

CABINET

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 16 December 2025 commencing at 2.00 pm and finishing at 2.40pm

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Liz Leffman – in the Chair
Councillor Tim Bearder
Councillor Sean Gaul
Councillor Kate Gregory
Councillor Jenny Hannaby
Councillor Dan Levy
Councillor Judy Roberts

Other Members in Attendance:

Councillors James Robertshaw and Liam Walker

Officers:

Whole of meeting Martin Reeves (Chief Executive), Lorna Baxter (Executive Director of Resources & Section 151 Officer), Anita Bradley (Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer), Lisa Lyons (Director of Children's Services), Robin Rogers (Director of Economy and Place), Chris Reynolds (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.

188/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(Agenda Item. 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Neil Fawcett, Andrew Gant and Ben Higgins.

189/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(Agenda Item. 2)

There were none.

190/25 MINUTES

(Agenda Item. 3)

The minutes of the meetings held on 13 and 18 November 2025 were amended with the inclusion of Councillor James Robertshaw in the list of non-voting members in attendance at both meetings and approved as a correct record.

191/25 QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

(Agenda Item. 4)

There were none received.

192/25 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS

(Agenda Item. 5)

9 – Updates to Implementing “Decide and Provide”

Robin Tucker
Siobhann Mansell-Playdell

193/25 APPOINTMENTS

(Agenda Item. 6)

The Leader of the Council announced that Cllr Dr Izzy Creed had been appointed as Youth Justice Champion.

194/25 REPORTS FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

(Agenda Item. 7)

Councillor Liam Walker, Chair of the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee, presented the reports on:-

- a) Infrastructure Funding Statement 2024/25 and s.106 Programme Update
- b) Movement and Place Plans
- c) Local Government Reorganisation - One Oxfordshire Proposal

Cabinet received the reports and will respond in due course.

195/25 INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING STATEMENT 2024/25 AND SECTION 106 IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE

(Agenda Item. 8)

Cabinet had before it a report on the Infrastructure Funding Statement, a statutory statement of fact to be reported annually, by 31 December each year on developer contributions secured, spent and received during the previous financial year, 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025.

Councillor Judy Roberts, Cabinet Member for Place, Environment and Climate Action, presented the report. Councillor Roberts outlined the

progress made in managing Section 106 funds, noting that £37.8 million was received and £30.3 million spent, which was an improvement over previous years, and described efforts to streamline the process and accelerate project delivery. She explained the legal complexities of Section 106 agreements, which were made at the district level, and the need for careful drafting to facilitate project acceleration.

During discussion, members reflected on past difficulties in accessing Section 106 information, acknowledged improvements, and discussed the importance of spending on schools and infrastructure, while noting that some funds must be held until appropriate timing for projects.

Councillor Roberts moved and Councillor Levy seconded the recommendations and they were approved.

RESOLVED to

- a) Consider the content of the Infrastructure Funding Statement 2024/25 (Annex 1)**
- b) Approve the publication of the report onto the Oxfordshire County Council website**
- c) Delegate authority to make any minor amendments to the report prior to its publication to the Director of Economy & Place in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Place, Environment and Climate Action**
- d) Note and comment on the update provided on the S106 improvement programme (Annex 2)**
- e) Note the recommendations from the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee in paragraph 20 of this report**

196/25 UPDATES TO "IMPLEMENTING DECIDE & PROVIDE"

(Agenda Item. 9)

Cabinet had before it a report recommending adoption of updates to the 'Implementing Decide & Provide' document, which guided transport assessments for new developments in Oxfordshire. These updates aligned the document with recent national policy changes and improved its practical application based on user experience.

Councillor Judy Roberts, Cabinet Member for Transport Management, presented the report.

During discussion, members commented on the necessity of early engagement with local communities, the role of partners such as the NHS and universities, and the need for adequate resources and clear communication to support the policy's success. Members also noted the challenges in ensuring consistent application by officers, planning authorities,

and developers, and stressed the importance of rigorous implementation and monitoring to achieve healthier, more sustainable communities.

Councillor Roberts moved and Councillor Bearder seconded the recommendations and they were approved.

RESOLVED to adopt the proposed updates to the 'Implementing Decide & Provide: Requirements for Transport Assessments' document

197/25 CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE AND MONITORING REPORT

(Agenda Item. 10)

Cabinet had before it the third capital programme update and monitoring report for 2025/26 which set out the monitoring position based on activity to the end of October 2025.

Councillor Dan Levy, Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Transformation, presented the report.

Councillor Levy reported that the 10-year capital programme totals £1.43 billion, with actual expenditure at the end of October just over £103 million and a forecast of £186 million for the year, noting some slippages due to design and contractor delays. Highlights included progress on active travel schemes, the Whitney access scheme, and the reopening of Whitney Library, as well as significant investment in new school places and SEND provision.

During discussion, Members discussed the various funding sources, including Section 106 and government grants, and noted the impact of central government funding pressures on future service provision.

Councillor Levy moved and Councillor Leffman seconded the recommendations and they were approved.

RESOLVED to:

- a) Note the capital monitoring position for 2025/26 set out in this report and summarised in Annex 1.**
- b) Approve the updated Capital Programme at Annex 2 incorporating the changes set out in this report.**

198/25 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 to note the items currently identified for forthcoming meetings.

**199/25 FOR INFORMATION ONLY: CABINET RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY
ITEM**

(Agenda Item. 12)

The Cabinet response on Verge and Vegetation Management was noted.

.....in the Chair

Date of signing