxford OX3 0NQ, raising funds for the Chair's chosen charities, OXSRAD, Abingdon RDA, and Oxford United in the Community. Tickets are priced at £20 per person – which includes a welcome drink, cheese and biscuits platter.

The Chair also congratulated and expressed sincere thanks to County Hall Facilities Manager Tim Stimpson MBE on his 32 years of service to the Council including his valuable support for Chairs' fundraising events down the years. The Chair wished Tim Stimpson well for his retirement.

13/26 APPOINTMENTS

(Agenda Item 5)

RESOLVED:

That on Oxfordshire County Council Joint Consultative Committee for Uniformed Members of the Fire Service - Councillor Fawcett replaces Councillor Hannaby.

14/26 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS

(Agenda Item 6)

Thame and Haddenham Greenway

Sarah Green presented a petition calling for a greenway to link the communities of Thame and Haddenham. Currently the only safe option was for people to use their cars. The petition gained nearly 4000 signatures, with around 1000 from Oxfordshire alone. The route crosses local authorities and there were colleagues campaigning on the same issue with Buckinghamshire Council.

Councillor Gant, Cabinet Member for Transport Management, responded that the Council was continuing to work in partnership with Buckinghamshire Council to investigate an active travel link connecting Haddenham and Thame. Both authorities have committed funding and resources towards the development of the scheme and are working towards conducting public engagement in 2026. The petition will be referred to the Director of Economy and Place for follow up.

Broughton Road, Banbury

Wendy Wilkinson presented a petition requesting speed restrictions and a safe pedestrian crossing on the north end of Broughton Road. Council was informed that Wendy Wilkinson had been hit by a car and sustained a broken neck and ankle. The petition was signed by 70 residents of Broughton Road. It was felt that residents in the estates off that road would support the request.

Councillor Gant, Cabinet Member for Transport Management, responded that whilst funding was available through the Vision Zero road safety programme, the financial allocation for the forthcoming financial year 2026-27 had already been allocated to other projects. However, Councillor Gant advised, that the Council will consider measures for Broughton Road, including a pedestrian crossing, for inclusion in a future programme and also as part of the planned monitoring of the 20 mile an hour programme. The petition will be referred to the Director of Environment and Highways for follow-up.

Roundham Crossing, Kidlington

Lisa Smith presented a petition to save Roundham Crossing in Kidlington from the closure requested in the developer's agreement for the PR8 site at Begbrook Science Park. It was stated that the crossing provides a vital link for residents in Kidlington, with access to green space and connection to important local routes, including the Oxford Canal towpath, the Begbrook Bridleway, and the new footpath and cycleway. The petition, with 638 signatures, called on Oxfordshire County Council, as a statutory consultee on transport, to oppose the closure of the crossing.

Councillor Roberts, Cabinet Member for Place, Environment and Climate Action, confirmed that East-West connectivity in the Kidlington area was a key consideration in the County Council's place planning. At the same time, safety concerns were likely to lead to the crossing itself being closed to achieve the objective of more frequent train services across the Oxfordshire network. Councillor Roberts added that Oxfordshire County Council will look

at what is feasible to mitigate a closure and work with local Councillors, the community, Network Rail and other stakeholders in an attempt to identify a solution. This petition will be referred to the Director of Economy and Place for follow-up.

Travel pass limit

Nathan Stanton presented a petition requesting the removal of the 9am limit on free travel for pass holders with learning and other disabilities. Nathan Stanton advised that people should not have to rearrange key job or health appointments or travel to their day centres to avoid travelling before 9am. The government's own inclusive transport strategy states that disabled people should have the same access to opportunities as everyone else. Oxfordshire should be leading the way in making that a reality. The petition had 200 signatures, with around 100 from Oxfordshire postcodes.

Councillor Gant, Cabinet Member for Transport Management, responded that the County Council currently spends £10.5 million supporting the concessionary travel scheme per year. An extension to the time period of concessionary travel would result in an increase in the level of reimbursement paid to bus operators. This would lead to costs in excess of the current budget for the scheme. The matter will be referred to the Director of Environment and Highways to consider the potential policy and budgetary impact of such a change should such funding become available from central government or another suitable source.

15/26 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(Agenda Item 7)

Ten questions were submitted. The questions, responses and supplementary questions are recorded in an Annex below.

16/26 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(Agenda Item 8)

Sixty seven questions were asked. The questions, responses and supplementary questions are recorded in an Annex below.

17/26 REPORT OF THE CABINET

(Agenda Item 9)

Council received the Cabinet report covering the 9 December 2025, 16 December 2025, 27 January 2026 and 24 February 2026 Cabinet meetings.

On item 1 (Devolution), Councillor Baines asked what steps the Council was taking with authorities across the proposed geography to ensure the earliest possible development of a spatial development strategy and the establishment of a foundation strategic authority. Councillor Leffman responded that there was a consultation underway on the development of a spatial development strategy and that a letter of interest had been sent to government on a proposed foundation strategic authority last week.

Councillor Epps asked why the government decided to include Swindon in the proposed area for a foundation strategic authority. Councillor Leffman stated that discussions had taken place across the proposed area and highlighted that it was for the government to finalise geographical arrangements. Councillor Epps also highlighted that Swindon was in different policing and health authorities.

Councillor Smith asked for reassurance that engagement with parishes and neighbourhood meetings would continue during devolution for Oxfordshire. Councillor Leffman gave that reassurance and noted the engagement with Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils through local government reorganisation.

Councillor Gordon asked about the recent government announcement for a Greater Oxford Development Corporation (GODC) and how that would fit in with ongoing devolution in Oxfordshire, which would highlight that the One Oxfordshire proposal would be the best way forward. Councillor Leffman concurred with those points and stated that the proposed GODC should incorporate a wider area to include some of Oxfordshire's science and business parks.

Councillor Middleton asked if Councillor Leffman agreed with the need for clarity from government regarding the recent announcement on a GODC. Councillor Leffman agreed that clarity would be welcomed and that the government's approach to the GODC needed to include the whole of Oxfordshire and not just Greater Oxford.

Councillor Barlow asked why the Council did not use devolution to reframe the relationship between climate change and economic growth. Councillor Leffman stated that it was clear that growth needed to be sustainable, with efficient transport networks to link up the Thames Valley whilst being mindful of climate change.

Councillor Walker noted that devolution has been discussed at previous Council meetings and asked why local government reorganisation proposals were not afforded the same opportunity. Councillor Leffman stated that there had been plenty of opportunities to discuss LGR through All-Member Briefings and at Place Overview and Scrutiny meetings, noting there were different views across the chamber but that ultimately the final decision was for the government.

On item 2 (HR & Cultural Change – Quarterly Employee Data Report – Quarter 3 2025/26), Councillor Phillips noted the shortfall in expected savings from organisational redesign and asked for information to be included in future reports. The Deputy Leader was happy to look at where that would be possible and highlighted that organisational staff changes needed to be managed carefully.

On item 3 (Oxfordshire Learning Disability Plan 2025-2035), Councillor Edosomwan asked what measures would be taken within the plan to ensure

that communication was accessible for people with learning disabilities. Councillor Bearder agreed this was important, and referenced steps taken to deliver accessible communication such as making communications available in both printed and digital form.

Councillor Hanna asked whether the Cabinet Member agreed that this plan (Item 3, Oxfordshire Learning Disability Plan 2025-2035) needed to be a living document and that it should return to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for progress updates in 2027. Councillor Bearder agreed and noted that adult social care would welcome working with scrutiny and other partners to ensure it remained a living document.

On item 4 (My Life My Choice Councillor Deal), Councillor Edosomwan noted the pledge referencing councillors signing the deal to show support and asked why this had not happened to date. Councillor Bearder explained that this might have been an oversight and encouraged all members to read the document.

Councillor Hanna asked if NHS commitment and integration were necessary to ensure success locally in tackling inequalities faced by people with learning disabilities and whether the Cabinet Member shared concerns about the lack of transparency regarding cuts within the Integrated Care Board. Councillor Bearder noted that Oxfordshire had one of the largest pooled budgets with the NHS across the country and confirmed that he'd like to see the My Life My Choice commitment made across the NHS.

Councillor Jones asked about the challenges faced in co-production of this work, given the importance of supporting people with learning disabilities. Councillor Bearder confirmed that the My Life My Choice deal and Learning Disability Plan were aligned.

On item 5 (Infrastructure Funding Statement 2024/25 and Section 106 Improvement Programme Update), Councillor Fry asked for an indication of how the recent government announcement of releasing funds to fix Kennington Rail Bridge, could lead to section 106 funding becoming available for other projects in the area. Councillor Roberts responded that it wasn't clear if the money would go into the section 106 pot directly and highlighted that the overall project overall could take 5 years.

Councillor Pressel asked what the Council was going to do to address the build-up of section 106 funds it held as the spending backlog was increasing. Councillor Roberts highlighted that spending had increased in the last reporting period in comparison with the previous reporting period, as well as the acceleration programme and funding put in place to quicken section 106 spending.

Councillor Baines asked for an updated timeline on when section 106 contributions would be spent over the medium term, what new receipt of monies were expected and if there would be a net reduction in the balance of money held. Councillor Roberts stated that whilst the information could be

found in the reports produced annually officers would be requested to provide some information in response to this question.

Councillor Worgan asked whether future funding would be made available for the Didcot Northern Perimeter Road phase 3 (NPR3) scheme, as housing growth made this a critical piece of infrastructure that was needed. Councillor Roberts agreed that it was not an ideal situation and that the Council had committed to building its section, with negotiations continuing with the developers about other parts of the scheme.

Councillor Epps asked the Cabinet Member to thank officers for using the accelerator programme scheme to progress the Heyford Park mitigation measures. Councillor Roberts undertook to pass on thanks to officers.

Councillor Snowdon asked how a significant slow-down in housing would impact the delivery of the Didcot NPR3 scheme. Councillor Roberts noted that the sticking point was the precise number of homes being built and whether 500 was the correct number.

On item 6 (Updates to 'Implementing Decide & Provide'), Councillor Baines asked about the anticipated cumulative impact on these updates to the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP) targets for net reductions in car journeys, and how the views expressed by the highways authority are considered in the implementation of this framework at district-level planning authorities. Councillor Roberts stated that more information was available on the website relating to the government's 'Decide & Provide' policy and that clarification would be provided in a written response.

Councillor Kerr asked how the Council's road-building initiatives, such as HIF1 and Watlington Relief Road adhere to the 'Decide & Provide' framework and asked if the models for traffic impacts were the same as in the LTCP framework. Councillor Roberts believed that the documents were available through HIF1 Planning Inspectorate's reports and that it would have been in the documentation considered by the Secretary of State when deciding to approve the application.

On item 7 (Movement and Place Plans – Science Vale), Councillor Fry noted that the Movement and Place Plans passed by Cabinet, referred to 2011 Census data, rather than 2021 data, and asked whether the reduction in car use had been achieved over that decade. Councillor Roberts noted that the problem with the 2021 Census was that it took place during the COVID-19 pandemic making it difficult to use. The consensus moving forward was that other sources should be used alongside census data.

Councillor Kerr noted that the majority of schemes within the plan were road-widening and asked how that adhered to the 'Decide & Provide' framework discussed previously, and asked what funding was in place for solely cycling and walking schemes. Councillor Roberts noted that the accelerator section 106 programme allocated funding for cycling and walking schemes. Councillor Roberts referenced the council's Local Cycling and Walking

Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) programme, which identified identifying suitable schemes so that when funds became available, plans were already in place.

Councillor Jones asked for the felling of trees on the HIF1 route be stopped until the impacts of losing trees was assessed, given that the move to environmental impact standards will require the Council to do so in the future regardless. Councillor Roberts committed to provide a written response.

On item 8 (LTCP Monitoring Report 2024-2025), Councillor Fry asked if the ambitious targets within the LTCP would be revised in light of experience. Councillor Roberts stated that the overall project, in terms of how data was presented and handled, would be revised as there were new government standards that the Council needed to take into consideration, as well the need to adjust the population figures.

Councillor Pressel asked how the Council was going to speed up the move to active travel as it was currently failing to achieve a meaningful modal shift. Councillor Roberts confirmed that active travel was towards the top of the Council's agenda, citing the recent upgrade in the Council's active travel ranking, notwithstanding funding constraints.

Councillor Baines asked if there were targets for residents to be within walking distances of bus routes and if the LTCP had modal shift targets for increased bus use. Councillor Roberts stated that 2 buses per hour would be built into parking standards and that the Council was assessing walking distances to various facilities.

Councillor Middleton asked about the east-west cycle path on Bicester Road outlined in the Kidlington LCWIP and whether funding would become available for an important piece of active travel infrastructure. Councillor Roberts noted the importance of LCWIPs in providing plans for areas but stated that the proposal was unfunded and therefore reliant on other sources of funding becoming available before the scheme could be delivered.

Councillor Kerr asked for an update on the progress towards parking targets within the LTCP since 2019. Councillor Roberts undertook to take that forward in the redesign of the report.

On item 10 (Capital Programme Update and Monitoring Report), Councillor Coles welcomed the long overdue enhancements in Witney through Shores Green and Witney Library but asked about the delays to the Witney High Street enhancement schemes. Councillor Levy noted the delays and confirmed that it was scheduled for decision later on in the week, which, if approved, would deliver improvements to the High Street.

Councillor Baines asked what steps were being taken to strengthen financial and project management of key schemes to avoid financial and reputational risks to the Council. Councillor Levy stated the Council had improved the

management of big projects and noted that a period of high inflation meant it was imperative for the Council to undertake work as quickly as possible.

Councillor Hanna asked how section 106 funds were being used to drive forward the Council's capital programme. Councillor Levy noted that section 106 agreements were almost always tied to specific projects but noted the Council was improving its flexibility to be able to spend money more quickly and using various sources of money to fund projects, such as the Milton Heights Bridge scheme approved by Cabinet last week.

Councillor Pressel asked about the delay in relation to the progress of the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme and stated that the Council needed to impress a sense of urgency as it was vital for residents of Oxford. Councillor Levy stated that officers were working on this project and that the Council did have a sense of urgency. Councillor Levy undertook to provide a written response outlining the current position.

18/26 OFFICER CODE OF CONDUCT (CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT)
(Agenda Item 11)

The Chair took Item 11 ahead of Item 10.

Council considered the report which summarised the comprehensive review of the Code that was undertaken by the Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer, taking into consideration best practice, and benchmarking against other authorities. Council was asked to approve the revised code.

The recommendation was moved by Councillor Smith, Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee and seconded by Councillor Shiri, Deputy Chair. Following discussion, the recommendation was approved unanimously with 62 votes in favour, none against and no abstentions.

RESOLVED:

that the Constitution be amended at Part 9.6 Officers' Code of Conduct with the text in the Annex.

19/26 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH
(Agenda Item 10)

The Chair accepted two requests to speak on this item before Members considered it.

Laura Price, Chief Executive of Oxfordshire Community & Voluntary Action (OCVA), addressed Council on the importance of the Director of Public Health Annual Report and the progress made since the 2019/20 "Some Are More Equal Than Others" report. Laura Price reflected on how COVID-19 exposed deep inequalities in Oxfordshire but also demonstrated the strength of community action when statutory partners and the voluntary sector work flexibly, share power and build trust.

The success of initiatives such as the Connected Communities Fund, Community Capacity Grants and Well Together, were highlighted, which have enabled grassroots groups not only to deliver services but to shape local solutions based on lived experience. Council was warned that the voluntary and community sector faced increasing financial pressure, rising demand and limited resilience, coinciding with the uncertainties of local government reorganisation.

Professor Sir Michael Marmot addressed Council via a recorded contribution, expressing strong support for Oxfordshire's work on health equity. Oxfordshire's unique position among Marmot Communities was highlighted, given it combined areas of significant affluence and academic excellence with deep pockets of rural poverty. The County's progress since the earlier public health report was praised, which had identified these inequalities and stated that this progress contributed to his "evidence-based hope."

Sir Michael stressed that significant challenges remained, particularly around rural deprivation, but noted that Oxfordshire's work had national and international relevance. Sir Michael felt the County's Marmot advisory board meetings was exceptionally strong while also firmly rooted in action. Sir Michael concluded by reaffirming his commitment to supporting Oxfordshire as a Marmot County and emphasised that the work being undertaken locally had the potential to improve outcomes for Oxfordshire residents while serving as a guiding example to other regions.

Council had before it the Director of Public Health Annual Report 2025/26 which offered a comprehensive and accessible review of Oxfordshire's progress in addressing health inequalities since the 2019/20 report, *Some Are More Equal Than Others*.

The report was presented by Councillor Gregory, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Inequalities, who also moved the recommendations. Councillor Leffman, Leader of the Council, seconded the recommendations.

Following discussion, the recommendations were approved with 58 votes in favour, no votes against and seven abstentions.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the 2025/26 Director of Public Health Annual Report be noted and specifically the progress made to address health inequalities in Oxfordshire following the publication of the Director of Public Health Annual Report in 2019/2020, which marked a pivotal moment in Oxfordshire.
- b) That the interactive format of the Director of Public Health Annual Report 2025/26 be supported and the insights that can be used for informing future service delivery plans, be noted.

20/26 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR TOM GREENAWAY

(Agenda Item 12)

The motion was proposed by Councillor Greenaway and seconded by Councillor Epps.

“Pride in the appearance of the public realm is important to our residents. Clean and well-maintained pavements make people feel good about their neighbourhood, reduce accidents, and prevent more costly problems later. Neglect leads to uneven footways, hazards for those with mobility difficulties, and higher long-term repair bills.

Routine weed clearance on county pavements was part of highways maintenance until 2007/08, when budget cuts removed the programme. Some parishes now commission their own weed spraying and may be using glyphosate, increasingly opposed by residents because of its risks to health, pets, rivers, and biodiversity. Other parishes are now beginning to trial alternative approaches.

Council resolves to:

1. Note the historic withdrawal of routine weed clearance and the resulting concerns about accessibility, safety, and neighbourhood appearance.
2. Recognise the Council’s statutory duty to keep pavements free of hazards, and that neglect increases both risks and costs.
3. Request Cabinet to seek an officer report with options for re-establishing pavement weed clearance and scheduled maintenance, including alternatives to glyphosate, and how the Council can support towns and parishes to reduce reliance on chemical spraying.
4. Request that the Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Transformation give due consideration to the findings of this report as part of the next round of budget setting.”

Following discussion, an electronic vote was taken. The motion was carried with 64 votes in favour, no abstentions and none against.

21/26 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR GLYNIS PHILLIPS

(Agenda Item 13)

The motion was proposed by Councillor Phillips and seconded by Councillor Barlow.

“Oxfordshire is an expensive place to live and work. Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) staff need and deserve the Oxford Living Wage (OLW).

Paying the OLW helps tackle in-work poverty, improves staff wellbeing and retention, and supports local economic resilience. Extending to all suppliers, service-providers and contractors, via inclusion in all contracts, will multiply the impact.

From April 2026, the Oxford Living Wage, a voluntary rate set at 95% of the London Living Wage, will be £14.06 an hour. It recognises the high cost of living in Oxford, costs that OCC workers must meet.

This Council aims for a healthier, fairer and greener county, one that delivers real social value: Paying all staff a living wage is fundamental.

In 2025-6 OCC's lowest paid staff earned £980 less than if an Oxford Living Wage was in place.

OCC could also implement an Oxfordshire Living Wage, reflecting the real cost of living in Oxfordshire.

This Council therefore commits to an Oxfordshire Living Wage and asks Cabinet to

- Include sufficient capacity in the 2027/2028 budget to meet the cost of implementing the Oxford Living Wage for all staff
- Ensure all new contracts negotiated after such decision has been made require contractors, suppliers and service providers to pay the Oxford Living Wage and existing providers as contracts get renewed
- Seek to work with Oxford City Council and Oxfordshire District Councils to explore expanding the Oxford Living Wage to be an Oxfordshire Living Wage
- Publicly promote OCC's commitment to the Oxfordshire Living Wage"

Following discussion, Councillor Evans proposed that the question be now put and this was seconded by Councillor Walker. The Chair agreed that the item had been sufficiently discussed and put the proposal to move to the vote meaning there would be no further debate.

The vote was lost with 20 votes in favour, 24 votes against and 5 abstentions.

Following further discussion, the question was put. Councillor Worgan stood to request a roll call vote and at least seven other Members stood to support the request.

The motion was carried.

The result of the roll call vote was as follows:

Councillors voting in favour (47): Baines, Barlow, Batstone, Bearder, Brant, Brighthouse, Cherry, Coles, Cotter, Crichton, Edosomwan, Epps, Fawcett, Filipova-Rivers, Fletcher, Fry, Gant, Garnett, Gaul, Graham, Greenaway,

Gregory, Hanna, Hannaby, Higgins, Hingley, Hope-Smith, Jones, Leffman, Levy, Lugova, Lygo, Markham, McLauchlan, McLean, Middleton, Overton, Phillips, Pressel, Rawlins, Roberts, Saul, Smith, Stevens, Thomas, Webb, Worgan.

Councillors voting against (0)

Councillors abstaining (13): Ashby, Du, Evans, Fenton, Field-Johnson, Henwood, Malik, Mallon, Plumb, Robertshaw, Sargent, Snowdon, Walker.

22/26 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR LEE EVANS

(Agenda Item 14)

The motion was proposed by Councillor Evans and seconded by Councillor Walker.

“For eleven consecutive years, under varying political leaderships, Oxfordshire County Council was named the top performing county council waste disposal authority.

- The 2025 Satisfaction Ratings of Services survey showed 72% of residents were satisfied with the way Household Waste Recycling Centres operated, with only 16% dissatisfied.
- The hard-work of employees who operate our centres, alongside the conscientiousness of Oxfordshire residents, made the operation of centres a success story in our county.

In spite of this positive record, this Council administration has implemented a series of changes, including a mandatory booking system and the need to bring proof of address with you when using a centre.

This Council acknowledges that:

- The new rules for using waste and recycling centres place additional bureaucratic burdens on residents, making it harder for them to use local centres.
- The implementation of these rules, we believe, has reduced the number of visits to the centres, with more waste likely to be redirected into District & City Council waste collections or, in some cases, fly-tipped.
- These rules are, therefore, a threat to the high rates of recycling previously seen in our County and risk undermining public satisfaction with waste and recycling services.

Therefore, this Council resolves to request the Cabinet to reconsider the issue of rules for using the household waste and recycling centres; revoke these new and unnecessary burdens on local residents; and return to the popular and successful model previously operated.”

The Chair advised that he would hear one speaker from each party on this motion.

Following discussion, an electronic vote was taken and the motion was lost with 23 votes in favour, 33 against and 4 abstentions.

23/26 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARLOW
(Agenda Item 15)

The time being 3.50 pm, the motion was not considered in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 5.2.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing