

QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Questions	Answers
<p>1. COUNCILLOR CHARLES MATHEW</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member for Education confirm whether it is true that four Oxfordshire schools feature in the top ten of the A-level UK national tables?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR MELINDA TILLEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION</p> <p>This question is based on an article that was in the Oxford Mail a couple of weeks ago. The data was released by the DfE in July and relates to A-levels taken in 2011.</p> <p>Two Oxfordshire schools were in the top 4 schools nationally when comparing the proportion of A* grades for an individual subject. These comparisons are based on non-Independent schools with more than 10 pupils taking a subject. These two schools were Matthew Arnold School – maths and The Cherwell School – further maths.</p> <p>John Mason School was rated sixth in maths, Wallingford School were 5th for English literature and The Cherwell also were fifth for biology, chemistry and sixth for physics.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>I wish to ask the Cabinet Member what steps have been taken to spread this very welcomed news to the rest of Oxfordshire schools?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Thank you Chairman, Oxfordshire schools already know because they have already had the information. We spend a lot of time challenging aspects of our education and performance with our statistical neighbours and it has always been the case that some of our schools have truly excelled. I think we should be celebrating that, and therefore we are asking schools, headteachers and Chairman of governors to a reception in County Hall to celebrate their successes too.</p>
<p>2. COUNCILLOR ZOE PATRICK</p> <p>Given the enthusiasm of the House of Commons Transport Select Committee for Oxfordshire's joint ticketing scheme when they visited the County Council earlier this</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>I'm sure that Cllr Patrick can remember she put forward a motion when I was cabinet member for Transport regarding the expansion of an out dated paper based system. My reply then was that I wanted to see a 21st century system in place not an out dated paper based system.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>year, will the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council now agree with me that it is time to roll the scheme out beyond the city's boundaries so that other communities in Oxfordshire can benefit from the scheme?</p>	<p>I'm pleased to say that with the assistance from the major bus companies this administration has achieved a 21st century system within Oxford.</p> <p>I can state that my ambition for all of Oxfordshire would be to have an efficient, easy to use system that encompasses all forms of public transport buses, coaches, trains and all park & rides to enable users to have the minimum fuss when using the service. It may even be using smart phones as technology progresses. However I am conscious that the cost of the equipment in buses would fall upon the operators, the larger companies may be able to find the funds. During these difficult financial times caused by the profligate spending of the previous Labour government smaller companies who operate in predominately rural areas may not be able to afford the capital funding. This may cause them to cease providing valuable bus services in rural areas, I would not wish that to happen. I am sure that Cllr Patrick would agree with me that she would not wish to see the implementation of any scheme that could jeopardise rural bus services in the County.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Surely something can be worked out where there is just a discussion with the bus companies and they can accept a paper ticket?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>The difficulty when you have paper based system, is that how does a different bus company actually get the money back from the original bus company that the ticket was purchased from. When you are using smart card technology that is always going to be easy because that's what the three companies now have agreed to. The cost I was referring to was actually for cost inside the cab and particularly small rural bus services that we must make sure survive. I wouldn't want to inflict upon them a system that they couldn't afford. However, as I clearly state my aim is to have a joint ticket with a smart card right across and get rid of paper because that makes it unnecessarily bureaucratic for everybody.</p>
<p>3. COUNCILLOR ROZ SMITH</p> <p>The expansion of the Thornhill Park and Ride car park is to be welcomed by many residents. However would the cabinet</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR RODNEY ROSE, DEPUTY LEADER</p> <p>The Oxford Park and Ride system is very successful and popular, and makes a major contribution to reduction of traffic and parking volumes in Oxford city centre. In addition, a significant number of users of Thornhill specifically, are travelling to</p>

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<p>member agree that the popularity of the site, it being full quite often by 9am, has led to problems of inconsiderate parking in the local residential roads?</p>	<p>places in Headington, thereby reducing traffic and parking in that area too. The Thornhill site is indeed currently at full capacity, on average from 9am on weekdays, which may well increase the likelihood of people seeking alternative parking places in surrounding streets. We currently try to minimise this by directing approaching motorists to alternative Park and Ride sites when Thornhill is full, using fixed and variable message signs. As Cllr Smith recognises, an expansion of this site to provide an extra 500 spaces is programmed to start this year, and when complete this will enable the site to make an even greater contribution to traffic relief in this area of Oxford.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Thank you Councillor Rose for your answer and agreeing with me I think, that there is a problem there. Given the strategic nature of this particular Park & Ride would the Cabinet Member consider funding a mitigation scheme for the local residents in the Sandhills area from the E&E budget rather than making local councillors have to take the mitigation scheme from our local member's budget, I would ask you just to consider it.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Yes.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>4. COUNCILLOR CHARLES MATHEW</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure please confirm when the Council-approved OCC Core Strategy for 2030- Minerals and Waste was submitted to Government for approval and when she expects a reply?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR HIBBERT-BILES, CABINET MEMBER FOR GROWTH & INFRASTRUCTURE</p> <p>The Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy has not yet been submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination by a planning inspector. The Council received responses to the Core Strategy Proposed Submission Document, May 2012 from about 100 organisations and individuals. These representations are currently being checked for any new issues concerning the soundness and legal compliance of the plan that may need to be considered before it is submitted for examination. The Core Strategy will be submitted when this process has been completed. The current aim is for this to be done in October. The examination would then be likely to be held in February 2013. Organisations and individuals who responded to the Proposed Submission Document will be notified when the Core Strategy is submitted.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Might I ask the Cabinet Member do you intend to talk to the consultation consultants?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Thank you Chairman, Consultees who have responded to this have been spoken to previously. Appeals are actually done by letter form and I don't think we will be speaking to consultees as the consultation is now closed.</p>
<p>5. COUNCILLOR LARRY SANDERS</p> <p>The numbers of people killed or severely injured on Oxfordshire roads fell significantly between 2000 and 2005 (from 516 to 346). There has been virtually no change between 2005 and 2011, the numbers fluctuating in a narrow range. Nationally, between 2005 and 2011, there has been a reduction of about 23%. Oxfordshire has fallen seriously behind the rest of the country, costing lives, severe injuries and vast amounts of money.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR RODNEY ROSE, DEPUTY LEADER</p> <p>Between 2000 and 2005 reported KSIs on Oxfordshire's roads fell by 33%, as compared to a 22% reduction reported nationally. This rather larger than expected reduction in Oxfordshire prompted a joint review with Thames Valley Police (TVP) on the accuracy of the coding of injury severity on the accident report forms compiled by TVP, and identified for example that officers were coding some relatively minor injuries— though technically serious in accordance with Department for Transport definitions – as slight. Improved procedures addressing this and other sources of inaccuracy were progressively introduced from 2006, the net effect of which has been to add by around 15% to the number of recorded serious injuries than would have been the case prior to their introduction.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>Has Councillor Rose any ideas as to why the good results of 2000 to 2005 have not been maintained from 2005 to 2011?</p> <p>What are the plans for decreasing deaths and serious injuries in the future?</p> <p>What targets have been set to reduce the terrible figures?</p>	<p>The effect of these progressive improvements since 2005 accounts for much of the apparent gap in the trends between Oxfordshire and the Great Britain as a whole. We continue to monitor road injuries very closely, and thankfully the number of KSIs reported in Oxfordshire between January to July 2012 is 18% lower than seen in the same period in 2011.</p> <p>The County Council takes road safety very seriously and considers that the majority of its highways related spend contributes to making Oxfordshire's roads as safe as possible. We continue to monitor personal injury accidents and take focused action to target problem areas, but ensuring that we minimise risk through the maintenance of the highway network is a priority for us.</p> <p>As part of its last review of road safety strategy central government removed the targets that they had set over recent years. We continue to monitor personal injury accidents and to do what we can to reduce risk on our network</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Councillor Rose answered that the failure of improvement in the death and serious injury rate on Oxfordshire's roads had to do with the change to statistics in 2005 and 2006. Unfortunately there has been no improvement in the period from 2006 to 2011. So the question is why after the statistical change, was there no improvement in 2007, 8, 9, 10 and 11 and really much more importantly, what are we going to do to resume the previous good record of improvement which has stalled?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Thank you, I think we will continue doing schemes such as 365 Alive and all that we can do to make our highways safer. All we can do is carry-on with what we are doing at the moment.</p>
<p>6. COUNCILLOR LARRY SANDERS</p> <p>The figures relating to deaths and serious injuries to cyclists are particularly frightening.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR RODNEY ROSE, DEPUTY LEADER</p> <p>Local targets to reduce by 2010 pedestrian and cyclist injuries of all severities by 50% were set in the previous Local Transport Plan. It is accepted now that these</p>

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<p>The target for reductions set in 2000 has not been met. In fact, the number for 2011 was nearly four times the target.</p> <p>Why has this happened?</p> <p>What is being done to reduce the deaths and serious injuries to cyclists? What targets have been set?</p>	<p>were unrealistically ambitious, particularly in the context of generally increasing levels of cycle use. The number of reported cyclist KSI increased from 51 (in 2000) to 66 (in 2011) although there is typically significant variability from year to year</p> <p>The increase in reported KSI is likely to reflect both the improved accuracy of injury severity recording as referred to above, and a general increase in cycling activity. There is evidence that the actual risks to cyclists (per mile travelled) in Oxfordshire is appreciably less than in many other areas, reflecting in part the considerable investment in cycling facilities over many decades, that has supported the strong culture of cycling locally.</p> <p>Cycle schemes are being progressed and implemented (e.g. recent scheme in Old Road and The Slade in Oxford, jointly funded with Sustrans), improving conditions for cyclists. We are also applying for DfT funding to address junctions with cycle safety problems.</p> <p>As part of its last review of road safety strategy central government removed the targets that they had set over recent years. We continue to monitor personal injury accidents and to do what we can to reduce risk on our network</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Yes, this question has to do with cycling deaths and serious injuries. Between 1996-2000 the Government created a base line. For Oxfordshire the average was 35 per year. They then made a target of 17 being half of that. It is not merely that the target was too onerous (which it may well have been but we are not at 17, we are not at 35) we are now at 66 and I think that we really have to take this more seriously. I don't feel the urgency in the response. I would like to know how</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Councillor Heathcoat – Chairman would you mind if I answered instead because both the questions actually impinge on my portfolio. A cycling road safety report was given to the Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny meeting by the Fire Service because the Road Safety Team is actually now within the Fire Service remit. They are further going into schools to carry out education programmes so I feel that that answers the Councillor's query.</p>

Questions	Answers
Councillor Rose will take that forward?	
<p>7. COUNCILLOR LYNDA ATKINS</p> <p>The Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Oxfordshire has a number of detailed targets for achievement during 21012/13. One of these is that 75% of working age adults who use adult social care say that they find information very or fairly easy to understand (currently 74.2%).Both figures have increased by 20% since the consultation document was distributed.</p> <p>Does the Cabinet Member for Adult Services agree firstly that an increase of 0.8% in this measure is hardly a challenging target, and secondly that accepting that nearly a quarter of users of adult social care will not find information even fairly easy to understand is a very sad comment on the way in which we communicate about services?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ARASH FATEMIAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SERVICES</p> <p>Thank you for your query regarding the targets for information provision within the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. As a point of clarification, the target included in the strategy is: 75% of working age adults who use adult social care say that they find information very or fairly easy to find. Your query related to finding information easy to understand, which is clearly different.</p> <p>The targets were taken from a national user survey which is distributed in February each year. The reported response is part of the adult social care outcome framework. The survey asks people who are already using services whether, in the past year, they have found it easy or difficult to find information and advice about support, services or benefits? People can answer very easy, fairly easy, fairly difficult, very difficult or I've never tried to find information or advice.</p> <p>The reason for the 20% increase in the baseline is that initially the Government included those who had not tried to find information in the denominator, but later removed this. The H&WB document was amended to reflect this.</p> <p>The targets were set by benchmarking performance in Oxfordshire against other areas of the country. National figures are not broken down by age-group. The national average for 2010/11 was 75%. The target of a 0.8% increase reflects the commitment to reach at least this average in the first year of the strategy. This figure only includes people who are already receiving services where their services are, at least in part, funded by the county council.</p> <p>The council is committed to improving information to all people who may need social care, both those groups of people we fund and those who will fund their own care. We are committed to providing information and advice to people to support them in retaining independence, choice and control in their lives. Information is</p>

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	<p>provided online (web based information); in writing (leaflets, directories, posters); by telephone and face to face.</p> <p>Specific services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A new online support and signposting tool (Support Finder) which signposts people to a wide range of information about services and providers.• The Oxfordshire Guide, which is an online and hard copy directory of services.• The Big Plan 2012/15 for adults with learning difficulties• The council Website which provides information for, e.g. social care assessments, concessionary fares etc.• The Customer Service Centre is the first point of telephone and email access for Social and Health Care services for all adult social care enquiries. Approximately 75% of the contacts received by the Social & Health Care team result in the customer being provided with information, advice or signposting, rather than progressing to a social care assessment.• A Carers Information Service was set up in 2011 in partnership with Age UK Oxfordshire.• Eleven organisations are additionally commissioned by the council to provide generic or specialised information and advice, as part or all of their contractual arrangements, to people across Oxfordshire.

Questions	Answers
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>I would like to thank the Cabinet Member for his reply and ask if he agrees that there are times when this Council should aspire to achieve rather more than the national average and perhaps disseminating information in a really accessible form to our residents is one of them.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Thank you Chairman, through you I would agree with Councillor Atkins and hope it gets the agreement of all members in this Chamber that this Council should at all times certainly aspire to do better than the national average and we are trying our hardest to get there.</p>
<p>8. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>What progress has been made with designing a pedestrian crossing of Weirs Lane in my division and when is a decision on putting in the crossing likely to be made?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR RODNEY ROSE, DEPUTY LEADER</p> <p>An initial design has been completed and the next stage is to carry out formal consultation with local residents, emergency services, bus operators and other highway users; this will take place in the coming weeks and any objections reported to my Decisions Meeting on 22nd November</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>I would like to thank the portfolio holder and ask him if he would join Councillor Chip Sherwood and me in walking safely across Weirs Lane if and when the pedestrian crossing is put in place?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Yes.</p>
<p>9. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>Will the Cabinet member accept my congratulations on accepting the principle of charging at Thornhill and Water Eaton. Will he now introduce charges into line with the charges made by Oxford City Council at Redbridge, Seacourt and Peartree?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR RODNEY ROSE, DEPUTY LEADER</p> <p>The usage of Thornhill (and, to a lesser extent, Water Eaton) is different to the other three Park & Ride sites as there is significant use for journeys other than to Oxford and surroundings. The proposed charges are designed to protect the the prime purpose of Park & Ride which is to reduce congestion in Oxford by intercepting journeys that would otherwise continue by car to destinations in the City.</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>The Thornhill site is regularly full by 9am which means that many who wish to use it cannot do so. Approval has been given to expand the site and work is due to commence in the autumn. The site is in Green Belt and the extension was approved on condition that it was managed in such a way as to encourage sustainable travel into Oxford - rather than elsewhere - and that there was a limit on the maximum stay allowed for parking. Although the site at Water Eaton is not under the same pressure at present, this will change with the building of a new station by Chiltern Railways.</p> <p>The proposal is therefore to introduce charging only for those who stay beyond 11 hours, which is considered to be the number of hours expected for normal work, business or shopping purposes in Oxford, and to limit the maximum stay at the sites to 72 hours.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Does the portfolio holder agree with me that to charge at what works out as less than 5p an hour for somebody to park for 72 hours at Thornhill is a ridiculously low amount of money?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>This has gone through a lot of discussions so I would be forced to say that it is entirely appropriate but I haven't checked your mathematics yet.</p>
<p>10. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>Would the Cabinet member explain her thinking about the future of Waste Recycling Centres in Oxfordshire? What does the future hold for Alkerton, Ardley, Dix Pit, Drayton, Oakley Wood, Redbridge and Stanford in the Vale?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR HIBBERT-BILES, CABINET MEMBER FOR GROWTH & INFRASTRUCTURE</p> <p>We are currently reviewing the responses to the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy. These responses will help inform the implementation plan for the Household Waste Recycling Centre Strategy.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>I would like to ask the portfolio holder when a new strategy for the waste recycling centres is likely to be in place?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>It is on-going work as you are already aware. We are taking some soundings from the consultation that went on through the OWP that will help inform us. All I can say is that Vale number 1, South number 2, West Oxfordshire number 6 nationally recycling, not sure where the City is but we can give you some help there if you want to move up. We have also won the Green Apple Award nationally for our work with Agrevare. So OCC are actually doing extremely well and I wouldn't want us to see us lose the positions we have nationally for our recycling and that will inform what we do in the future.</p>
<p>11. COUNCILLOR JENNY HANNABY</p> <p>Having recently assisted an elderly lady who had fallen and received a severe Trauma to her head, and had to wait a full hour before a suitable ambulance could be found to take her to hospital. I was not at all surprised that the Oxfordshire ambulance service is reported to have the worst cardiac survival rate compared to all other ambulance trusts, and is ranked bottom of all the trusts. By SCAS own admission in a report to HOSC, their response rates whilst good in both Oxford and Cherwell Districts, with progress being made in West Oxfordshire. Their performance in the Vale and South is failing. Does the cabinet member for Adult Services and Public Health share my concerns that these results suggest that people who live in Oxfordshire and especially in rural areas are not receiving the service they deserve. If so what steps will he be taking to encourage a</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ARASH FATEMIAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SERVICES</p> <p>I am aware that similar concerns were raised at the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group Shadow Board meeting on 4th September. The response there was that the Ambulance Service were achieving the category A target in 3 Districts (the City, West and Cherwell), were just short of the target in the Vale and were significantly further away in South Oxfordshire. The Clinical Commissioning Group were working with the Ambulance Service to improve performance. I will also forward this to the Chairman of the Health Overview Scrutiny Committee so that he is aware of the concerns.</p>

Questions	Answers
better service?	
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Can I have his insurance that he will robustly chase GAZ? as an hour is not acceptable when an elderly lady needs help.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>This essentially falls outside of my remit but as I have highlighted in the answer, I will ensure that the Chairman of HOSC Councillor Dr Peter Skolar is pursuing it.</p>
<p>12. COUNCILLOR JENNY HANNABY</p> <p>Following on from a successful motion at Full Council in May regarding Day Centre provision. Recent research by the WRVS suggest that the experience of aging in the UK is poor compared to EU countries, with older people in this country the loneliest, poorest and concerned about age discrimination. Whilst some of these issues can be tackled by Voluntary groups the financial support from Local Authorities is essential, along with Council support for the Voluntary organizations.</p> <p>In the Oxford Mail 23rd September the County Council Leader Cllr Ian Hudspeth states he could not rule out further cuts in the "challenging budget" process. Will the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services give the elderly people of Oxfordshire, including rural areas, assurances that access to Day Centre provision will continue, and that all services that help to prevent loneliness such as the Internal Transport service and</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ARASH FATEMIAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SERVICES</p> <p>I agree with Councillor Hannaby that we must consider carefully all the factors that help people to age successfully. This was the whole point of the Ageing Successfully strategy that we developed with health colleagues and Age UK Oxfordshire. This strategy underpins the joint commissioning strategy for older people which is in the process of being developed and will be subject to public consultation in the next few months. Tackling loneliness is an important part of that strategy.</p> <p>As Councillor Hannaby is aware we have spent a great deal of time considering the role of day services within our overall support for older people. This has been discussed on several occasions at Adult Services Scrutiny Committee. We are in the middle of a consultation about increasing the charges for centres which aims to bring the charges closer to the real cost of providing those services and thus make the centres more financially sustainable.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>Health and Wellbeing Centres will be supported, and that he will work towards alleviating pressure on the poorest, and calm any fears regarding age discrimination within Oxfordshire.</p>	
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Thank you very much for the day centre one. I think the consultation comes back if you don't like the consultation result could we please make sure that we have your assurances they will still keep them?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I am not going to pass comment on any outcome of a consultation before knowing what that consultation says. I am not going to begin to pre-judge the results of a consultation.</p>