

CABINET

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 19 May 2026 commencing at 2.00 pm and finishing at 3.00 pm

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Neil Fawcett – in the Chair

Councillor Tim Bearder
Councillor Judith Edwards
Councillor Gareth Epps
Councillor Rebekah Fletcher
Councillor Sean Gaul
Councillor Laura Gordon
Councillor Kate Gregory
Councillor Dan Levy

Other Members in Attendance:

Councillor Mark Lygo
Councillor Glynis Phillips
Councillor Ian Snowdon
Councillor Liam Walker

Officers:

Whole of meeting Martin Reeves (Chief Executive), Anita Bradley (Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer), Paul Fermer (Director of Environment and Highways), Lisa Lyons (Director of Children's Services), Kathy Wilcox (Head of Corporate Finance and Deputy Section 151 Officer), Jack Ahier (Senior Democratic Services Officer).

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

66/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(Agenda Item. 1)

There were none.

67/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(Agenda Item. 2)

There were none.

68/26 MINUTES

(Agenda Item. 3)

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 April 2026 were approved as a correct record.

69/26 QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

(Agenda Item. 4)

Please see the attached annex.

70/26 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS

(Agenda Item. 5)

A list of speakers can be found below:

7 - Reports from Scrutiny Committees

Cllr Ian Snowdon

8 – Oxford Congestion Charge Investment Plan

Luke Marion
Robin Tucker
Danny Yee

10 – Quiet Lanes Policy & Pilot Programme

Cllr Emily Kerr
Robin Tucker
Danny Yee

71/26 APPOINTMENTS 2026/27

(Agenda Item. 6)

Cabinet had before it a report asking it to consider member appointments to a variety of bodies which in different ways supported the discharge of the Council's executive functions.

Councillor Neil Fawcett, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Resources, proposed that the appointments be deferred to the next appropriate meeting, and it was approved.

RESOLVED:

To defer the agreement of appointments to the bodies set out in the annex to the report to the next appropriate meeting.

72/26 REPORTS FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

(Agenda Item. 7)

Cabinet received the following report from the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee and will respond in due course:

- a) Domestic Abuse – Safe Accommodation Provision

73/26 OXFORD CONGESTION CHARGE INVESTMENT PLAN

(Agenda Item. 8)

Cabinet had before it a report setting out revisions to the proposed investment plan for surplus income from Oxford's temporary congestion charge scheme, outlining recommended allocations and justifications for spending to support local transport policies, following the item's deferral from the previous Cabinet meeting in April.

Cabinet heard from external speakers on several matters, including the performance of the free park and ride scheme, bus usage, schemes to support NHS staff and teachers, active travel infrastructure and improvements in safety for pedestrians and cyclists at junctions.

Councillor Bekah Fletcher, Cabinet Member for Transport Management, presented the report.

Cabinet noted the improved reliability and timings of bus services since the temporary congestion charge's introduction in October, which had also led to increased passengers using bus services. Members thanked the outgoing Cabinet Member for his work on this scheme.

Members particularly highlighted the good value of the proposed £3 Park & Ride offer, the incentives specifically for NHS staff and teachers and junction safety improvements but reflected that future income from the scheme was not guaranteed.

Councillor Fletcher moved and Councillor Gaul seconded the recommendations and they were approved.

RESOLVED to:

- a) **Approve the congestion charge investment plan, as detailed at Annex 1 and outlined in paragraph 20, including a £3 combined parking and bus ticket to replace the current free park and ride offer as soon as practically possible after 1 June 2026.**
- b) **Approve the amendments to the council's Fees and Charges for 2026/27 as shown in Annex 2**

c) Delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Transport Management for:

- i. the allocation of any remaining unallocated surplus**
- ii. the apportionment of the funds for “Active travel and additional public transport schemes” (Table 1) to specific projects, including but not limited to the list of such schemes in Annex 1**

74/26 BEST START IN LIFE PLAN

(Agenda Item. 9)

Cabinet received a report on the Best Start in Life Plan, which was aimed at improving early childhood development outcomes for all children but particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Councillor Sean Gaul, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, presented the report.

Cabinet noted that the intention was to get more children achieving the good level of development (GLD) indicators, reflecting the system-wide approach to achieve this through family support, auto-enrolment on free school meals, early intervention and wider community facilities such as libraries. Cabinet noted the oversight of this plan through the Children’s Trust Board, which reported into the Health & Wellbeing Board.

Councillor Gaul moved and Councillor Gregory seconded the recommendations and they were approved.

RESOLVED to:

- a) Note the release of the plan and share any feedback about its content.**

75/26 QUIET LANES POLICY & PILOT PROGRAMME

(Agenda Item. 10)

Cabinet considered a report on Quiet Lanes Policy & Pilot Programme, aimed at making rural roads safer and more suitable for walking, cycling, wheeling and horse-riding through pilot schemes using existing allocations of funding and policy frameworks based on support from local areas.

Cabinet heard from external speakers on matters including the benefits for rural communities, road safety and danger, the structured pilot approach working with local communities, the prioritisation of schemes that enhance the wider active travel network and the need to have physical interventions to restrict access to quiet lanes.

Councillor Bekah Fletcher, Cabinet Member for Transport Management, introduced the report.

Cabinet noted the synergies with the direction set in the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP), supporting vision zero, healthy streets and public health aims. It was confirmed that after the pilot schemes had been rolled out, evaluation would be undertaken and it would be brought back to Cabinet to present the evaluation and refine the policy if required. Members also noted the importance of engagement with the community, parish council and local councillors to ensure it was requested, as was the case with the introduction of 20mph speed limits.

Councillor Fletcher moved and Councillor Epps seconded the recommendations and they were approved.

RESOLVED to:

- a) Approve the County Council's Quiet Lanes Policy statement as attached at Annex 1**
- b) Approve the Assessment criteria for consideration of Quiet Lanes at Annex 2 and the Implementation Toolkit at Annex 3**
- c) Endorse the proposed approach to implementing, and testing, the Quiet Lanes Policy across Oxfordshire through a programme of pilot schemes (to be identified with local county councillors and parish/town councils)**
- d) Delegate authority to Director of Environment & Highways, in consultation with Cabinet Member for Transport Management, to bring into operation Traffic Regulation Orders (both permanent and experimental) for the pilot schemes.**

76/26 FORWARD PLAN AND FUTURE BUSINESS

(Agenda Item. 11)

The Cabinet considered a list of items for the immediately forthcoming meetings of the Cabinet together with changes and additions set out in the schedule of addenda.

RESOLVED:

- a) To note the items currently identified for forthcoming meetings.**

.....in the Chair

Date of signing

