



**To: Members of the Cabinet**

## ***Notice of a Meeting of the Cabinet***

**Tuesday, 30 January 2024 at 10.00 am**

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

If you wish to view proceedings online, please click on this [Live Stream Link](#).

Martin Reeves  
Chief Executive

January 2024

**Committee Officer: Chris Reynolds**

*Tel: 07542 029441; E-Mail: [chris.reynolds@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:chris.reynolds@oxfordshire.gov.uk)*

### **Membership**

#### *Councillors*

Liz Leffman	Leader of the Council
Dr Pete Sudbury	Deputy Leader of the Council (inc. Climate Change, Environment & Future Generations)
Tim Bearder	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care
Neil Fawcett	Cabinet Member for Community & Corporate Services
Andrew Gant	Cabinet Member for Transport Management
Kate Gregory	Cabinet Member for SEND Improvement
John Howson	Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Young People's Services
Dan Levy	Cabinet Member for Finance
Dr Nathan Ley	Cabinet Member for Public Health, Inequalities & Community Safety
Judy Roberts	Cabinet Member for Infrastructure & Development Strategy

*The Agenda is attached. Decisions taken at the meeting will become effective at the end of the working day on 7 February 2024 unless called in by that date for review by the appropriate Scrutiny Committee. Copies of this Notice, Agenda and supporting papers are circulated*

*to all Members of the County Council.*

*Date of next meeting: 27 February 2024*



## **AGENDA**

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

- guidance note below

### **3. Petitions and Public Address**

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 9am four working days before the meeting i.e., 9am on Wednesday 24 January 2024. Requests to speak should be sent to [chris.reynolds@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:chris.reynolds@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 9am 2 working days before the meeting. Written submissions should be no longer than 1 A4 sheet.

### **4. Reports from Scrutiny Committee on the Budget and Business Planning Report (To Follow)**

### **5. Budget & Business Planning Report - 2024/25 - January 2024 (Pages 1 - 284)**

*Cabinet Member:* Finance

*Forward Plan Ref:* 2023/170

*Contact:* Kathy Wilcox, Head of Financial Strategy, [kathy.wilcox@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:kathy.wilcox@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Report by Executive Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer.

To propose the 2024/25 revenue budget, MTFP and capital programme for recommendation to Council in light of comments from the Performance & Corporate Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee and consultation feedback.

1. In relation to the Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (Section 3);

**Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:**

- a) approve the Review of Charges for 2024/25 and in relation to the Registration Service, charges also for 2025/26 (Annex A);

- b) approve the changes to the High Needs budget for 2024/25 – 2026/27 (Annex B Appendix 1);
- c) Receive the observations from Performance and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- d) approve the Financial Strategy for 2024/25 (Section 4.5);
- e) approve the Earmarked Reserves and General Balances Policy Statement 2024/25 (Section 4.6); and approve the creation of new reserves, as set out in Section 4.6, for:
  - (i) Collection Fund
  - (ii) IFRS9.
- f) delegate to the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Executive Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer, acting jointly, to make any appropriate changes to the proposed budget following any final funding changes as a result of the final Local Government Settlement and information from the district and city councils in relation to business rates or council tax.

**Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to RECOMMEND Council:**

- g) approve a Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2024/25 to 2026/27 as set out in Section 4.1 (which incorporates changes to the existing Medium Term Financial Strategy as set out in Section 4.2);
- h) agree the council tax and precept calculations for 2024/25 set out in Section 4.3 and in particular:
  - (i) a precept of £498,633,415;
  - (ii) a council tax for band D equivalent properties of £1,820.56.

**3. In relation to the Capital and Investment Strategy and Capital Programme (Section 5);**

**Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to recommend Council to:**

- i) approve the Capital and Investment Strategy for 2024/25 - 2034/35 (Section 4.1) including;
  - (i) the Minimum Revenue Provision Methodology Statement (Section 5.1 Annex 1);
  - (ii) the Prudential Indicators (Section 5.1 Annex 2) and
- j) approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2024/25 (Section 5.2); and
  - (i) continue to delegate the authority to withdraw or advance additional funds to/from external fund managers to the Executive Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer;
  - (ii) approve that any further changes required to the 2024/25 Treasury Management Strategy be delegated to the Executive Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Finance;
  - (iii) approve the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators; and



- (iv) approve the Specified Investment and Non - Specified Investment instruments as set out in Section 5.2.
- k) approve the new capital proposals for inclusion in the Capital Programme and proposed pipeline schemes (Section 5.3)
- l) approve the capital programme (Section 5.4).

## **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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## **CABINET - 30 JANUARY 2024**

### **Budget and Business Planning 2024/25**

#### **Report by the Executive Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer**

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. In relation to the Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (Section 3);

**Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:**

- a) approve the Review of Charges for 2024/25 and in relation to the Registration Service, charges also for 2025/26 (Annex A);
- b) approve the changes to the High Needs budget for 2024/25 – 2026/27 (Annex B Appendix 1);
- c) Receive the observations from Performance and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- d) approve the Financial Strategy for 2024/25 (Section 4.5);
- e) approve the Earmarked Reserves and General Balances Policy Statement 2024/25 (Section 4.6); and approve the creation of new reserves, as set out in Section 4.6, for:
  - (i) Collection Fund
  - (ii) IFRS9.
- f) delegate to the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Executive Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer, acting jointly, to make any appropriate changes to the proposed budget following any final funding changes as a result of the final Local Government Settlement and information from the district and city councils in relation to business rates or council tax.

**Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to RECOMMEND Council:**

- g) approve a Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2024/25 to 2026/27 as set out in Section 4.1 (which incorporates changes to the existing Medium Term Financial Strategy as set out in Section 4.2);
- h) agree the council tax and precept calculations for 2024/25 set out in Section 4.3 and in particular:
  - (i) a precept of £498,633,415;
  - (ii) a council tax for band D equivalent properties of £1,820.56.

3. In relation to the Capital and Investment Strategy and Capital Programme (Section 5);

**Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to recommend Council to:**

- i) approve the Capital and Investment Strategy for 2024/25 - 2034/35 (Section 4.1) including;
  - (i) the Minimum Revenue Provision Methodology Statement (Section 5.1 Annex 1);
  - (ii) the Prudential Indicators (Section 5.1 Annex 2) and
- j) approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2024/25 (Section 5.2); and
  - (i) continue to delegate the authority to withdraw or advance additional funds to/from external fund managers to the Executive Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer;
  - (ii) approve that any further changes required to the 2024/25 Treasury Management Strategy be delegated to the Executive Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Finance;
  - (iii) approve the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators; and
  - (iv) approve the Specified Investment and Non - Specified Investment instruments as set out in Section 5.2.
- k) approve the new capital proposals for inclusion in the Capital Programme and proposed pipeline schemes (Section 5.3)
- l) approve the capital programme (Section 5.4).

## **Executive Summary**

- 4. This report is the culmination of the Budget and Business Planning process for 2024/25 to 2026/27 and sets out the Cabinet's revenue budget for 2024/25, medium term financial strategy to 2026/27, capital programme to 2033/34 plus supporting policies, strategies and information.
- 5. The Budget and Business Planning report to Council on 20 February 2024 will be set out in five sections:
  - 1. Leader of the Council's Overview
  - 2. Budget engagement and consultation findings
  - 3. Section 151 Officer's Statutory Report
  - 4. Revenue Budget Strategy
  - 5. Capital & Investment Strategy
- 6. This report sets out the budget engagement and consultation 2024/25 findings (Section 2), the Cabinet's proposed Revenue Budget Strategy (Section 4) and the Capital & Investment Strategy (Section 5). Alongside this, the report also sets out the Review of Charges for 2024/25 and the High Needs budget changes for

2024/25 to 2026/27. Section 1 and 3 will be published as part of the report for Council on 20 February 2024.

7. Cabinet's revenue budget proposals take into consideration the latest information on the council's financial position outlined in this report. In finalising the proposals, Cabinet has taken into consideration feedback from Phase 1 of the public consultation on the revenue budget proposals and council tax increase. Feedback from Phase 2 is broadly consistent with Phase 1 and will be used to develop plans for 2025/26 onwards. Section 2.1 provides analysis of the responses to both phases of the engagement and consultation.
8. Observations from the Performance & Corporate Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee meetings on 8 December 2023 and 19 January 2024 will be considered by the Committee on 30 January 2024.
9. Some information in relation to funding for 2024/25 remains outstanding and estimates have been made. This includes:
  - The Final Local Government Finance Settlement expected in early February 2024.
  - Confirmation of Business Rates income including the collection fund position.
  - Final confirmation of the Council Tax collection fund position.
10. Any variations to business rates income or council tax surpluses will be managed through the Collection Fund reserve.

## **Section 2 - Budget engagement and consultation**

11. The council's approach to consultation and engagement is explained further in the consultation and engagement strategy 2022 - 25. This puts residents at the heart of decision-making and aims to engage with and listen to residents and other partners in a more active and inclusive way.
12. The council's approach to budget engagement for 2024/25 aims to:
  - Involve, inform and engage residents, businesses, staff and partners about the financial pressures facing the council and underline our ongoing commitment to delivering against our strategic priorities.
  - Enable the council to develop a clear understanding of what is important to local people, their priorities and the challenges facing their communities and to feed that insight into the budget and business planning process.
  - Increase understanding of how the council works, the range of services it delivers and what council tax is spent on.
13. This year, budget engagement included two phases:
  - Phase 1: Representative residents' survey

- Phase 2: Budget consultation using an online budget simulator and ten outreach and engagement events - two sounding board events with children and young people; three online Oxfordshire Conversations; and five targeted events with seldom heard adults.
14. Feedback from phase 1 has been shared in previous reports.
  15. Phase 2 asked residents and stakeholders to take on the role of councillors and create a balanced budget using an online budget simulator tool, weighing up choices and trade-offs. Participants were able to adjust core service budgets, make savings and generate income.
  16. The simulator was available from 29 November to 10 January 2024 along with an opportunity to comment on the budget proposals using an online form or in writing by Freepost.
  17. Wider engagement and outreach activities included:
    - Three Oxfordshire Conversation events that were held in early December 2023. These were an opportunity for residents to share their priorities for local services, as well as their views on increasing council tax, directly with cabinet. The sessions took place online via MS Teams and were chaired by an independent facilitator from The Consultation Institute. They were widely promoted using the council's digital channels (website, newsletters), stakeholder communications, media release and social media advertising. Participants were asked to register to attend the meetings and information outlining the purpose and format of the meetings, as well as budget proposals and supporting information, was shared in advance. In total, 32 residents participated across all three events, with 86 people registering their interest.
    - Two sounding board events, involving 88 secondary school aged children.
    - Four adult focus groups, engaging 34 residents in Abingdon, Banbury, the Leys in Oxford and at RAF Benson. A further group involving adults with learning disabilities and autism took place on 9 January 2024.
  18. Key findings from all the consultation and engagement activities, including analysis of the budget simulator submissions are set out in Section 2.1.
  19. Observations from Performance & Corporate Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee (to follow) will be added at Section 2.2 ahead of the Cabinet meeting.

## **Revenue Budget Strategy – Section 4**

20. Section 4 sets out the Council Tax Requirement and council tax for band D equivalent properties for 2024/25, and the MTFs to 2026/27. It is comprised of the following sections:



- 4.1 Detailed Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2024/25 to 2026/27
  - 4.2 Budget Changes 2024/25 – 2026/27
    - 4.2.1 Changes since Performance & Corporate Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 19 January 2024
    - 4.2.2 COVID-19 Pressures and use of reserve 2024/25 – 2026/27
  - 4.3 Council Tax and Precepts 2024/25
  - 4.4 Detailed Revenue Budgets for 2024/25
  - 4.5 Financial Strategy 2024/25
  - 4.6 Earmarked Reserves and General Balances Policy Statement 2024/25
    - 4.6.1 Forecast Earmarked Reserves 2023/24 to 2026/27
  - 4.7 Overarching Equality Impact Assessment
  - 4.8 Overarching Climate Impact Assessment
21. Starting from the funding and spending assumptions in the existing MTFS agreed in February 2023, the following paragraphs set out the latest funding information and proposed new budget changes. All of this is combined into the updated budget for the council and the services it provides.

### **Overview of Directorate Budgets**

22. The budget supports a range of service provision which contributes to the council's vision and nine priorities. Since most service provision continues from one year to the next, the first step in building the budget for 2024/25 is to roll forward 2023/24 budgets.
23. This starting point has then been adjusted for changes in 2024/25 built into the MTFS agreed in February 2023. After taking account of planned budget increases and changes to savings, the current MTFS includes net new funding totalling £30.2m in 2024/25. This includes £16.3m for demographic growth for adult and children's social care and increases in waste tonnages, reflecting anticipated population and housing changes. A further £27.2m will be added for estimated inflation. There is a planned reduction of £0.8m for the on-going effect of changes to demand and other expenditure pressures and £3.4m funding for one – off investments agreed in February 2023 will be removed. In addition to this there are changes to savings which combine to create a reduction of £5.5m plus a £3.6m reduction in funding from the COVID-19 reserve.
24. Proposed new changes to expenditure needed to align with the anticipated cost of service provision and funding for 2024/25 are included in this report. All of the changes are shown as incremental or year on year, unless otherwise stated; changes in each year remain in the budget for subsequent years unless there is a further change (either positive or negative).
25. Table 1a shows the combined impact of the proposed changes to the budget for each directorate. Taking into account these proposed changes directorate budgets will increase by £46.2m in 2024/25.

26. CPI inflation was 4.0% in the year to December 2023. The real terms increases/reductions for each directorate after taking account of inflation at that level are shown in the final column.

**Table 1: Overview of Directorate Budgets and Changes**

	Starting Budget Rolled Forward from 2023/24 £m	Add changes in current MTFS £m	Add new budget increases £m	Less new savings £m	2024/25 Budget £m	Change in Budget £m	Real Terms Change in Budget <sup>1</sup> %
Adult Services	229.5	21.0	2.7	-1.5	251.6	22.1	5.6%
Children's Services	172.8	9.2	16.8	-4.2	194.6	21.8	8.7%
Environment & Place	73.4	0.1	4.2	-4.8	73.0	-0.4	-4.6%
Public Health & Community Safety	31.9 (#)	0.6	2.0	-0.6	34.0	2.1	2.5%
Resources	72.3	-0.8	3.1	-1.8	72.8	0.5	-3.3%
<b>Directorate Total</b>	<b>579.8</b>	<b>30.2</b>	<b>28.8</b>	<b>-12.8</b>	<b>626.0</b>	<b>46.2</b>	<b>4.0%</b>

27. The increase for Public Health and Community Safety includes the £1.4m Fire Pensions pressure that relates to a funding change. £0.6m (#) for 2024/25 pay inflation that will be transferred from existing on-going budget held in contingency once the increase is agreed has also been included in the starting budget. Starting from a base of £31.3m the underlying real terms cash increase excluding the £1.4m relating to the funding change will be 0.2%.

### Proposed Budget Increases

28. The detailed changes making up the proposed new increases for each directorate are summarised in Table 2a. The combined increase taking account of previously agreed as well as new increases is shown in Table 2b.

**Table 2a: Proposed New Budget Increases by Directorate**

	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	Total £m
Adult Services	2.7	1.9	14.0	18.6
Children's Services	16.8	3.5	0.6	21.0
Environment & Place	4.2	0.2	-0.2	4.1
Public Health & Community Safety	2.0	0.5	0.1	2.6
Resources	3.1	0.1		3.3
Pay Inflation (add new year)			7.5	7.5
<b>Directorate Total</b>	<b>28.8</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>57.1</b>

<sup>1</sup> assuming CPI at 4.0% (for December 2023).

**Table 2b: Previously Agreed and Proposed New Budget Increases by Directorate**

	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	Total £m
Adult Services	25.1	13.5	14.0	52.6
Children's Services	26.2	12.4	-1.0	37.6
Environment & Place	7.7	4.1	-0.2	11.6
Public Health & Community Safety	2.8	1.0	0.1	3.9
Resources	2.7	1.8	-0.6	3.9
Pay Inflation to allocate		0.8	7.5	8.3
<b>Directorate Total</b>	<b>64.5</b>	<b>33.7</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>117.9</b>

#### Adult Services

29. Adult Services are continuing to support people in Oxfordshire to live well in their community, remaining fit and healthy for as long as possible. Based on current and anticipated demand it is expected that costs can be managed within the existing planned funding. Additional funding of £1.5m for the cost of care packages has been included in the proposals.

#### Children's Services

30. The on-going impact of underlying pressures in Children's Services remains a significant challenge in 2023/24. These pressures are driven by a combination of care placements costs, staffing (particularly the reliance on agency staff to cover vacancies) and Home to School Transport.
31. Additions to the Education budget include £1.0m on-going funding for additional capacity in the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities service. A further £0.4m on-going funding is needed to support school improvement and replace grant funding which is expected to end. Funding of £0.1m will be used to support the implementation of the Education Commission recommendations.
32. Home to School transport is forecast to overspend by £3.3m in 2023/24. This has arisen from higher activity for Special Educational Needs and Post 16 transport than was budgeted for and the impact of rolling annual tenders for bus routes and the impact of a local contractor entering administration during the year. The on-going impact is estimated to be a pressure of £3.4m from 2024/25 with a further increase of £0.6m relating to anticipated growth in the number of pupils with Education Health & Care Plans and price increases.
33. The on-going impact of demand and inflation pressures continuing from 2023/24 is estimated to be £8.2m in 2024/25. This increases by a further £2.3m in 2025/26 and is then expected to reduce as a result of the actions being undertaken to manage demand over the medium term.

#### Environment & Place

34. As noted in the Business Management & Monitoring Report to Cabinet in January 2024, the cost of disposing of Persistent Organic Pollutants is higher than the £0.2m estimated cost built into the budget from 2023/24 and there is an on-going additional pressure of £0.2m. Other waste pressures relating to unsorted waste

and site repairs are estimated at £0.6m and there are also further pressures of £0.5m within Environment & Circular Economy.

35. Within Transport & Infrastructure there are £0.7m pressures associated with policy development for area travel plans, Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) studies and the development of a multi modal transport model.
36. There is also a proposed one – off pressure of £0.2m in 2024/25 to develop a sustainable travel to school strategy.

#### Community Safety

37. The Local Government Provisional Settlement announced that funding for Fire Pensions costs that was previously met by ringfenced grant funding will be funded by Revenue Support Grant from 2024/25. £1.4m has been added to the budget for Community Safety to reflect the removal of the ring-fenced grant funding.

#### Resources and Law & Governance

38. Following agreement by Council on 7 November 2023 there is an anticipated pressure of up to £0.2m relating to the revised structure and pay scales for the council's Senior Leadership team. Additional contributions will be sought from existing council budgets so that the pressure is reduced as far as possible.
39. Pressures in the Communications Strategy & Insight Team relate to funding for capacity to support business change and the redevelopment of the council's website. Most of the pressure will be met through removing existing posts which are currently vacant.
40. A £0.1m pressure relates to the appointment of an area coroner in accordance with a recommendation from the United Kingdom Chief Coroner.
41. £0.6m relates to an increase in external audit costs and an increase in the capacity and cost of the Finance team that is required to support the organisation and to satisfy the requirement for the Chief Financial Officer to lead and direct a finance function that is resourced to be fit for purpose. It is anticipated that most of this pressure can be met through additional interest on balances generated as a result of higher interest rates.
42. £0.2m relates to a deficit on the Schools' Catering Service. A service transformation programme is being undertaken to ensure the trading account returns to a breakeven position.

#### Pay Inflation

43. Based on the 9.8% increase in the National Living Wage from 1 April 2024 it is unlikely that the 2.5% increase for pay inflation assumed in the existing plan will be sufficient so funding to increase the assumed increase in pay inflation to at least 5.0% is proposed to be added to the budget for 2024/25. The estimated indicative additional pressure of £5.4m after taking account of £2.1m funding for inflation from 2024/25 built into the existing MTFS has been included in

directorate budgets in Table 2 but will be allocated during the year once the pay award is agreed.

#### Contingency

44. To help manage the impact of financial risk and volatility in costs and demand pressures in the proposed budget and MTFs, a corporate contingency is held. As set out in the Financial Monitoring Report to Cabinet in November 2023 some of the existing contingency budget has been used to meet the cost of the on-going impact of the 2023/24 pay award. The proposed budget includes a new on-going budgeted contribution to contingency in 2024/25 of £4.0m. These changes provide an on-going contingency budget of £7.3m in 2024/25.
45. Details of the proposed budget increases are set out in Section 4.2. Changes to balance the overall budget for 2024/25 agreed since Performance & Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 19 January 2023 are set out in Annex 4.2.1.

#### **Proposals for new directorate savings**

46. New budget savings of £12.8m are proposed for 2024/25 with an on-going impact of £24.9m by 2026/27. The detailed new proposals for each directorate are set out in Annex 4.2 and summarised in Table 3a. The combined increase taking account of previously agreed as well as new increases is shown in Table 3b.

**Table 3a: New Directorate Savings**

	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	Total £m
Adult Services	-1.5	-1.1		-2.6
Children's Services	-4.2	-6.4	-5.0	-15.6
Environment & Place	-4.8	-0.3	1.0	-4.1
Public Health & Community Safety	-0.6	0.1		-0.5
Resources and Law & Governance	-1.8	-0.5	0.1	-2.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>-12.8</b>	<b>-8.2</b>	<b>-3.9</b>	<b>-24.9</b>

**Table 3b: Previously Agreed and New Directorate Savings**

	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	Total £m
Adult Services	-3.0	-1.6		-4.6
Children's Services	-4.4	-6.3	-5.0	-15.6
Environment & Place	-8.1	-0.6	1.0	-7.7
Public Health & Community Safety	-0.7	0.1		-0.6
Resources and Law & Governance	-2.2	-0.5	0.1	-2.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>-18.3</b>	<b>-8.9</b>	<b>-3.9</b>	<b>-31.2</b>

#### Children's Services

47. The majority of the proposed savings for Children's Services relate to the Financial Strategy that has been developed during 2023/24. This focusses on building on the improvements achieved in 2023/24, ensuring these continue and grow while also applying the same rigor and focus to managing the market, the availability of social work staff, the escalation in rates for care, the challenge of greater complexity and encouraging joint partnership work with health partners to address Continuing Healthcare (CHC) needs and resources.

#### Environment & Place

48. Where possible funding held in reserves will be used to support activity in Environment & Place. Other pressures will be managed by re-prioritising within existing budget provision. While the aim is to use existing budgets to support some of the pressures this will require active management and reduce flexibility so there is a risk that the ability to do this may be impacted by other pressures that arise during the year or changes to current assumptions. There are also savings relating to the release of some of the funding for investments agreed in February 2023 where that is not required.

#### Resources

Proposed savings in Resources include the release of £0.4m funding for utility and other costs for the council's buildings based on costs in 2023/24. There is also a proposal of £0.3m to part fund the Innovation Service (iHub) through the use of funding held in reserves in 2024/25 and to move to being self - funding from 2025/26.

#### Delivering the Future Together

49. A saving of £2.0m has been included for reductions in costs anticipated to be achieved through the retendering of contracts in 2024/25. This has been allocated to directorate budgets on an indicative basis reflecting the level of contract spend.
50. Savings of £1.5m expected to be achieved through delayering and reducing the size of the organisation so that the council is sustainable in future have also been included in directorate budgets on an indicative basis from 2024/25. Existing planned savings in staffing costs which will increase to £4.0m on-going from 2024/25 are already included in the budget agreed in February 2023 and will also need to be achieved through the Our People and Culture Strategy and Delivering the Future Together transformation programme.
51. The budget changes built into the existing MTFs and the new proposals for 2024/25 are set out in Section 4.2. Changes to close the remaining deficit of £0.9m and balance the overall budget for 2024/25 agreed since Performance & Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 19 January 2023 are set out in Annex 4.2.1.

#### Actions to ensure the council is sustainable in the Medium Term

52. To ensure that the council is sustainable in the medium term and 'be the best we can for our residents, there is an imperative to fundamentally change how we do

things. Over the next two years, our vision for a successful and sustainable council of the future is one where we:

- are smaller; operating from fewer buildings making sure those we keep are used to their full capacity;
- embrace technology where it improves productivity and connectivity to the people we serve, helping us become more efficient;
- collaborate more closely with partners in the voluntary and community sector so we're no longer the main provider for every service; and
- exploit commercial opportunities where they deliver value for our residents'.

53. This vision will be delivered through the council's Delivering the Future Together transformation programme. This will accelerate delivery of financial and non - financial benefits achieving our operating principles and supporting the council's financial sustainability.

### Previously Agreed and New Pressures and Savings

54. The combined impact of previously agreed and proposed new budget changes by type is summarised in Table 5.

**Table 5: Type of Change to Directorate Budgets**

	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m
Inflation	38.3	15.9	15.5
Demographic (Population) Changes	16.3	15.7	8.9
Demand & Other Pressures	15.5	2.7	-3.0
Investments	1.4	0.8	0.7
Removal of one – off funding for investments in 2023/24	-3.3		
Savings	-18.3	-8.9	-3.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>46.2</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>15.8</b>

55. Inflation includes pay inflation assumed at 5.0% in 2024/25 and then 2.5% from 2025/26 onwards. For non – pay inflation higher amounts are assumed in 2024/25. This reflects the impact of the increase in the National Living Wage on the cost of care, for example. Inflation is then assumed to fall back from 2025/26 onwards in line with Office for Budget Responsibility forecasts.
56. Demographic changes include increases in funding for adult and children's social care and increases in waste tonnages, reflecting anticipated population changes and housing growth.

## Updates to Funding Assumptions

### Core Spending Power

57. The Local Government Provisional Settlement in December 2023 set out that Core Spending Power for local government will rise by 6.5% for councils in England on the assumption that all councils will agree the maximum council tax increase.
58. As shown in Table 6 on the next page the increase for Oxfordshire will be from £613.8m to £656.0m (6.9%). All of the increase in funding had either been announced previously so was built into the existing Medium Term Financial Strategy or had already been assumed earlier in the budget setting process.

**Table 6: Core Spending Power 2023/24 and 2024/25**  
**Source: Provisional Local Government Settlement 2024/25**

Oxfordshire		
	2023-24	2024-25
	£ millions	£ millions
Settlement Funding Assessment	74.7	79.8
Compensation for under-indexing the business rates multiplier	12.7	14.6
Council tax requirement (assumes maximum increase of 4.99% is agreed)	466.7	498.5
Improved Better Care Fund	10.7	10.7
New Homes Bonus	1.7	1.7
Social Care Grant	32.7	37.8
ASC Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund	5.4	10.0
ASC Discharge Fund	1.5	2.5
Services Grant	2.9	0.5
Grants rolled in	4.8	0.0
<b>Core Spending Power £millions</b>	<b>613.8</b>	<b>656.0</b>

**Core Spending Power (% increase compared to 2023/24)**

**6.9%**

### Government Grant Updates

#### Social Care Grant

59. The Autumn Statement 2022 set out that £1.265bn in 2023/24 and £1.877bn in 2024/25 would be distributed to local authorities through the Social Care Grant for adult and children's social care. This is repurposed funding that was previously expected to be used to support the cost of adult social care reform.
60. The council will receive £5.0m new funding in 2024/25 increasing the total from £32.7m to £37.8m. This is unchanged from the current plan which assumed a share of the national increase in the grant.



#### Services Grant

61. The council received £5.0m Services Grant in 2022/23 and £2.9m in 2023/24 with an expectation that this would continue in 2024/25 and 2025/26. The Provisional Settlement confirmed that the council will receive £0.5m in 2024/25, a reduction of £2.4m compared to the current plan. It is assumed that the remaining £0.5m will fall out in 2025/26.

#### New Homes Bonus

62. The MTFS assumed that £1.7m un-ringfenced funding from the New Homes Bonus would not continue from 2024/25. However, funding for this remains available nationally in the Departmental Expenditure Limits (DEL) so it was assumed early in the budget process that it would continue in 2024/25.

#### Revenue Support Grant

63. The Local Government Provisional Settlement announced that funding for Fire Pensions costs that was previously met by ringfenced grant funding will be funded by Revenue Support Grant from 2024/25. The council will receive £1.4m.

#### Adult Social Care Ringfenced Grants

64. Grant funding to support hospital discharges is being distributed through the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund in 2024/25. The council's share of the national total has increased from £1.5m in 2023/24 to £2.5m in 2024/25 and is ringfenced to meet new costs.
65. The Adult Social Care Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund is intended to "enable tangible improvements to be made to adult social care". Oxfordshire's £5.4m share in 2023/24 will increase to £10.0m in 2024/25. This is also ringfenced to meet new costs and is unchanged from previous assumptions.
66. The improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) grant will be unchanged at £10.7m and has not increased since 2022/23.

#### Public Health Ringfenced Grant

67. The ringfenced Public Health grant totals £33.6m in 2023/24 with an indicative 1.4% uplift expected for 2024/25. Confirmation of the grant funding for 2024/25 is awaited.

### **Supporting residents with financial pressures**

#### Household Support Fund

68. The Household Support Fund has been available since 2021 to help the most vulnerable households across England with essential food and energy costs. Based on the Provisional Settlement the expectation is that this will end on 31 March 2024 with no further funding from 2024/25.
69. In 2023/24 a total of £9.5m funding was available to support residents with the impacts of rising costs of living. This was comprised of one-off grant funding of £6.7m from the government's Household Support Fund and £2.3m local funding for additional Council Tax Support and Discretionary Housing Payments. In

addition, £0.5m was included for the Resident Support Scheme, Oxfordshire's crisis fund, which is also funded for 2024/25 and 2025/26.

70. In the Autumn Statement 2023, the government announced new measures to support household incomes, including increasing the rate of the Local Housing Allowance, increasing the National Living Wage and changes to supported employment programmes. However, there was no announcement of an extension to the Household Support Fund and therefore pending any further updates, local cost-of-living funding will revert to the revenue budgeted £0.5m for 2024/25 met from the COVID-19 reserve.
71. The 2023/24 support package is comprised of a suite of programmes with variable take up which have been adjusted throughout the year to ensure the maximum amount of support is delivered, within the specific parameters of the various funding streams. Rates of support can be increased in the last quarter of the year to ensure that the maximum support is delivered to local residents and that the full allocation of Household Support Fund is drawn down from government, as it has been in all previous funding rounds. However, given the potential 'cliff-edge' in terms of support for residents at the end of 2023/24, spend has been re-profiled so that an element of funding drawn from council reserves will be carried forward to 2024/25.
72. Depending on the take-up of programmes currently in delivery, it is estimated that up to £0.5m can be carried forward to create a total fund of cost-of-living resource of £1.0m in 2024/25, including the existing £0.5m for the Residents Support Scheme. Additional funding is also being sought from existing alternative budgets. This additional funding will create an initial fund to continue and extend longer term support and change programmes which help build community assets to withstand future pressures. This will include pursuing community wealth building approaches which aim to retain more wealth and opportunity for the benefit of local people.
73. The government are expected to announce the budget on 8 March 2024. It is possible that this could include further funding for the Household Support Fund but this will not be known by the time the council budget is set in February 2024.

### **Looking Ahead: Funding in the Medium Term**

74. Nationally Departmental Expenditure Limits (DELs) for unprotected government budgets are expected to fall by between 2.3% and 4.1% in real terms in the next Spending Review period. In that context is likely that the council will need to make further savings in future as funding becomes more constrained.

## **Council Tax and Adult Social Care Precept**

### **Planned Council Tax Increases**

75. The Local Government Settlement in February 2023 confirmed that the council tax referendum limit would be increased to 3% in 2024/25. Local authorities are also able to meet pressures in adult social care by raising council tax by up to an

additional 2% through an additional precept in 2024/25. The MTFS agreed in February 2023 already assumed the maximum increase of 4.99% in 2024/25. 1.99% is assumed in each of 2025/26 and 2026/27 as no information is currently available beyond 2024/25.

76. Each 1% increase in council tax will generate at least £4.8m on-going funding for the council's services.
77. A proposed increase of 4.99% for Band D council tax in 2024/25 is shown in Table 7 below. This is made up of the 2.99% core increase plus 2.00% for adult social care. Band D council tax will increase by £86.53 from £1,734.03 in 2023/24 to £1,820.56 in 2024/25.

**Table 7: Council Tax Increases**

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Core Council Tax Increase	1.99%	1.99%	1.99%
Additional Core Council Tax Increase – Spending Review 2022	1.00%		
Adult Social Care Precept - Spending Review 2021	1.00%		
Adult Social Care Precept - Spending Review 2022	1.00%		
<b>Total Council Tax Increase</b>	<b>4.99%</b>	<b>1.99%</b>	<b>1.99%</b>

78. The council tax base is the number of Band D equivalent dwellings in a local authority area adjusted for the assumed rate of collection of council tax. Billing authorities (District and City Councils) are required to provide this information to the precepting authorities and the method used to calculate the tax base is prescribed in regulations. Growth in the tax base of 1.75% per year is assumed in the MTFS agreed in February 2023 and reflects anticipated increases in the number of households in Oxfordshire paying council tax. Updates from the district councils received by January 2024 confirm that the tax base will grow by 1.77% in 2024/25, generating additional council tax income of £0.1m.
79. Cabinet is recommended to recommend to Council to approve a council tax requirement (precept) for 2024/25 of £498,633,415 (Section 4.3) and approve a 2024/25 council tax for band D equivalent properties of £1,820.56 (recommendation h).

#### Council Tax Surpluses

80. In addition to the tax base, the Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires the billing authorities to determine the estimated surplus or deficit on the council tax collection fund as a result of income from council tax/ratepayers being more or less than originally estimated. Estimates for the forthcoming year are formed from the position for three years, the actual position for the prior financial year, the estimate for the current financial year and an estimate for the forthcoming financial year. Surpluses/deficits are shared between billing and major precepting authorities. The county council's share of surpluses on the council tax collection

fund was estimated to be £4.0m for 2024/25 in the current MTFS. Surpluses for 2024/25 notified by the district and city councils by mid January 2024 total £11.7m, £7.7m more than budgeted for in the existing plan. Final confirmation of some of the surpluses remains outstanding.

## **Business Rates**

81. The Council also receives general funding from business rates based on the Government's assessment of need known as the Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA). The existing MTFS assumed that the SFA would increase by 2.0% to £76.2m. The Provisional Local Government Settlement confirmed that the SFA will increase by a further £3.6m to £79.8m in 2024/25.
82. In addition to the SFA, the Council receives compensation for under-indexation of the business rates multiplier by way of un-ringfenced Section 31 grant. The MTFS assumes the council will receive £12.6m in 2024/25. The Provisional Local Government Settlement confirmed an increase to £14.6m which will increase grant funding by a further £1.7m. However, this includes funding of £1.4m for Fire Pensions that will be received as Revenue Support Grant in 2024/25 (see paragraph 62). This has previously been funded by ringfenced grant.
83. £0.7m estimated additional funding for Business Rates Pooling income is also expected to be received in 2024/25. Confirmation of this amount will be received during 2024/25.
84. Local authorities have been able to retain the growth in business rates from a baseline of April 2013 up until the point of a business rates reset which was originally planned for April 2020 but has yet to take place. The forecast for retained growth in 2024/25 was assumed to be £4.1m in the MTFS.
85. However, since 2020/21 business rates income has been impacted by reliefs for retail, leisure and hospitality businesses. The Autumn Statement confirmed these will continue for a further year in 2024/25. In 2023/24 the council has received Section 31 grant income of £4.4m to replace local business rates income not received as a result of those reliefs. It is likely a similar amount will be received in 2024/25 but confirmation of the grant funding is not expected to be received until February 2024.
86. The amount of business rates funding to be passed from the districts to the county council (comprising the local element of the SFA and any growth) is also expected to be confirmed in February 2024.
87. The business rates collection fund surplus for 2023/24 notified by the district councils was £2.1m. Based on information received to date it is possible that there could be a deficit for 2024/25 but confirmation for each district is not expected to be available until early February. The existing MTFS assumption that there is no surplus or deficit is unchanged ahead of the receipt of this information.

88. Updates to business rates funding, noting where there is outstanding information still to be confirmed (\*) and current estimates ahead of that are summarised in Table 8.

**Table 8: Business Rates Funding**

	2022/23 Funding £m	2023/24 Funding £m	2024/25 MTFS £m	2024/25 Proposed Budget £m
<b>Settlement Funding Assessment</b>	<b>72.0</b>	<b>74.7</b>	<b>76.2</b>	<b>79.8</b>
Local Growth	1.4	1.3	4.1	4.1*
Section 31 Grant for Business Rates Reliefs – Retail & Hospitality reliefs <sup>2</sup>	4.5	4.4	0.0	0.0*
Section 31 Grant – Indexation Element <sup>3</sup>	7.3	12.9	12.6	13.2
Section 31 Grant for Business Rates Reliefs – on-going reliefs	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8*
<b>Total Section 31 Grant for Business Rates Reliefs and Indexation</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>19.1</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>15.0</b>
Business Rates Pooling Income				0.7
Collection Fund Surplus (+) or Deficit (-)	1.9	2.1	0.0	0.0*
<b>Total</b>	<b>88.8</b>	<b>97.2</b>	<b>94.7</b>	<b>99.5</b>

(\*) awaiting updates from the district councils in February 2024 to confirm these amounts.

## Proposed 2024/25 Budget and MTFS to 2026/27

89. A summary of the existing and updated funding built into the MTFS for 2024/25 to 2026/27 is set out in Section 4.1 and summarised in Table 9.

Table 9	2024/25 Budget Current MTFS £m	Proposed Change £m	2024/25 Proposed Budget £m	2025/26 Indicative £m	2026/27 Indicative £m
<b>Funding:</b>					
Council Tax	498.5	0.1	498.6	517.4	537.0
Council Tax Collection Fund	4.0	7.7	11.7	8.0	8.0
Business Rates	94.7	4.8	99.5	101.2	102.9
Revenue Support Grant	0.0	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>597.2</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>611.2</b>	<b>628.0</b>	<b>649.3</b>

<sup>2</sup> These reliefs were extended until 31 March 2025 in the Autumn Statement 2023.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes the £1.4m Fire Pension element that will be received as Revenue Support Grant.

	2024/25 Budget Current MTFS	Proposed Change	2024/25 Proposed Budget	2025/26 Proposed	2026/27 Proposed
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
<b>Net operating budget (prior year)</b>	<b>573.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>573.9</b>	<b>611.2</b>	<b>641.9</b>
<b>Directorate Budget Changes</b>					
Budget increases	35.7	28.8	64.5	35.1	22.0
Budget savings	-5.5	-12.8	-18.3	-10.4	-6.3
<b>Subtotal Directorate Changes</b>	<b>30.2</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>46.2</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>15.8</b>
Changes to budgets held centrally	-3.6	-2.7	-6.2	3.8	5.4
Changes to grant funding	-3.4	0.7	-2.6	2.2	0.0
<b>Net Operating Budget</b>	<b>597.2</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>611.2</b>	<b>641.9</b>	<b>663.2</b>
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>597.2</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>611.2</b>	<b>628.0</b>	<b>649.3</b>
<b>Budget Deficit (+)/ Surplus (-)</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>+13.9</b>	<b>+13.9</b>
<b>Council Tax increase</b>	<b>4.99%</b>		<b>4.99%</b>	<b>1.99%</b>	<b>1.99%</b>

90. Cabinet is recommended to recommend Council to approve a Medium Term Financial Strategy to 2026/27 set out in Section 4.1 and summarised in Table 6, taking into account the proposals set out in Section 4.2 and 4.2.1 (recommendation g).
91. The Financial Strategy (Section 4.5) sets out the financial planning principles applied in setting the budget and MTFS as well as assumptions on future funding. It also includes an assessment of compliance with the Code of Practice for Financial Management as well as key indicators for measuring the Council's financial health and resilience. Cabinet is recommended to approve the Financial Strategy (recommendation d).

### Earmarked Reserves and General Balances

92. Cabinet is recommended to approve the Earmarked Reserves and General Balances Policy Statement (Section 4.6) (recommendation e). This sets out the purpose of reserves along with planned contributions to and from Earmarked Reserves and the proposed minimum level of General Balances for 2024/25. As set out in Section 4.6 Cabinet is also recommended to create a new Collection Fund Reserve and a reserve to manage the impact of IFRS9. The forecast level of earmarked reserves over the period of the MTFS is set out in Section 4.6.1.
93. The risk assessed level for general balances for 2024/25 is £30.2m which is equivalent to 4.9% of the proposed net operating budget of £611.2m. The risk assessed level is unchanged from the total for 2023/24. Further details are set out in Annex 1 of Section 4.6.

#### High Needs Deficit

94. In line with a change to the CIPFA code of practice on DSG High Needs deficits an unusable reserve to hold negative High Needs DSG balances was created in 2020/21. The forecast deficit of £21.2m in 2023/24 will increase the total accumulated negative balance for High Needs held in this reserve to £62.3m at 31 March 2024.
95. In December 2022 the government agreed to the extension of the DSG statutory override for a one-off period of three years (up to March 2026).
96. DSG deficits cannot currently be met from general council funding without permission from the Secretary of State. However, this deficit, both accumulated to date, and on-going, is a significant financial risk irrespective of the future arrangements for the statutory override. This will need to be taken into account in the assessment of the overall financial position for the council, including the adequacy of reserves and balances for 2024/25, that is required to be set out in the statutory Section 25 report by the Executive Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer.
97. The DSG funding and High Needs forecast deficit position for 2024/25 as well as the implications of the proposed Deficit Management Plan over the medium term are set out in paragraphs 103 – 108 below and in Annex B.

### **Review of Charges 2024/25 and 2025/26 – Annex A**

98. The council charges for services whenever it is lawful for it to do so. Income from fees and charges, which contributes to the overall funding for the council is estimated at £67m or 8% of the council's funding in 2023/24.
99. All services must consider, as part of the annual budget and business planning process, the activities which make up the delivery of each service and assess which of them may be made the subject of a charge.
100. Charges that are specified nationally or are statutory will be updated in line with national guidance. Charges for adult social care will continue to be assessed as in line with the [Care Act 2014 and the council's charging policy](#). Other charges are proposed to increase in line with inflation. Where charges relate to the council priorities, the proposed change has been considered in that context.
101. The schedule of proposed charges for 2024/25 and, in relation to the Registration Service, charges for 2025/26 is set out at Annex A. Updates include the following:
  - The cost of school meals is proposed to increase from £2.34 to £2.55 per meal (£3.06 including VAT) in 2024/25.
  - Contributions to Home to School Transport for Pre & Post 16 pupils proposed to increase by 5%.

- Parking charges at the council's park and ride car parks proposed to increase to align with charges at the Oxford City Council park and ride car parks. Parking from 1-16 hours proposed to increase from £2.00 to £2.50. Season tickets would remain unchanged.
  - Charges for on – street parking proposed to increase to align with off – street car parks in Abingdon and Henley – on – Thames.
  - On – street parking charges in Oxford City Centre Zone 1 and 2 proposed to increase by 15.0%.
  - The cost business parking permits in Oxford will increase by 15%.
  - The charge for annual permits for residents in Oxford with one or two cars will increase by 14%. The cost of a permit for a fourth vehicle will increase by 28% to discourage households using multiple cars.
  - Charges in Banbury, Bicester, Wantage, Wallingford and Woodstock are also proposed to increase.
102. The Registration Service has also reviewed and proposed charges which will enable the service to confirm the cost of services, including bookings for ceremonies such as marriages and civil partnerships up to 31 March 2026.
103. Cabinet is recommended to approve the Review of Charges in Annex A (recommendation a).

## Dedicated Schools Grant and High Needs Forecast – Annex B

104. On 19 December 2023, the Department for Education (DfE) confirmed the 2024/25 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation for Oxfordshire will be £695.6m as shown in Table 10. Expenditure on High Needs DSG funded services has been higher than the available funding since 2020/21 with deficits continuing to grow mainly as a result of anticipated increases in demand. As set out in Annex B forecast expenditure for 2024/25 is £21.3m higher than the grant funding after taking account of planned savings.

**Table 10: Dedicated Schools Grant Funding for Oxfordshire**

Summary of Block Funding	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2024/25 Forecast Expenditure £m	2024/25 Forecast Deficit £m
Schools block	476.7	509.2	509.2	
Central Services Schools block	5.0	5.2	5.2	
High Needs block	102.9	108.0	129.3	21.3
Early Years block	44.3	73.2	73.2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>628.9</b>	<b>695.6</b>	<b>716.9</b>	<b>21.3</b>



105. The mainstream schools additional grant (MSAG) introduced as additional funding for 2023/24 has been rolled into the National Funding Formula for 2024/25.

### **High Needs DSG Forecast & Deficit**

106. The Business Management & Monitoring Reports to Cabinet in January and May 2023 set out that spend on High Needs is expected to exceed the grant funding available in 2024/25 by £18.3m and the annual deficit is expected to continue to increase over the medium term. The forecast as at the end of November 2023 projects an increase in the 2023/24 deficit to £21.2m, an increase of £2.9m. This is due to accelerated growth in the number of learners supported as well increased complexity of needs. It highlights that government funding is not keeping pace with increased demand.
107. The Council approved a Local Area SEND Deficit Management Strategy during 2022 to help frame the changes required, as well as a number of approved System Reforms. Significant progress has taken place in the past six months in many areas including:
- activity planning with system partners around the Local Area SEND Strategy.
  - capital investment in new special schools to increase local capacity and release better value.
  - enhanced pathways in mainstream education for children with SEND - five programmes have taken place with positive outcomes driving forecast savings of £0.5m.
  - development of partnership working with Health (a new health funding protocol and special schools nursing contract are due to be finalised early 2023).
  - as per the 2022 public SEND consultation regarding the transfer of resource bases to schools, positive engagement with schools is underway and full staff consultation will be held accordingly.
  - ongoing progress on the build of two special schools and proposals have been submitted to the DfE for two further schools.
  - engagement with Oxfordshire colleges is ongoing to establish enhanced post-16 opportunities in Oxfordshire.
108. Oxfordshire has participated in the DfE's Delivering Better Value (DBV) programme. However, continued increases in demand mean that annual deficits against the grant funding are still expected to grow in future years. Annex B sets out details of the SEND programme and the High Needs budget.
109. Annex B Appendix 1 sets out budget changes for 2024/25 to 2026/27. These reflect demographic growth and other pressures as well as funding increases and planned savings. The changes and forecast deficits are summarised in Table 11 below.

<b>Table 11</b>	<b>2024/25 £m</b>	<b>2025/26 £m</b>	<b>2026/27 £m</b>
<b>Base Budget</b>	<b>124.1</b>	<b>129.3</b>	<b>137.1</b>
<b>Proposed Budget Increase</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>17.0</b>
<b>Proposed Budget Reductions:</b>			
Opening of new special schools	-4.6	-3.2	-1.0
Other reductions in the use of the independent sector	-1.2	-2.9	
Post 16 & Preparation for Adulthood	-0.7	-0.8	
Review internally provided services	-0.8		
Other savings	-0.5	-0.4	-0.4
<b>Total Budget Reductions</b>	<b>-7.8</b>	<b>-7.3</b>	<b>-2.1</b>
<b>Revised Budget</b>	<b>129.3</b>	<b>137.1</b>	<b>152.0</b>
<b>High Needs DSG Block Funding</b>	<b>-108.0</b>	<b>-112.1</b>	<b>-116.3</b>
<b>Forecast Deficit</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>35.7</b>

## Capital and Investment Strategy – Section 5

110. Section 5 sets out the capital and investment strategy for 2024/25, the Treasury Management Strategy for 2024/25 and supporting information. It is comprised of the following sections:

Section 5.1: Capital and Investment Strategy 2023/24 – 2033/34

Section 5.2: Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25

Section 5.3: Proposed changes to the Capital Programme and pipeline schemes

Section 5.4 Proposed Capital Programme 2023/24 to 2033/34

111. The Capital and Investment Strategy (Section 5.1) outlines the council's approach to capital investment over the next ten years and incorporates the requirements of the CIPFA Prudential Code for Local Authorities.
112. Cabinet is recommended to approve the Capital and Investment Strategy for 2024/25, including the Capital Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement which form annexes to the strategy.
113. Cabinet is recommended to approve the Treasury Management Strategy for 2024/25 (Section 5.2) including the relevant Prudential Indicators and Specified Investment and Non-Specified Investment instruments. To enable the Treasury Management team to operate effectively, Cabinet is also recommended to continue to delegate the authority to withdraw or advance additional funds to/from external fund managers to the Executive Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer and approve that any further changes required to the 2024/25

Treasury Management Strategy be delegated to the Executive Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Finance (recommendation j).

114. The Council's Capital Programme is derived from the priorities identified in the supporting strategies and sets out the agreed capital investment to deliver those priorities. The programme is refreshed annually and agreed by Council each February. Section 5.3 sets out the proposed changes to the existing Capital Programme. It also sets out the proposed pipeline schemes – these have indicative funding requirements pending further development and initial business cases. Once developed and business cases approved, these will be brought forward for inclusion in the capital programme. The pipeline schemes have been prioritised based on their alignment to the Council's priorities, in particular, schemes that focus on the climate action or active travel commitments of the Council. The pipeline schemes include key projects that will help deliver our key strategies such as the recently adopted Property Strategy.
115. The draft capital programme for 2024/25 to 2033/34 is attached at Section 5.4. Cabinet is recommended to approve the new capital proposals for inclusion in the programme (recommendation k) and the capital programme (recommendation l). A summary of the proposed capital programme is set out in Table 12.

**Table 12: Proposed Capital Programme**

Strategy / Programme	Current Year 2023/24 £m	Proposed Firm Programme (2 years) £m	Proposed Pipeline Programme £m	Total Programme £m
Pupil Place Plan	39.1	88.8	118.8	246.7
Major Infrastructure	80.0	347.4	273.9	701.3
Highways Asset Management Plan	56.0	88.4	119.2	263.6
Property, Estates and Investment Strategy	17.9	43.8	8.0	69.7
ICT	5.8	9.0	1.9	16.7
Passported Funding	8.4	9.0	4.4	21.8
Vehicles and Equipment	2.2	9.3	16.1	27.6
<b>Total Estimated Capital Programme Expenditure</b>	<b>209.4</b>	<b>595.7</b>	<b>542.3</b>	<b>1,347.4</b>
<b>Earmarked Reserves</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>35.5</b>	<b>81.4</b>	<b>116.9</b>
<b>Total Estimated Capital Programme</b>	<b>209.4</b>	<b>631.2</b>	<b>623.7</b>	<b>1,464.3</b>

## Risk Management

116. To help manage the impact of financial risk in the proposed budget and MTFs, an on-going corporate contingency is held. The proposed level of corporate contingency budget for 2024/25 is £7.3m and is held to cover:

- the risk that demographic pressures are higher than forecast;
  - any unfunded new burdens or unfunded elements of government grant;
  - any unbudgeted pay award and other inflationary risks; and
  - the risk that proposed savings are not achieved in full, based on the performance targets set out in the Financial Strategy.
117. The statutory report of the Chief Financial Officer required under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2002, which forms part of the suite of papers considered by Council in setting the budget each February, includes a section assessing the key financial risks.
118. In addition to corporate contingency, one-off funding is held in general balances to ensure that a major incident or emergency can be managed without impacting on other services.

## **Equality & Inclusion and Sustainability Implications**

119. The Equality Act 2010 imposes a duty on local authorities that, when making decisions of a strategic nature, decision makers must exercise ‘due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination... advance equality of opportunity... and foster good relations.’
120. In developing budget proposals, services have considered the potential impact of change with respect to equality, diversity and inclusion, in line with the council’s framework “Including Everyone”.
121. “Including Everyone” sets out how the council goes further than the protected characteristics in the Equality Act by also considering the impact our decisions might have on people living with social deprivation, rural communities, those leaving care, carers and those in our armed forces community.
122. The Climate Action Framework sets the council’s commitment to tackling the climate emergency which is underpinned by the Council’s priority to put action to address the climate emergency at the heart of our work.
123. Overarching summary impact assessments for both climate and equalities, taking into account the overall impact of the revenue budget proposals, are included in Section 4.7 and 4.8.
124. Following the public consultation, impact assessments will be reviewed and updated as necessary to take into account consultation responses.

## **Financial Implications**

125. The Council is required by law to set a balanced budget for 2024/25 before 1 March 2024. Alongside this, there is a requirement under Section 25 of the Local Government Finance Act 2003 for the Chief Finance Officer to prepare a statement on the robustness of the budget estimates and the adequacy of reserves. This report is part of the process to achieve these objectives.

Comments checked by:

Lorna Baxter, Executive Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer

## **Legal Implications**

126. Part 3.2 of the Councils' constitution (Budget and Policy Framework) sets out the obligations and responsibilities of the Cabinet and the Full Council in approving, adopting and implementing the council's budget and policy framework.
127. The Council Tax scheme is locally determined by each billing authority under Section 13A and Schedule 1A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. This report provides lead to the council tax requirement being agreed by Full Council in February 2024, together with a budget for 2024/25, two-year medium term financial strategy covering the period to 2026/27 and ten - year capital programme.
128. The Council is required to set a balanced budget taking account of balances and any other available reserves before the commencement of the financial year to which it relates. The Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires a council to set a balanced budget. To do this the council must prepare a budget that covers not only the expenditure but also the funding to meet the proposed budget. The Local Government Act 2000 states that it is the responsibility of the full council, on the recommendation of the Cabinet to approve the budget and related council tax requirement.
129. The Local Government Act 2003, section 25 requires the council's Section 151 Officer to report to the council on the robustness of the estimates made and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves assumed in the budget calculations.
130. The Council has a fiduciary duty to council tax payers, which means it must consider the prudent use of resources, including control of expenditure, financial prudence in the short and long term, the need to strike a fair balance between the interests of the Council Tax payers and ratepayers and the community's interest in adequate and efficient services and the need to act in good faith in relation to compliance with statutory duties and exercising statutory powers.
131. Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 precludes a councillor from voting on a calculation which might affect the calculation of the council's budget if they have an outstanding council tax debt of over two months. If a councillor is present at any meeting at which relevant matters are discussed, they must disclose that section 106 applies and may not vote. Failure to comply is a criminal offence.

Comments checked by:

Paul Grant, Head of Legal and Deputy Monitoring Officer

## **Lorna Baxter, Executive Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer**

Annexes:	Annex A: Review of Charges 2024/25 and 2025/26
	Annex B: High Needs DSG Forecast 2024/25 – 2026/27 including Appendix 1
	Section 2.1: Budget engagement & consultation feedback 2024/25
	Section 2.2: Observations from Performance & Corporate Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee (to follow)
	Section 4.1: Revenue Budget 2024/25 and MTFS to 2026/27
	Section 4.2: Budget Changes 2024/25 – 2026/27
	Section 4.2.1 Changes since Performance & Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee on 19 January 2024
	Section 4.2.2 Covid-19 Pressures & use of reserve 2024/25 – 2026/27
	Section 4.3: Council Tax and Precepts 2024/25
	Section 4.4: Detailed Revenue Budgets 2024/25
	Section 4.5: Financial Strategy 2024/25
	Section 4.6: Earmarked Reserves and General Balances Policy Statement 2024/25
	Section 4.6.1 Forecast Earmarked Reserves
	Section 4.7 Overarching Equalities Impact Assessment
	Section 4.8: Overarching Climate Impact Assessment
	Section 5.1: Capital and Investment Strategy 2023/24 – 2033/34
	Section 5.2: Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25
	Section 5.3: Proposed changes to the Capital Programme and pipeline schemes
	Section 5.4 Proposed Capital Programme 2023/24 to 2033/34

Contact Officers: Kathy Wilcox, Head of Corporate Finance  
Kerry Middleton, Head of Communications, Marketing and Engagement  
Natalie Crawford, Capital Programme Manager  
Tim Chapple, Treasury Manager

January 2024

Review of Charges 2024/25  
Adult Services

Service Area	Charge	Unit	Current Charge £	Proposed Charge exc VAT 2024/25 £	Proposed Charge inc VAT 2024/25 £	Change %	Assume 01-Apr-24		Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
							Proposed date effective from				
Daytime Support	1:1 Support (3 hour session)	3 hour Session	72.93	76.58	76.58	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	
	1:2 Active Support (3 hour session)	3 hour Session	34.78	36.52	36.52	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	
	1:6 Respite & prevention (3 hour session)	3 hour Session	23.56	24.74	24.74	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	
	2:1 Support (3 hour session)	3 hour Session	129.80	136.29	136.29	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	
	Hire of Room (no equipment provided)	per hour	23.00	24.15	24.15	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	ZR	
	Hire of Sensory Room	per hour	3.87	4.07	4.07	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB or SR	
	Hourly cost of attendance outside of core hours	per hour	28.05	29.45	29.45	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	
	Lunchtime meal	per meal	2.64	2.77	3.33	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	
	Music, Art and Boom Groups	per session	6.71	7.05	7.05	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB or SR	
	Service User Transport (single or return journey) where this is part of assessed need	Single or Return Journey	27.50	28.88	28.88	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	
	SMILE	per session	6.71	7.05	7.05	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB or SR	
Money Management	Court of Protection income	Annual Management Fee Yr 1	775.00	775.00	775.00	0%	01/04/2024		Statutory	NB	
		Category 3 Property Management	300.00	300.00	300.00	0%	01/04/2024		Statutory	NB	
		Category 4 Annual report	216.00	216.00	216.00	0%	01/04/2024		Statutory	NB	
		Deputy for Health & Welfare	555.00	555.00	555.00	0%	01/04/2024		Statutory	NB	The Association of Public Authority Deputies are in consultation with the Ministry of Justice for an increase but this is not yet agreed so this will need to be updated once that is agreed.
		Preparation of basic HMRC income tax return	70.00	70.00	70.00	0%	01/04/2024		Statutory	NB	
		Preparation of complex HMRC income tax return	140.00	140.00	140.00	0%	01/04/2024		Statutory	NB	
		Section 12, Fixed cost direction of travel	40.00	40.00	40.00	0%	01/04/2024		Statutory	NB	
		Work up to court order date	745.00	745.00	745.00	0%	01/04/2024		Statutory	NB	
		Yr2 & subsequent yrs	650.00	650.00	650.00	0%	01/04/2024		Statutory	NB	
		per hour	115.00	115.00	115.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	This charge will remain the same until the Legal Services hourly rate catches up with the charge
	Maximum charge per hour for work in relation to estates of deceased clients										
	Urgent Response and Telecare Service: telecare equipment and monitoring form a call centre.	URTS service - telecare level 1	5.50	5.78	5.78	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	ZR or SR	
		URTS service - telecare level 2	11.00	11.55	11.55	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	ZR or SR	
	Arrangement fees	Annual charge for arranging support for people who fund their own care	166.10	174.41	209.29	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	
		Weekly charge for arranging support for people who fund their own care.	4.73	4.97	5.96	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	
Other Adult Social Care Services are governed by the Care and Support Statutory Guidance issued under the Care Act 2014 and the Council's Adult Social Care Contributions Policy which is available on the Council's website through the link below:											
Adult social care services we charge for   Oxfordshire County Council											

Review of Charges 2024/25  
Children's Services

							Assume 01-Apr-24			
Service Area	Charge	Unit	Current Charge £	Proposed Charge exc VAT 2024/25 £	Proposed Charge inc VAT 2024/25 £	Change %	Proposed date effective from	Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
<b>Corporate Parenting - ATTACH</b>	Assessment	Per Assessment	990.00	1,040.00	1,040.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Foundations for Attachment Group	Per Intervention	1,100.00	1,180.00	1,180.00	7%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Non-Violent Resistance Group	Per Intervention	1,650.00	1,732.00	1,732.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Nurturing Attachments Group	Per Intervention	1,925.00	2,016.00	2,016.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Stories for Attachment Group	Per Intervention	770.00	808.00	808.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Telephone Appointment	Per Half Hour	82.00	87.00	87.00	6%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Therapy	per hour	165.00	173.00	173.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	VIG	Per Intervention	1,650.00	1,730.00	1,730.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Compassion focused therapy group	Per Intervention	1,650.00	1,732.00	1,732.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Additional Hours	per hour	165.00	173.00	173.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
<b>Corporate Parenting - Riverside Centre</b>	Hire of Premises (cost of the building per day)	Per Day	120.00	144.00	144.00	20%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	ZR	Exempt from VAT
	Minibus hire to OCC approved groups	Per Day	110.00	121.00	145.20	10%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	VAT not charged to OCC, 20% SR charged to Non OCC.
	Minibus per mile after first 100 miles per day	Per mile	0.45	0.50	0.59	10%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	VAT not charged to OCC, 20% SR charged to Non OCC.
NEW	OC&KC Affiliation (use of changing and storage)	Per Year	1,200.00	1,320.00	1,320.00	10%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	ZR	New
NEW	OC&KC Affiliation (use of equipment)	Per Year	250.00	275.00	330.00	10%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	New
<b>Home to School Transport</b>	Contributions To School Transport (Spare Seat Scheme) (Per annum)	Over 3 Miles Pre and Post-16 Students	806.30	846.60	846.60	5%	01/09/2024	Discretionary	ZR	
		Under 3 Miles Pre and Post-16 Students	433.40	455.00	455.00	5%	01/09/2024	Discretionary	ZR	
<b>Education Staff</b>	Charging for work of officers in Education service for bespoke agreements	Group Manager / Operational Manager	792.00	910.80	1,092.96	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Standardise across Children, E&P, iHUB, Property. 15% increase brings the charge in line with the cost of delivering the service.
		Team Leader	710.00	816.50	979.80	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Standardise across Children, E&P, iHUB, Property. 15% increase brings the charge in line with the cost of delivering the service.
		Principal Officer / Technical Lead	585.00	672.75	807.30	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Standardise across Children, E&P, iHUB, Property. 15% increase brings the charge in line with the cost of delivering the service.
		Officer	459.00	527.85	633.42	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Standardise across Children, E&P, iHUB, Property. 15% increase brings the charge in line with the cost of delivering the service.
		Assistant	370.00	425.50	510.60	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Standardise across Children, E&P, iHUB, Property. 15% increase brings the charge in line with the cost of delivering the service.
		Large meeting (up to 5 Officers in attendance)	1,602.00	1,842.30	2,210.76	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Standardise across Children, E&P, iHUB, Property. 15% increase brings the charge in line with the cost of delivering the service.
		Small meeting (2-3 Officers in attendance)	799.00	918.85	1,102.62	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Standardise across Children, E&P, iHUB, Property. 15% increase brings the charge in line with the cost of delivering the service.



Review of Charges 2024/25  
Environment & Place

Service Area	Charge	Unit	Current Charge 23/24 (exclusive of VAT) £	Proposed Charge 2024/25 exclusive of VAT £	Proposed Charge 2024/25 inclusive of VAT £	Change %	Proposed date effective from	Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
Commons Registration Authority Charges	Common searches	Per additional land parcel	1.25	1.33	1.60	6%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Current 23/24 charge now shown as exclusive of VAT.
	Common searches (new Con290 form due 14/15 or after)	Initial Search	41.67	44.17	53.00	6%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Current 23/24 charge now shown as exclusive of VAT.
	Corrective applications additional inquiry stage para 6	Per application	3,960.00	4,158.00	4,989.60	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Corrective applications additional inquiry stage para 7	Per application	3,260.00	3,425.00	4,110.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Corrective applications additional inquiry stage para 8	Per application	3,820.00	4,015.00	4,818.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Corrective applications additional inquiry stage para 9	Per application	3,930.00	4,130.00	4,956.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Corrective applications under Commons Act 2006 Schedule 2 (standard, no inquiry)	Per application	1,265.00	1,330.00	1,596.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Supply of Highway (rights of way) related information	Written response to extensive enquiry	84.00	89.00	106.80	6%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Supply of Highway (rights of way) related information	Written response to standard enquiry	62.00	66.00	79.20	6%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Landowner Deposits: Highways Act 1980 section 31(6)	Receipt and processing of deposited map and statement OR declaration for a single parcel (of any size)	320.00	336.00	403.20	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Landowner Deposits: Highways Act 1980 section 31(6)	Additional fee for each additional unconnected land parcel	22.00	23.20	27.84	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Landowner Deposits: Highways Act 1980 section 31(6)	Receipt and processing of declaration that follows an initial deposited map and statement if made within 60 days of the Council's acceptance of initial deposit.	55.00	58.00	69.60	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Landowner Deposits: Commons Act 2006 s15(a)(1) Landowner Statement (or combined s31(6) and s15(a)(i) deposit)	Receipt and processing of deposited map and statement OR declaration for a single parcel (of any size)	385.00	405.00	486.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Landowner Deposits: Commons Act 2006 s15(a)(1) Landowner Statement (or combined s31(6) and s15(a)(i) deposit)	Additional fee for each additional unconnected land parcel	28.00	29.50	35.40	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
Definitive Map and Commons	As made, the Local Authorities (Recovery of Costs for Public Path Orders) Regulations 1993 <a href="http://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/moderngov/Data/Cabinet%20Member%20-%20Technical%20Services%20(meeting)/20051109/Agenda/Item%2005.pdf">http://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/moderngov/Data/Cabinet%20Member%20-%20Technical%20Services%20(meeting)/20051109/Agenda/Item%2005.pdf</a> Recovery of costs under DoE Circular 11/1996	Orders confirmed unopposed	4,070.00	4,275.00	5,130.00	5%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	
		Orders confirmed - objections withdrawn OR Orders opposed - not proceeded with	4,620.00	4,855.00	5,826.00	5%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	
		Orders opposed - submitted to SoS	5,870.00	6,165.00	7,398.00	5%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	

Review of Charges 2024/25  
Environment & Place

Service Area	Charge	Unit	Current Charge 23/24 (exclusive of VAT) £	Proposed Charge 2024/25 exclusive of VAT £	Proposed Charge 2024/25 inclusive of VAT £	Change %	Proposed date effective from	Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
<b>Excess Charges/ Penalty Notices/ Enforcement</b>	Bus Lane Camera Enforcement	Fines paid after 14 & up to 28 days	70.00	70.00	70.00	0%	31/05/2022	Statutory	NB	
		Fines paid within 14 days	35.00	35.00	35.00	0%	31/05/2022	Statutory	NB	
	Penalty Charge Notices - higher contraventions	Fines paid after 14 & up to 28 days	70.00	70.00	70.00	0%	31/05/2022	Statutory	NB	
		Fines paid within 14 days	35.00	35.00	35.00	0%	31/05/2022	Statutory	NB	
	Penalty Charge Notices - lower contraventions	Fines paid after 14 & up to 28 days	50.00	50.00	50.00	0%	31/05/2022	Statutory	NB	
		Fines paid within 14 days	25.00	25.00	25.00	0%	31/05/2022	Statutory	NB	
<b>Highways</b>	Agreement for temporary traffic counter on highway		42.00	44.50	53.40	6%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Approving traffic Management plans and signage schedules	Per hour	80.00	100.00	100.00	25%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	Unless part of the pre-permit advice listed below.
	Private access protection road markings	Per application	168.00	176.00	176.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Directional Signage - New Developments	Agreement and authorisation/approval of sites and signs (per hour)	80.00	84.00	100.80	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Design Services (per hour)	80.00	84.00	100.80	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Installation Supervision (per hour)	80.00	84.00	100.80	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	<b>NEW CHARGE</b> - Highways Act 1980 Enforcement - S154	Gang attendance	n/a	Cost +20%	Cost +20%	n/a	01/04/2024	Statutory	SR	New chargeable item for enforcement, site attendance to undertake vegetation cutting works. This is already in existence as the council has the ability to undertake works and recharge where riparian owners have not reduced overgrowth within specified timeframe. There is an agreed and well established policy for this.
	Charge to public utilities for outstaying prescribed and/or reasonable periods for their works in the highway.	Fixed under NRSWA.	Various as per scale of charges	Various as per scale of charges	Various as per scale of charges	n/a	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	
	Commutated fee for licence of private apparatus in the highway, including the admin cost of maintaining the licence record (S50)		£1,210 inspection fee (including the first 200m) and then £200 for every additional 200m of part thereof.	£1,300 inspection fee (including the first 200m) and then £210 for every additional 200m of part thereof.	£1,300 inspection fee (including the first 200m) and then £210 for every additional 200m of part thereof.	n/a	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	
	Fixed Penalty Notice income from statutory undertakers for non- compliance with Sections 54, 55, 57, 70, 74 of the New Roads and Street Works Act (NRSWA)	Per Notice	120.00	120.00	120.00	0%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	
		Discounted Rate	80.00	80.00	80.00	0%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	
	Hoarding Consents	Initial Licence - one month occupation	210.00	220.00	220.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		Renewal - one month occupation	210.00	220.00	220.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		Retrospective Licence	300.00	315.00	315.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Oversailing Consents - structures oversailing the highway	Licence	435.00	455.00	455.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		Retrospective Licence	685.00	720.00	720.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Reinstatement of Trenches - Site Supervision by Highways Inspectors (Fixed charge under NRSWA)	Standard Charge for Defect Inspections set by Statutory Regulation.	50.00	50.00	50.00	0%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	
		Standard Charge for Sample Inspections set by Statutory Regulation.	50.00	50.00	50.00	0%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	
	Vehicle Crossings	Residential Non-classified Roads	230.00	240.00	240.00	4%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		Residential Classified Roads	360.00	378.00	378.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	

Review of Charges 2024/25  
Environment & Place

Service Area	Charge	Unit	Current Charge 23/24 (exclusive of VAT) £	Proposed Charge 2024/25 exclusive of VAT £	Proposed Charge 2024/25 inclusive of VAT £	Change %	Proposed date effective from	Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
		Multiple access and commercial use Non-classified Roads	625.00	655.00	655.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		Multiple access and commercial use Classified Roads	800.00	840.00	840.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		Temporary vehicle crossing to allow access to a new development in advance of formal S278 sign off	1,200.00	1,260.00	1,260.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		Enforcement for non-compliance with vehicle crossing (non-applications, not to specification).	At Cost	At Cost	At Cost	n/a	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Design Work on Street Lighting for New Developments	1 - 5 Columns (Minimum Charge)	942.00	989.00	1,186.80	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		6 - 15 Columns (Minimum Charge)	1,318.00	1,384.00	1,660.80	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		16 - 25 Columns (Minimum Charge)	1,655.00	1,738.00	2,085.60	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		26 - 50 Columns (Minimum Charge)	1,980.00	2,079.00	2,494.80	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Over 50 Columns (Minimum Charge)	2,637.00	2,769.00	3,322.80	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Re-submission of Design Work on Street Lighting	1 - 25 columns	706.00	741.00	889.20	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Above 25 columns	961.00	1,009.00	1,210.80	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Filming Policy - On or in the vicinity of the Highway - Application Fee for permission to film	Advertising, maintenance of notices and exceptional staff time	Charge per hour at cost	Charge per hour at cost	Charge per hour at cost	n/a	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Small - 1 - 10 crew	£100 to £350 depending on the number of days and complexity of the project.	£110 to £370 depending on the number of days and complexity of the project.	£132 to £444 depending on the number of days and complexity of the project.	n/a	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Medium - 11 - 29 crew	£350 to £1400 depending on the number of days and complexity of the project.	£370 to £1470 depending on the number of days and complexity of the project.	£370 to £1470 depending on the number of days and complexity of the project.	n/a	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Large - 30 - 40 crew	£600 to £2230 depending on the number of days and complexity of the project.	£1470 to £2350 depending on the number of days and complexity of the project.	£1764 to £2820 depending on the number of days and complexity of the project.	n/a	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Unit description amended from Large 20 - 40 crew to Large 30 - 40 crew.
		Large Plus - 41+ crew	£2,230 minimum fee (fees above this level are subject to negotiation)	£2,350 minimum fee (fees above this level are subject to negotiation)	£2,820 minimum fee (fees above this level are subject to negotiation)	n/a	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	

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Service Area	Charge	Unit	Current Charge 23/24 (exclusive of VAT) £	Proposed Charge 2024/25 exclusive of VAT £	Proposed Charge 2024/25 inclusive of VAT £	Change %	Proposed date effective from	Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
	Oxfordshire Permit Scheme - Permit Fees	Permit fee for working on the highway network.	Various as per scale of charges	Various as per scale of charges	Various as per scale of charges	n/a	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	At maximum - discretionary pricing to statutory limit
	<b>NEW CHARGE</b> - Oxford Lane Rental Scheme - Lane Rental Fees	Lane Rental fee for working on the highway	n/a as new charge	Various as per scale of charges	Various as per scale of charges	n/a as new charge	01/10/2024	Discretionary	NB	New charge proposed to take effect from 01/10/24.  Discretionary pricing to statutory limit. Some caps will be in place which need to be identified as part of the Scheme documentation.
	Application fee for S278 works (non statutory works promoters) to book space on the highway.	Per application - Works involving excavation £245	275.00	290.00	290.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	<b>NEW CHARGE</b> - Alterations to existing agreements to S278 road space bookings	Per modification	n/a as new charge	100.00	100.00	n/a as new charge	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	New charge to cover additional administration costs.
		Retrospective Permit	365.00	560.00	560.00	53%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Experimental Traffic Regulation Order	Standard Experimental Traffic Regulation Order	3,652.00	3,835.00	3,835.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (Please note no refunds are available for cancelled TTROs)	Routine Temporary TRO	2,343.00	2,465.00	2,465.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		5 days Notice	1,639.00	1,725.00	1,725.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		Emergency Notice	1,001.00	1,055.00	1,055.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		Special Events - basic order	2,343.00	2,465.00	2,465.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		Advertising, maintenance of notices and exceptional staff time.	at cost	at cost	at cost	n/a	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Traffic Regulation Orders	Standard Traffic Regulation Order	3,652.00	3,840.00	3,840.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		Other consultation not requiring placing of a newspaper notice	1,879.00	1,980.00	1,980.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		Other Consultation Requiring placing of a single newspaper notice and no input from legal team - includes pedestrian crossings; traffic calming schemes and incorporating road humps	2,099.00	2,205.00	2,205.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		Parking permit exclusions requiring Traffic Regulation Order amendment arising from planning permission for a new development	2,580.00	2,710.00	2,710.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		Advertising, maintenance of notices and exceptional staff time	at cost	at cost	at cost	n/a	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Cranes	Licence	540.00	565.00	565.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		Retrospective Licence	670.00	705.00	705.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Scaffolding Licences	Initial Licence - one month occupation	220.00	230.00	230.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		Renewal - one month occupation	220.00	230.00	230.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Scaffolding Licences	Retrospective Licence	350.00	370.00	370.00	6%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Tower Scaffolding Licences/Cherry Picker / Small Lift	Initial Licence 2 days occupation	180.00	190.00	190.00	6%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		Renewal - 2 days occupation	180.00	190.00	190.00	6%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		Retrospective Licence	400.00	420.00	420.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Highway Material Storage Licence	Enforcement for non-compliance / No consent for all licence fees that do not have existing prescribed enforcement fees. Change fee to "At cost"	At Cost	At Cost	At Cost	n/a	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		Licence	160.00	170.00	170.00	6%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		Retrospective Licence	250.00	260.00	260.00	4%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Skip Licence	Late renewal (more than 5 working days to be classed as new application)	130.00	135.00	135.00	4%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	

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		Licence	160.00	170.00	170.00	6%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		Licence Renewal	160.00	170.00	170.00	6%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		One day Licence	115.00	120.00	120.00	4%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		Retrospective Licence	300.00	315.00	315.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Bus stop suspensions	Per request	180.00	190.00	190.00	6%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Removal of unauthorised signs	Signs over 0.5 sq. metre in area	310.00	326.00	326.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		Signs under 0.5 sq. metre in area	235.00	247.00	247.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Tourism Signs	Assessing application and detailed site assessment	358.00	376.00	376.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		Design, manufacture & erection	Cost +20%	Cost +20%	Cost +20%	n/a	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Maintenance & removal	2/3 x (b) above	2/3 x (b) above	2/3 x (b) above	n/a	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Provision of CCTV coverage for legal/judicial proceedings (excluding requests in relation to the prevention or prosecution of crime)	Per request	80.00	90.00	90.00	13%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	EX	
	Supply of Automatic Traffic Count (ATC) Data to commercial organisations	Data from first ATC/year in request (this can contain between 1 and 52 weeks worth of flow data)	182.00	192.00	230.40	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Data from additional years (per year)	38.00	40.00	48.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Data from additional ATC in same request (first year)	100.00	105.00	126.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Collating Data from Multiple sites	65.00	69.00	82.80	6%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Supply of Conveyancing 29 Highway Search Information		10,300.00	10,820.00	12,984.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Supply of Highway related information, including Personal Search Fees	Con29 property search	73.00	78.00	93.60	7%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Extensive highway boundary extent	176.00	185.00	222.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Highway extent	73.00	78.00	93.60	7%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Highway extent per additional question	18.00	19.00	22.80	6%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Highway Extent research/survey	726.00	764.00	916.80	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Supply of Manual Traffic Survey Data (when a commercial request to purchase historical survey data is received)	Large Survey (e.g. OD survey, turning count with queues etc)	750.00	790.00	948.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Medium Survey (e.g. turning count)	500.00	525.00	630.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Small Survey (e.g. link count)	320.00	336.00	403.20	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Supply of traffic accident data (planning matter or other professional purpose)	First location / date range	185.00	194.00	232.80	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Search of records to establish if there is any relevant data	54.00	57.00	68.40	6%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Second and each subsequent location / date range	106.00	111.00	133.20	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Section 50 works - EV charging gullies licence to install.	Per licence (Price to be confirmed)	300.00	300.00	300.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	EX	No uplift - relatively new charge relating to the transformation from carbon fuels to electric.
	Egully licence for the installation of a cross channel gulley in the footway.	Per licence	300.00	300.00	300.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	EX	No uplift - relatively new charge relating to the transformation from carbon fuels to electric.
	Monthly/Annual user subscription for training cables into Egullies. Monthly £10 per month and annual charge of £100	Per gulley	100.00	100.00	100.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	EX	No uplift - relatively new charge relating to the transformation from carbon fuels to electric.

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	Pre-Permit advice and support (Oxfordshire Permit Scheme) to developers and other non-utility third parties for development and traffic management purposes	Scheme duration up to 1 year	2,000.00	2,200.00	2,200.00	10%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Costs increased as the volume of work required has increased as the scheme has developed.
		Scheme duration 12 months to 24 months	5,000.00	5,250.00	5,250.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Scheme duration beyond 24 months	10,000.00	10,500.00	10,500.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Supply of Manual Traffic Survey Data (commercial request to purchase historical survey data is received)	Collating Multiple Sets of Data	65.00	69.00	82.80	6%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Service Charge to Arrange Survey Through 3rd Party Survey Companies	Single Survey	66.00	70.00	84.00	6%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
On-Street Parking - Pay and Display	Abingdon 8am-6pm (excl. Sundays, B Hols.) 1984 Act	1 hour	1.10	1.30	1.30	18%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	to match Henley increase
		2 hours (the maximum)	1.50	2.00	2.00	33%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	Off street car parks are £1.50 for 2 hours. On-street should be considered at a higher rate.
		Visitor permit (24 hours)	1.50	n/a - see notes	n/a - see notes	n/a	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	No visitor permits. Charge is not applicable.
	Henley 8am-6pm (excl. Sundays, B Hols.)	1 hour	1.10	1.30	1.30	18%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		2 hours (the maximum)	1.50	2.00	2.00	33%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	Off-street car park is currently more expensive for 2 hours at £1.80. Increases match off street price for Henley at this time
		Visitors permit (24 hours)	1.50	n/a - see notes	n/a - see notes	n/a	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	No visitor permits. Charge is not applicable.
	Oxford City Centre - Central Area Zone 1	1 hour	6.60	7.60	7.60	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		2 hours	13.20	15.20	15.20	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		Saturday 1 hour	6.60	7.60	7.60	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		Saturday 2 hours	13.20	15.20	15.20	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		Saturday evenings	6.60	7.60	7.60	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		Sunday - Friday evenings	6.60	7.60	7.60	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Oxford City Centre - Zone 2 (including Jericho)	1 hour	5.50	6.30	6.30	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		3 hours	16.50	19.00	19.00	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		Evenings/Sundays	5.50	6.30	6.30	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Vehicle Removal Charge		120.00	120.00	120.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	This is a set fee in a Thames Valley Police contract with the supplier.
	Wallingford 8am-6pm (excl. Sundays, Bank holidays)	1.5 hours (the maximum)	0.70	0.80	0.80	14%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	NEW CHARGE - Woodstock Mon-Sun 8am to 6pm	1 hour	n/a as new charge	0.00	0.00	n/a as new charge	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		2 hours	n/a as new charge	1.00	1.00	n/a as new charge	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		3 hours	n/a as new charge	2.00	2.00	n/a as new charge	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		4 hours (maximum)	n/a as new charge	5.00	5.00	n/a as new charge	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Parking bay suspension (non Pay and Display) - charge for the suspension of a parking bay	Cost is per bay for the first day and £15 per bay for each consecutive day	33.00	38.00	38.00	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	EX	
	Suspension of Parking Bay - Pay and Display	per bay charged at £30 for first day and £15 for each subsequent day + loss of income for each bay determined by income level for the previous 12 months.	33.00	38.00	38.00	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	EX	

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	Design and implementation of new Controlled Parking Zones (excluding TRO) and amendments to existing TRO's to support new parking schemes in Oxfordshire.	10% of basic costs (excluding TRO costs).	10% of basic costs (excluding TRO costs).	10% of basic costs (excluding TRO costs).	10% of basic costs (excluding TRO costs).	n/a	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
<b>Park and Ride</b>	Park and Ride Car Park charges - Thornhill & Water Eaton only	Up to 1 hr	free	free	free	n/a	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		1-16 hours	2.00	2.50	2.50	25%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	Suggestions from Oxford City Council on proposed charges are as follows: • 16 hours:£2.50 • 16-24 hours: £4.50 • 24-48 hours: £8.50 • 48-72 hours: £12.50
		16-24 hours	4.00	4.50	4.50	13%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	As per above
		24-48 hrs	8.00	8.50	8.50	6%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	As per above
		48-72 hrs	12.00	12.50	12.50	4%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	As per above
		Annual Season ticket	300.00	300.00	300.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	No price increases at Oxford City so price matching.
		Excess Notices - Fines paid after 14 & up to 28 days	100.00	100.00	100.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	No price increases at Oxford City so price matching.
		Excess Notices - Fines paid within 14 days	50.00	50.00	50.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	No price increases at Oxford City so price matching.
		Monthly Season ticket	30.00	30.00	30.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	No price increases at Oxford City so price matching.
		Quarterly Season Ticket	85.00	85.00	85.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	No price increases at Oxford City so price matching.
	Combined Park & Bus	OCC contribution reduced from £2 to £1.20 £1.35	2.00	2.00	2.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	As agreed Oxfordshire County Council contribution now £1.35.
	Combined Park & Bus	OCC contribution reduced from £2 to £1.20 £1.35	2.00	2.00	2.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	As agreed Oxfordshire County Council contribution now £1.35.
<b>Parking Permits</b>	Abingdon Residents Parking (per annum)	Parking permit	132.00	132.00	132.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	No change as other permits in the County are cheaper. Need to work towards a consistent price.
		Visitors permits - First 25 (subject to approval following consultation)	10.00	10.00	10.00	n/a	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	Approved in 23/24 but not implemented due to an admin error. No increase as essentially a new charge.
		<b>Visitors permits - 2nd 25 (total cost)</b>	<b>27.50</b>	<b>31.50</b>	<b>31.50</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>01/04/2024</b>	<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>NB</b>	<b>Approved in 23/24 but not implemented due to an admin error. No increase as essentially a new charge.</b>
	Henley Residents Parking (per annum)	Parking permit	110.00	110.00	110.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	No change as other permits in the County are cheaper. Need to work toward a consistent price throughout the County.
		Visitors permits - First 25 (subject to approval following consultation)	10.00	10.00	10.00	n/a	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	Approved in 2023/24 but not implemented due to an administrative error. No increase proposed as this is essentially a new charge from 2024/25.
		<b>Visitors permits - 2nd 25 (total cost)</b>	<b>27.50</b>	<b>31.50</b>	<b>31.50</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>01/04/2024</b>	<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>NB</b>	<b>Approved in 2023/24 but not implemented due to an administrative error. No increase proposed as this is essentially a new charge from 2024/25.</b>
	<b>Oxford (per annum)</b>	<b>Business Permits - 3 months</b>	<b>44.00</b>	<b>50.50</b>	<b>50.50</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>01/04/2024</b>	<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>NB</b>	
		<b>Business Permits - 6 months</b>	<b>82.50</b>	<b>95.00</b>	<b>95.00</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>01/04/2024</b>	<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>NB</b>	
		<b>Business Permits - 9 months</b>	<b>126.50</b>	<b>145.00</b>	<b>145.00</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>01/04/2024</b>	<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>NB</b>	
		<b>Business permits - Annual</b>	<b>165.00</b>	<b>190.00</b>	<b>190.00</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>01/04/2024</b>	<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>NB</b>	
		<b>Business Permits - Change of Vehicle</b>	<b>22.00</b>	<b>25.00</b>	<b>25.00</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>01/04/2024</b>	<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>NB</b>	
		<b>Oxford residents (excl. Kassam stadium)1st &amp; 2nd Car</b>	<b>70.00</b>	<b>80.00</b>	<b>80.00</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>01/04/2024</b>	<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>NB</b>	
		<b>Oxford residents (excl. Kassam stadium) 3rd Car</b>	<b>140.00</b>	<b>161.00</b>	<b>161.00</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>01/04/2024</b>	<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>NB</b>	
		Oxford residents (excl. Kassam stadium) 4th Car	215.00	275.00	275.00	28%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		<b>Oxford residents (Kassam stadium area)</b>	<b>17.50</b>	<b>20.00</b>	<b>20.00</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>01/04/2024</b>	<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>NB</b>	
		<b>Traders permits per week</b>	<b>27.50</b>	<b>31.50</b>	<b>31.50</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>01/04/2024</b>	<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>NB</b>	
		Visitors permits - First 25 (subject to approval following consultation)	10.00	10.00	10.00	n/a	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	

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		Visitors permits - 2nd 25 (total cost)	27.50	31.50	31.50	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	<b>NEW CHARGE - Banbury and Bicester</b>	<b>Parking permit</b>	<b>66.00</b>	<b>76.00</b>	<b>76.00</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>01/04/2024</b>	<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>NB</b>	
		Visitors permits - First 25 (subject to approval following consultation)	n/a as new charge	10.00	10.00	n/a as new charge	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		Visitors permits - 2nd 25 (total cost)	27.50	31.50	31.50	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	<b>NEW CHARGE - Wantage</b>	<b>Parking permit</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>110.00</b>	<b>110.00</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>01/04/2024</b>	<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>NB</b>	
		Visitors permits - First 25 (subject to approval following consultation)	n/a as new charge	10.00	10.00	n/a as new charge	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		Visitors permits - 2nd 25 (total cost)	25.00	31.50	31.50	26%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	<b>NEW CHARGE - Wallingford</b>	<b>Parking permit</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>110.00</b>	<b>110.00</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>01/04/2024</b>	<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>NB</b>	
		Visitors permits - First 25 (subject to approval following consultation)	free	10.00	10.00	n/a as new charge	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		Visitors permits - 2nd 25 (total cost)	25.00	31.50	31.50	26%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	<b>NEW CHARGE - Woodstock</b>	<b>Parking permit</b>	<b>n/a as new charge</b>	<b>65.00</b>	<b>65.00</b>	<b>n/a as new charge</b>	<b>01/04/2024</b>	<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>NB</b>	
		Visitors permits - First 25 (subject to approval following consultation)	n/a as new charge	10.00	10.00	n/a as new charge	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		Visitors permits - 2nd 25 (total cost)	n/a as new charge	25.00	25.00	n/a as new charge	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
<b>Supported Transport</b>	Comet Bus - Transport from your door to destination - for anyone without access to suitable public transport	Exclusive use - <del>Five mile journey</del> Cost per mile	<del>£9.50</del> £1.50 per mile	1.58	1.58	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	5% uplift to contribute towards inflationary pressures - additional 8p charge. The charge has not been increased since 1 April 2021.
	Comet Bus - Transport from your door to destination - for anyone without access to suitable public transport	Organisations/groups - Per hour	<del>£25.00</del> £20.00	21.00	21.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	5% uplift to contribute towards inflationary pressures - additional £1 charge. The charge has not been increased since 1 April 2021.
	Comet Bus - Transport from your door to destination - for anyone without access to suitable public transport	Shared travel - <del>Five mile journey</del> Cost per mile	<del>£4.00</del> 75p per mile	0.79	0.79	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	5% uplift to contributute towards inflationary pressures - additional 4p charge. The charge has not been increased since 1 April 2021.



**Review of Charges 2024/25**  
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Service Area	Charge	Unit	Current Charge 23/24 (exclusive of VAT) £	Proposed Charge 2024/25 exclusive of VAT £	Proposed Charge 2024/25 inclusive of VAT £	Change %	Proposed date effective from	Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
	Home to School Transport - DBS Vetting and Safeguard Training	Per application	131.00	132.79	132.79	1%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	The statutory DBS charge cannot be increased. Only the staffing, admin and stationary costs can be increased hence the charge will only increase by £1.79 to reflect inflation.
	Home to School Transport - Missed DBS Appointments	Per Missed Appointment	27.50	28.90	28.90	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
<b>Pre-Application Charges for Lead Local Flood Authority</b>	Local Lead Flood Authority (LLFA) PRE- APP <10 dwellings	Additional Written Response	380.00	486.00	583.00	28%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	The LLFA pre-app service has been reviewed and in the absence of previous information/evidence we have re-baselined the hours taken and the requirements for all categories - hence there is different percentage increases and revised categories.
	Local Lead Flood Authority PRE-APP <10 dwellings	Virtual meeting + additional written response -	776.00	607.00	729.00	-22%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	The LLFA pre-app service has been reviewed and in the absence of previous information/evidence we have re-baselined the hours taken and the requirements for all categories - hence there is different percentage increases and revised categories. The reduction in charges are due to charging categories being split out (site visits and virtual meeting were grouped together) so those that are virtual meetings were charged at the site visit rate as one category.
	Local Lead Flood Authority PRE-APP <10 dwellings	Site Visit/In person meeting + additional response -	776.00	930.00	1,116.00	20%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	The LLFA pre-app service has been reviewed and in the absence of previous information/evidence we have re-baselined the hours taken and the requirements for all categories - hence there is different percentage increases and revised categories.
	Local Lead Flood Authority PRE-APP 10-24 Dwellings	Additional Written Response	380.00	486.00	583.00	28%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	The LLFA pre-app service has been reviewed and in the absence of previous information/evidence we have re-baselined the hours taken and the requirements for all categories - hence there is different percentage increases and revised categories. Backing documentation has been produced.
	Local Lead Flood Authority PRE-APP 10-24 Dwellings	Virtual meeting + additional written response	776.00	607.00	729.00	-22%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	The LLFA pre-app service has been reviewed and in the absence of previous information/evidence we have re-baselined the hours taken and the requirements for all categories - hence there is different percentage increases and revised categories. The reduction in charges are due to charging categories being split out (site visits and virtual meeting were grouped together) so those that are virtual meetings were charged at the site visit rate as one category.
	Local Lead Flood Authority PRE-APP 10-24 Dwellings	Site Visit/In person meeting + additional respons	776.00	930.00	1,116.00	20%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	The LLFA pre-app service has been reviewed and in the absence of previous information/evidence we have re-baselined the hours taken and the requirements for all categories - hence there is different percentage increases and revised categories. Backing documentation has been produced.
	Local Lead Flood Authority PRE-APP 25-49 Dwellings	Additional Written Response	380.00	607.00	729.00	60%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	The LLFA pre-app service has been reviewed and in the absence of previous information/evidence we have re-baselined the hours taken and the requirements for all categories - hence there is different percentage increases and revised categories. Backing documentation has been produced.
	Local Lead Flood Authority PRE-APP 25-49 Dwellings	Virtual meeting + additional written response	776.00	850.00	1,020.00	10%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	The LLFA pre-app service has been reviewed and in the absence of previous information/evidence we have re-baselined the hours taken and the requirements for all categories - hence there is different percentage increases and revised categories.
	Local Lead Flood Authority PRE-APP 25-49 Dwellings	Site Visit/In person meeting + additional response -	776.00	1,052.00	1,262.00	36%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	The LLFA pre-app service has been reviewed and in the absence of previous information/evidence we have re-baselined the hours taken and the requirements for all categories - hence there is different percentage increases and revised categories.
	Local Lead Flood Authority PRE-APP 50-99 Dwellings	Additional Written Response	776.00	972.00	1,166.00	25%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	The LLFA pre-app service has been reviewed and in the absence of previous information/evidence we have re-baselined the hours taken and the requirements for all categories - hence there is different percentage increases and revised categories.

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Service Area	Charge	Unit	Current Charge 23/24 (exclusive of VAT) £	Proposed Charge 2024/25 exclusive of VAT £	Proposed Charge 2024/25 inclusive of VAT £	Change %	Proposed date effective from	Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
	Local Lead Flood Authority PRE-APP 50-99 Dwellings	Virtual meeting + additional written response -	1,155.00	1,215.00	1,458.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	The LLFA pre-app service has been reviewed and in the absence of previous information/evidence we have re-baselined the hours taken and the requirements for all categories - hence there is different percentage increases and revised categories.
	Local Lead Flood Authority PRE-APP 50-99 Dwellings	Site Visit/In person meeting + additional response -	1,155.00	1,416.00	1,699.00	23%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	The LLFA pre-app service has been reviewed and in the absence of previous information/evidence we have re-baselined the hours taken and the requirements for all categories - hence there is different percentage increases and revised categories.
	Local Lead Flood Authority PRE-APP 100-199 Dwellings	Additional Written Response	776.00	972.00	2,332.00	25%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	The LLFA pre-app service has been reviewed and in the absence of previous information/evidence we have re-baselined the hours taken and the requirements for all categories - hence there is different percentage increases and revised categories.
	Local Lead Flood Authority PRE-APP 100-199 Dwellings	Virtual meeting + additional written response -	1,155.00	1,215.00	2,769.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	The LLFA pre-app service has been reviewed and in the absence of previous information/evidence we have re-baselined the hours taken and the requirements for all categories - hence there is different percentage increases and revised categories.
	Local Lead Flood Authority PRE-APP 100-199 Dwellings	Site Visit/In person meeting + additional response	1,155.00	1,416.00	3,011.00	23%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	The LLFA pre-app service has been reviewed and in the absence of previous information/evidence we have re-baselined the hours taken and the requirements for all categories - hence there is different percentage increases and revised categories.
	Local Lead Flood Authority PRE-APP 200-399 Dwellings or 1,000m2-4, 999m2 B1-B8 (Business) or 1,000-3,499m2 A1 (Retail) Use	Additional Written Response	1,155.00	1,943.00	2,332.00	68%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	The LLFA pre-app service has been reviewed and in the absence of previous information/evidence we have re-baselined the hours taken and the requirements for all categories - hence there is different percentage increases and revised categories.
	Local Lead Flood Authority PRE-APP 200-399 Dwellings or 1,000m2-4, 999m2 B1-B8 (Business) or 1,000-3,499m2 A1 (Retail) Use	Virtual meeting + additional written response -	1,771.00	2,308.00	2,769.00	30%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	The LLFA pre-app service has been reviewed and in the absence of previous information/evidence we have re-baselined the hours taken and the requirements for all categories - hence there is different percentage increases and revised categories.
	Local Lead Flood Authority PRE-APP 200-399 Dwellings or 1,000m2-4, 999m2 B1-B8 (Business) or 1,000-3,499m2 A1 (Retail) Use	Site Visit/In person meeting + additional response -	1,771.00	2,509.00	3,011.00	42%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	The LLFA pre-app service has been reviewed and in the absence of previous information/evidence we have re-baselined the hours taken and the requirements for all categories - hence there is different percentage increases and revised categories.
	Local Lead Flood Authority PRE-APP 400 or more Dwellings or 5,000m2 or more B1-B8 (Business) or 3,500m2 or more A1 (Retail) Use	Additional Written Response	1,617.00	2,186.00	2,624.00	35%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	The LLFA pre-app service has been reviewed and in the absence of previous information/evidence we have re-baselined the hours taken and the requirements for all categories - hence there is different percentage increases and revised categories.
	Local Lead Flood Authority PRE-APP 400 or more Dwellings or 5,000m2 or more B1-B8 (Business) or 3,500m2 or more A1 (Retail) Use	Virtual meeting + additional written response	2,393.00	2,551.00	3,061.00	7%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	The LLFA pre-app service has been reviewed and in the absence of previous information/evidence we have re-baselined the hours taken and the requirements for all categories - hence there is different percentage increases and revised categories.
	Local Lead Flood Authority PRE-APP 400 or more Dwellings or 5,000m2 or more B1-B8 (Business) or 3,500m2 or more A1 (Retail) Use	Site Visit/In person meeting + additional response	2,393.00	2,752.00	3,303.00	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	The LLFA pre-app service has been reviewed and in the absence of previous information/evidence we have re-baselined the hours taken and the requirements for all categories - hence there is different percentage increases and revised categories.
<b>Pre-Application Charges for Highways Advice</b>	Provision of Pre-Submission advice service to Section 38 and 278 agreements.	Each written response following up additional meeting/site visit	280.00	294.00	294.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Provision of Pre-Submission advice service to Section 38 and 278 agreements.	Follow up 1 hour meeting	280.00	294.00	294.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Provision of Pre-Submission advice service to Section 38 and 278 agreements.	Follow up site meeting	560.00	588.00	588.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Provision of Pre-Submission advice service to Section 38 and 278 agreements.	Development proposal up to highway scheme value up to £500k 2 hour Meeting/scheme review/short report	3,930.00	4,127.00	4,127.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	

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Environment & Place

Service Area	Charge	Unit	Current Charge 23/24 (exclusive of VAT) £	Proposed Charge 2024/25 exclusive of VAT £	Proposed Charge 2024/25 inclusive of VAT £	Change %	Proposed date effective from	Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
	Provision of Pre-Submission advice service to Section 38 and 278 agreements.	Development proposal up to highway scheme value greater than £500k 2 hour Meeting/scheme review/short report	5,610.00	5,891.00	5,891.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	To recover costs associated with providing additional meetings/site visits/written reports over and above standard Pre-application charges for Highway Advice.	Follow up meeting	233.33	245.00	294.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Current 23/24 charge now shown as exclusive of VAT.
	To recover costs associated with providing additional meetings/site visits/written reports over and above standard Pre-application charges for Highway Advice.	Follow up site meeting	466.67	490.00	588.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Current 23/24 charge now shown as exclusive of VAT.
	To recover costs associated with providing additional meetings/site visits/written reports over and above standard Pre-application charges for Highway Advice.	Written response additional to follow up meeting/site meeting	233.33	245.00	294.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Current 23/24 charge now shown as exclusive of VAT.
	< 10 dwellings	Meeting/Site Visit + Additional Written Response	291.67	306.67	368.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Current 23/24 charge now shown as exclusive of VAT.
	10-24 Dwellings:	Additional Written Response	350.00	367.50	441.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Current 23/24 charge now shown as exclusive of VAT.
	10-24 Dwellings:	Meeting/Site Visit + Additional Written Response	558.33	586.67	704.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Current 23/24 charge now shown as exclusive of VAT.
	25-49 Dwellings	Additional Written Response	579.17	608.33	730.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Current 23/24 charge now shown as exclusive of VAT.
	25-49 Dwellings	Meeting/Site Visit + Additional Written Response	862.50	905.83	1,087.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Current 23/24 charge now shown as exclusive of VAT.
	50-99 Dwellings	Additional Written Response	1,145.83	1,203.33	1,444.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Current 23/24 charge now shown as exclusive of VAT.
	50-99 Dwellings	Meeting/Site Visit + Additional Written Response	1,725.00	1,811.67	2,174.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Current 23/24 charge now shown as exclusive of VAT.
	100-199 Dwellings	Additional Written Response	2,008.33	2,109.17	2,531.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Current 23/24 charge now shown as exclusive of VAT.
	100-199 Dwellings	Meeting/Site Visit + Additional Written Response	2,575.00	2,704.17	3,245.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Current 23/24 charge now shown as exclusive of VAT.
	200-399 Dwellings or 1,000m2-4, 999m2 B1-B8 (Business) or 1,000-3,499m2 A1 (Retail) Use	Additional Written Response	2,858.33	3,001.67	3,602.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Current 23/24 charge now shown as exclusive of VAT.
	200-399 Dwellings or 1,000m2-4, 999m2 B1-B8 (Business) or 1,000-3,499m2 A1 (Retail) Use	Meeting/Site Visit + Additional Written Response	3,437.50	3,609.17	4,331.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Current 23/24 charge now shown as exclusive of VAT.
	400 or more Dwellings or 5,000m2 or more B1-B8 (Business) or 3,500m2 or more A1 (Retail) Use	Additional Written Response	4,008.33	4,209.17	5,051.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Current 23/24 charge now shown as exclusive of VAT.
	401 or more Dwellings or 5,000m2 or more B1-B8 (Business) or 3,500m2 or more A1 (Retail) Use	Meeting/Site Visit + Additional Written Response	4,862.50	5,105.83	6,127.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Current 23/24 charge now shown as exclusive of VAT.
	Charging for work of officers in Environment and Place for Highways Advice, other than specific highways preapplication fees	Group Manager/Operational Manager	792.00	910.80	1,092.96	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Charging for work of officers in Environment and Place for Highways Advice, other than specific highways preapplication fees	Team Leader	710.00	816.50	979.80	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	

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Environment & Place

Service Area	Charge	Unit	Current Charge 23/24 (exclusive of VAT) £	Proposed Charge 2024/25 exclusive of VAT £	Proposed Charge 2024/25 inclusive of VAT £	Change %	Proposed date effective from	Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
	Charging for work of officers in Environment and Place for Highways Advice, other than specific highways preapplication fees	Principal Officer/Technical Lead	585.00	672.75	807.30	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Charging for work of officers in Environment and Place for Highways Advice, other than specific highways preapplication fees	Officer	459.00	527.85	633.42	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Charging for work of officers in Environment and Place for Highways Advice, other than specific highways preapplication fees	Assistant	370.00	425.50	510.60	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Charging for work of officers in Environment and Place for Highways Advice, other than specific highways preapplication fees	Large meeting (up to 5 Officers in attendance)	1,602.00	1,842.30	2,210.76	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Charging for work of officers in Environment and Place for Highways Advice, other than specific highways preapplication fees	Small meeting (2-3 Officers in attendance)	799.00	918.85	1,102.62	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
Planning Regulation	Charging administration fee for managing & monitoring S.106 agreements relating to planning permissions.	Up to £10,000	130.00	150.00	150.00	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		£10,001 - £25,000	320.00	370.00	370.00	16%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		£25,001 - £50,000	635.00	730.00	730.00	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		£50,001 - £150,000	1,910.00	2,200.00	2,200.00	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		£150,001 - £500,000	4,700.00	5,410.00	5,410.00	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		£500,001-£1,000,000	6,350.00	7,310.00	7,310.00	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		£1,000,001 - £2,000,000	0.8%	0.9%	0.9%	0.1%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		Over £2,000,000	16,000 + 0.08% of any contribution in excess of £2m	18,500 + 0.09% of any contribution in excess of £2M	18,500 + 0.09% of any contribution in excess of £2M	breakdown	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Request for confirmation as to whether all S106 obligations have been satisfied up to the date of the request	Per agreement	150.00	160.00	160.00	7%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Request for a copy of S106 agreement/Deed of Variation/Unilateral Undertaking	Per copy	50.00	55.00	55.00	10%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Request for a statement of account (where this is not required by the S106 agreement/DOV)	Per statement	150.00	160.00	160.00	7%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	<b>NEW CHARGE</b> - failure to notify when a S106 obligation trigger point is met	Per trigger point met if identified through monitoring activity	n/a as new charge	500.00	500.00	n/a as new charge	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	Whilst a new charge this reflects the amounts the council charges elsewhere for similar penalties that are incurred within S106 agreements. The charge is based on cost recovery in terms of officer time spent to enact the charge, which involves significant officer time in practice. The charge only applies where the stated breach has occurred.

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Service Area	Charge	Unit	Current Charge 23/24 (exclusive of VAT) £	Proposed Charge 2024/25 exclusive of VAT £	Proposed Charge 2024/25 inclusive of VAT £	Change %	Proposed date effective from	Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
	<b>NEW CHARGE</b> - failure to provide a Return, as required under the terms of the S106 agreement	Per return	n/a as new charge	500.00	500.00	n/a as new charge	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	Whilst a new charge this reflects the amounts the council charges elsewhere for similar penalties that are incurred within S106 agreements. The charge is based on cost recovery in terms of officer time spent to enact the charge, which involves significant officer time in practice. The charge only applies where the stated breach has occurred.
	Charging for Monitoring of Minerals Sites	Active Sites	397.00	496.00	496.00	25%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	This fee is set by central government and is set to rise by 25% in April 2024.
		Dormant Sites	132.00	165.00	165.00	25%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	This fee is set by central government and is set to rise by 25% in April 2024.
	Cover Administration and Supervision Costs for S.38 & S.278 agreements relating to new developments	Minimum Charge	2,525.00	2,651.00	2,651.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	Adjusted based upon 5% pay inflation assumption given that fee is driven by officer time
		Percentage of Capital cost	10%	10%	10%	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	No change required given parity of rate with peer authorities.
	To contribute to cost of deciding on minerals and waste development control application & County Council's own developments.	Extended Searches	89.17	111.67	134.00	25%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	25% increase to ensure that the charge covers the cost of providing the service and consistent with the national increase in planning fees, as this charge is related functions to statutory planning functions.  Current 23/24 charge now shown as exclusive of VAT.
	To contribute to cost of deciding on minerals and waste development control application & County Council's own developments.	Standard Searches	53.33	66.67	80.00	25%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	25% increase to ensure that the charge covers the cost of providing the service and consistent with the national increase in planning fees, as this charge is related functions to statutory planning functions.  Current 23/24 charge now shown as exclusive of VAT.
	To contribute to cost of providing pre-application advice to applicants/developers - Minor Developments	Meeting at Council offices and follow-up written response	467.50	537.50	645.00	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Uplift comprises of 5% for inflation on staff salaries, and a further 10% to account for the adjustment in salaries budget (reflecting an increased cost to deliver this work).  Current 23/24 charge now shown as exclusive of VAT.
		Written response	327.50	376.67	452.00	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	As per above
	To contribute to cost of providing pre-application advice to applicants/developers - Minor Developments	Meeting on-site and follow-up written response	701.67	806.67	968.00	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	As per above
		Follow Up meeting	234.17	269.17	323.00	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	As per above
		Meeting and follow-up written response	935.00	1,075.00	1,290.00	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	As per above
		Written response	701.67	806.67	968.00	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	As per above
		Meeting on-site and follow-up written response	1,402.50	1,612.50	1,935.00	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	As per above
	To contribute to cost of providing the development control service	Clearance of conditions on planning permissions	116.00	145.00	145.00	25%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	This fee is set by central government and is set to rise by 25% in April 2024.
Environment & Heritage	To recover the actual reasonable cost of Historic Environment Record (HER) consultations	Charge for digitised HER data to commercial organisations based on approved charging policy. Minimum Charge (no maximum charge)	154.00	169.40	169.40	10%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	To recover the actual reasonable cost of monitoring fieldwork.	Charge for monitoring of archaeological fieldwork based upon the number of visits . Minimum charge for half a day. No upper limit.	264.00	290.40	348.48	10%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Specialist advice from Environment and Heritage officers to third parties and projects	Group Manager	792.00	871.20	1,045.44	10%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	

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Service Area	Charge	Unit	Current Charge 23/24 (exclusive of VAT) £	Proposed Charge 2024/25 exclusive of VAT £	Proposed Charge 2024/25 inclusive of VAT £	Change %	Proposed date effective from	Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
		Team Leader	710.00	781.00	937.20	10%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Principal Officer	585.00	643.50	772.20	10%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Officer	459.00	504.90	605.88	10%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Assistant	370.00	407.00	488.40	10%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Large meeting (up to 5 Officers in attendance)	1,602.00	1,762.20	2,114.64	10%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Small meeting (2-3 Officers in attendance)	799.00	878.90	1,054.68	10%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Charging for work of officers in Environment and Place for bespoke Planning Performance Agreements and other bespoke agreements	Group Manager / Operational Manager	792.00	910.80	1,092.96	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Team Leader	710.00	816.50	979.80	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Principal Officer / Technical Lead	585.00	672.75	807.30	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Officer	459.00	527.85	633.42	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Assistant	370.00	425.50	510.60	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Large meeting (up to 5 Officers in attendance)	1,602.00	1,842.30	2,210.76	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Small meeting (2-3 Officers in attendance)	799.00	918.85	1,102.62	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
Travel Plans	Charging for monitoring of Travel Plan Guidance. Overall fee for the monitoring of the travel plan for a period of 5 years post occupation	Small developments (as defined in OCC travel plan document)	1,890.00	1,985.00	1,985.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	Adjusted based upon 5% pay inflation assumption given that fee is driven by officer time - matching increase for PPA.
		Large developments (as defined in OCC travel plan document)	3,110.00	3,265.00	3,265.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	Adjusted based upon 5% pay inflation assumption given that fee is driven by officer time - matching increase for PPA.
Waste Management	Chargeable waste scheme at Household Waste Recycling Centres	Disposal of Large Scale DIY Waste	1.67	1.92	2.30	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	At 6 of the 7 HWRCs income accrues to contractor at the other 90% accrues to OCC. Over 5% due to contractual requirement.  Government have announced DIY charge changes, which will result in some quantities becoming unchargeable potentially from January 2024.  Current 2023/24 charge now showing as exclusive of VAT. Figure for inclusive of VAT is £2.00.
		Plaster/plasterboard per bag	2.92	3.33	4.00	14%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Waste charging as above
		Plasterboard sheet up to 2m x 1m	8.33	9.17	11.00	10%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Waste charging as above
		Standard motorcycle and car tyres	5.00	5.83	7.00	17%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Waste charging as above

## Review of Charges 2024/25

## Environment &amp; Place

Service Area	Charge	Unit	Current Charge 23/24 (exclusive of VAT) £	Proposed Charge 2024/25 exclusive of VAT £	Proposed Charge 2024/25 inclusive of VAT £	Change %	Proposed date effective from	Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
Environment & Heritage	<b>NEW CHARGE</b> Supply bird hide key for Windrush Hides	Provide and post one key	n/a as new charge	15.00	18.00	n/a as new charge	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Working days:								
	<b>NEW CHARGE</b> Monitoring Visit - prioritised 5 day turnaround	Standard timeframe is 10 days (£290)	n/a as new charge	1,200.00	1,320.00	n/a as new charge	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	<b>NEW CHARGE</b> Agreement of WSI (Written Scheme of Investigation) - prioritised 3 day turnaround	Standard timeframe is 21days (free)	n/a as new charge	800.00	880.00	n/a as new charge	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	<b>NEW CHARGE</b> Reviewing watching brief report - prioritised - 3 day turnaround	Standard timeframe is 21days (free)	n/a as new charge	800.00	880.00	n/a as new charge	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	<b>NEW CHARGE</b> Reviewing small evaluation report - prioritised - 3 day turnaround	Standard timeframe is 21days (free)	n/a as new charge	400.00	440.00	n/a as new charge	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	New charge 1-50 houses
	<b>NEW CHARGE</b> Reviewing medium eval report - prioritised - 3 day turnaround	Standard timeframe is 21days (free)	n/a as new charge	700.00	770.00	n/a as new charge	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	New charge 50-200
	<b>NEW CHARGE</b> Reviewing large eval report - prioritised - 3-5 day turnaround	Standard timeframe is 21days (free)	n/a as new charge	2,700.00	2,970.00	n/a as new charge	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	New charge 200+
	<b>NEW CHARGE</b> Post excavation assessments - prioritised 5 day turnaround	Standard timeframe is 21days and more for larger sites (free)	n/a as new charge	3,600.00	3,960.00	n/a as new charge	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	New charge - needs prior discussion/arrangement to agree the details.

Review of Charges 2024/25  
Community Safety

Assume  
01-Apr-24

Service Area	Charge	Unit	Current Charge £	Proposed Charge exc VAT 2024/25 £	Proposed Charge inc VAT 2024/25 £	Change %	Proposed date effective from	Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
<b>Fire and Rescue Service</b>	Fire Reports	Insurance Interviews	102.30	107.42	107.42	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		Preparation of a Fire Investigation Report - full report or one involving extensive enquiries, photographs etc	493.90	518.60	518.60	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		Preparation of a Fire Investigation Report - full report or one on major incidents requiring extensive protracted investigation etc	723.80	759.99	759.99	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		Preparation of a Fire Investigation Report - short or extracted	370.70	389.24	389.24	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
		Preparation of Fire Report	free	free	free	n/a	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Special Services	Aerial Ladder Platform per hour or part hour excluding petrol	302.40	317.52	381.02	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Personnel, regardless of rank, per hour or part hour.	21.90	23.00	27.60	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Vehicles/appliances exceeding 2 tons (unladen) per hour or part hour	200.80	210.84	253.01	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Vehicles/appliances NOT exceeding 2 tons (unladen) per hour or part hour	79.10	83.06	99.67	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
<b>Gypsy &amp; Traveller Service</b>	Rent for nine additional plots at Redbridge	Weekly site rental	110.00	115.50	115.50	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	EX	The 2023/24 rate reflects changes made in April 2023
	Weekly rent of plot to site resident (there are 89 plots across the 6 Oxfordshire sites).	Weekly site rental	84.00	88.20	88.20	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	EX	The 2023/24 rate reflects changes made in April 2023
<b>Trading Standards - Licenses</b>	Licence to store explosives where no minimum separation distance or a 0 metres minimum separation distance is prescribed (Explosive Goods Act 1875 and 1923)	1 year	111.00	113.00	113.00	2%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	Set by statute. Will need to be amended once the statutory charge is updated.
		2 years	144.00	147.00	147.00	2%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	
		3 years	177.00	181.00	181.00	2%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	
		4 years	211.00	215.00	215.00	2%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	
		5 years	243.00	248.00	248.00	2%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	
	Licence to store explosives where, by virtue of regulation 27 of, and Schedule 5 to, the 2014 Regulations, a minimum separation distance of greater than 0 metres is prescribed Licence to store explosives where, by virtue of regulation 27 of, and Schedule 5 to, the 2014 Regulations, a minimum separation distance of greater than 0 metres is prescribed (Explosive Goods Act 1875 and 1923)	1 year	189.00	193.00	193.00	2%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	
		2 years	248.00	253.00	253.00	2%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	



Review of Charges 2024/25  
Community Safety

Assume  
01-Apr-24

Service Area	Charge	Unit	Current Charge £	Proposed Charge exc VAT 2024/25 £	Proposed Charge inc VAT 2024/25 £	Change %	Proposed date effective from	Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
		3 years	311.00	317.00	317.00	2%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	
		4 years	382.00	390.00	390.00	2%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	
		5 years	432.00	441.00	441.00	2%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	
	Renewal of licence to store explosives where a minimum separation distance of greater than 0 metres is prescribed (Explosive Goods Act 1875 and 1923)	1 year	88.00	90.00	90.00	2%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	
		2 years	150.00	153.00	153.00	2%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	
		3 years	211.00	215.00	215.00	2%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	
		4 years	272.00	277.00	277.00	2%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	
		5 years	333.00	340.00	340.00	2%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	
		1 year	55.00	56.00	56.00	2%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	
		2 years	88.00	90.00	90.00	2%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	
		3 years	123.00	125.00	125.00	2%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	
		4 years	155.00	158.00	158.00	2%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	
		5 years	189.00	193.00	193.00	2%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	
	Statutory Charge for issuing a licence to store petroleum under Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospherics Regulations 2002	Not exceeding 2,500 litres	45.00	46.00	46.00	2%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	Set by statute. Will need to be updated later in the process.
		Exceeding 2,500 litres but less than 50,000 litres	61.00	62.00	62.00	2%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	
		Over 50,000 litres	128.00	131.00	131.00	2%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	
	Varying a licence under Explosive Goods Act 1875 and 1923	Varying name or address	37.00	38.00	38.00	3%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	
		Transfer of licence/registration	37.00	38.00	38.00	3%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	
		Replacement of licence/registration	37.00	38.00	38.00	3%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	
Trading Standards - Other	Achieving Best Evidence (ABE) Interview Service - Income received from other local authorities requesting this Service to carryout ABE interviews on their behalf	Time charged per hour, per officer	82.50	86.50	103.80	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Additional Business Support (per hour)		82.50	86.50	103.80	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Buy with Confidence Trader Approval scheme	First year total for 1-5 employees	415.00	440.00	528.00	6%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Fees set by national scheme provider
		First year total for 6-20 employees	605.00	645.00	774.00	7%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	As above
		First year total for 21-49 employees	790.00	840.00	1,008.00	6%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	As above
		Renewal Fee (from 2018/19) for 1-5 employees	270.00	285.00	342.00	6%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	As above
		Renewal Fee (from 2018/19) for 6-20 employees	405.00	430.00	516.00	6%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	As above
		Renewal Fee (from 2018/19) for 21-49 employees	540.00	570.00	684.00	6%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	As above
		Renewal Fee (members prior to April 2017) for 1-5 employees	250.00	275.00	330.00	10%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Higher increase to match national fee, over time
		Renewal Fee (members prior to April 2017) for 6-20 employees	365.00	400.00	480.00	10%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	As above

**Review of Charges 2024/25**  
**Community Safety**

**Assume**  
**01-Apr-24**

Service Area	Charge	Unit	Current Charge £	Proposed Charge exc VAT 2024/25 £	Proposed Charge inc VAT 2024/25 £	Change %	Proposed date effective from	Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
		Renewal Fee (members prior to April 2017) for 21-49 employees	500.00	550.00	660.00	10%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	As above
		Additional premises fee		90.00	108.00	n/a	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	New fee
		Additional trading style		145.00	174.00	n/a	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	New fee
	Carrying Agent for imported dogs, cats and other mammals: Includes local authorities within TSSE region (excl Isle of Wight), Warwickshire, Gloucestershire, Northamptonshire and Wiltshire where the pick-up and destination locations are within the areas identified above	Bank Holidays	608.00	638.50	766.20	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Monday to Friday	303.00	318.15	381.78	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Saturday and Sunday	455.00	477.75	573.30	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Hire of cattle crush (mobile unit taken to farms / sites for the safe handling of cattle when conducting welfare checks):	Oxfordshire businesses - First day	340.00	357.00	428.40	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Non-Oxfordshire businesses - Additional fee for re-location per hour	21.00	22.00	26.40	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Non-Oxfordshire businesses - First day	408.00	428.50	514.20	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Non-Oxfordshire businesses - Subsequent days	102.00	107.00	128.40	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Oxfordshire businesses - Additional fee for re-location per hour	21.00	22.00	26.40	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Oxfordshire businesses - Subsequent days	104.00	110.00	132.00	6%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Petroleum Environmental Searches		165.00	173.00	207.60	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Petroleum Vapour Recovery Services (TBC). Income received from those local authorities where an agreement exists for the provision of vapour recovery services by the Council. Based on a percentage of the relevant permit fee	Annual Subsistence Charge - PVR Stage 1 (low risk)	63.20	63.20	63.20	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	Set by statute. Could change by 01/04/24
		Annual Subsistence Charge - PVR Stage 1 and 2 (low risk)	90.40	90.40	90.40	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	As above
		Application - PVR Stage 1	124.00	124.00	124.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	As above
		Application - PVR Stage 1 and 2	205.60	205.60	205.60	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	As above
		Transfer - Standard Process Partial Transfer	397.60	397.60	397.60	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	As above
		Transfer - Standard Process Transfer	135.20	135.20	135.20	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	As above
	Primary Authority agreement	10 hours support and registration fee	910.00	955.00	955.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	As above

Review of Charges 2024/25  
Community Safety

Service Area	Charge	Unit	Current Charge £	Proposed Charge exc VAT 2024/25 £	Proposed Charge inc VAT 2024/25 £	Change %	Assume 01-Apr-24 Proposed date effective from	Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
	Carrying out any of the following activities which produce products which are placing on the market for use in feed - processing of crude vegetable oil, oleochemical manufacturing of fatty acids, manufacturing of biodiesel, fat blending		451.00	451.00	451.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Manufacture, or manufacture and placing on the market of additives and/or premixtures		451.00	451.00	451.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Placing on the market of additives and/or premixtures		226.00	226.00	226.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
Trading Standards - Verifying weights and measures	Testing fees - weights and measures (inc capacity measures, measuring instruments, intoxicating liqueur and pharmaceutical measures)	Hourly Rate	100.00	105.00	126.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Surcharge for testing outside normal hours (Outside 8:30-17:00, Monday to Friday and on Saturday)	Non Trading Standards Officer, per hour	10.50	11.00	13.20	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Trading Standards Officer, per hour	15.50	16.50	19.80	6%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Surcharge for testing outside normal hours (Sunday and Bank Holidays)	Non Trading Standards Officer, per hour	20.90	22.00	26.40	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Trading Standards Officer, per hour	29.90	31.50	37.80	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Length measures	Less than 10m	20.00	21.00	25.20	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Measuring instruments for Liquid fuel and Lubricants	Per Nozzle - First item	147.00	154.50	185.40	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Second and subsequent items on same site	92.00	97.00	116.40	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Testing of credit card acceptor (per unit, regardless of number of nozzles etc)	100.00	105.00	126.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Testing peripheral electronic equipment on a separate visit (per site)	100.00	105.00	126.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Weighing instruments	49Kg or less - First item	100.00	105.00	126.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Over 50Kg to 1,000kg - First item	130.00	136.50	163.80	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Over 1,000kg to 10t - First item	268.00	282.00	338.40	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Over 10t to 60t - First item	445.00	467.00	560.40	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Reduced fee for subsequent items - based on hourly rate	100.00	105.00	126.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
	Weights	500mg - 5kg	6.75	7.15	8.58	6%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Below 500mg or above 5kg	9.90	10.50	12.60	6%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	

**Review of Charges 2024/25  
Resources**

Service Area	Charge	Unit	Current Charge £	Proposed Charge exc VAT 2024/25 £	Proposed Charge inc VAT 2024/25 £	Change %	Assume 01-Apr-24		Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
							Proposed date effective from				
<b>Educational Appeals</b>	Academies - Admissions - Lodged	Per hour if exceeds 25 hours	44.00	44.00	44.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	
		per appeal	22.00	22.00	22.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	
	Academies - Admissions - Lodged & Listed	per appeal	110.00	110.00	110.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	
	Academies - Exclusions	Per exclusion up to 25 hours	1,400.00	1,400.00	1,400.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	
<b>Information Management</b>	Academies -Admissions- Full Service including Clerking	For each appeal per day	215.00	215.00	215.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	
	Information advice	per hour	53.00	55.65	66.78	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	
	Risk Assessments	Per assessment (est 10hrs)	530.00	556.50	667.80	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	
	Information Sharing Agreement	Per assessment (est 15hrs)	795.00	834.75	1,001.70	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	
<b>Legal Services</b>	Academies	Hour	168.00	175.00	210.00	4%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	% increase based on internal rate
	Legal Hub (OUTS)	Hour	120.00	120.00	120.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	outside of OCC control to change
	Legal Hub (3rd Party rate)	Hour	175.00	£175	175.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	outside of OCC control to change
	Internal Clients Maintained Schools	Hour	95.00	100.00	100.00	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	To reflect full recovery of costs
	Section 106 and other Charges (OUTS)	Hour	201.00	215.00	215.00	7%	01/04/2024		Statutory & Discretionary	NB	% increase based on internal rate
<b>Property Staff</b>	Town & Parish Councils	Hour	120.00	125.00	150.00	4%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	
	Charging for work of officers in Property Service for bespoke agreements	Group Manager / Operational Manager	792.00	910.80	1,092.96	15%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	Standardise across Children, E&P iHUB, Property. 15% increase brings the charge in line with the cost of delivering the service.
		Team Leader	710.00	816.50	979.80	15%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	Standardise across Children, E&P, iHUB, Property. 15% increase brings the charge in line with the cost of delivering the service.
		Principal Officer / Technical Lead	585.00	672.75	807.30	15%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	Standardise across Children, E&P, iHUB, Property. 15% increase brings the charge in line with the cost of delivering the service.
		Officer	459.00	527.85	633.42	15%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	Standardise across Children, E&P, iHUB, Property. 15% increase brings the charge in line with the cost of delivering the service.
<b>School Meals</b>		Assistant	370.00	425.50	510.60	15%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	Standardise across Children, E&P, iHUB, Property. 15% increase brings the charge in line with the cost of delivering the service.
		Large meeting (up to 5 Officers in attendance)	1,602.00	1,842.30	2,210.76	15%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	Standardise across Children, E&P, iHUB, Property. 15% increase brings the charge in line with the cost of delivering the service.
		Small meeting (2-3 Officers in attendance)	799.00	918.85	1,102.62	15%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	Standardise across Children, E&P, iHUB, Property. 15% increase brings the charge in line with the cost of delivering the service.
	Adults	per meal	3.35	3.68	4.42	10%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	Reflects increase in funding to schools
	Charge for paid meal, OCC maintained schools	Per meal	2.34	2.55	3.06	9%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	Reflects increase in funding to schools
<b>Coroner's Service</b>	Free School Meal, OCC maintained schools	Per Meal	2.35	2.53	2.53	8%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	Reflects increase in funding to schools
	Universal Infant Free School Meal, OCC maintained schools	Per Meal	2.40	2.55	2.55	6%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	Reflects increase in funding to schools
	Charge for paid meal, Academies	Per meal	2.34	2.55	3.06	9%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	Reflects increase in funding to schools
	Free School Meal, Academies	Per Meal	2.35	2.53	3.04	8%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	Reflects increase in funding to schools
	Universal Infant Free School Meal, Academies	Per Meal	2.34	2.55	3.06	9%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	Reflects increase in funding to schools
<b>Coroner's Service</b>	Coroners Fees for disclosure after inquest	Document disclosed by a coroner as a paper copy: - additional charge for each subsequent page	0.50	0.50	0.50	0%	01/04/2024		Statutory	NB	No change

**Review of Charges 2024/25  
Resources**

Service Area	Charge	Unit	Current Charge £	Proposed Charge exc VAT 2024/25 £	Proposed Charge inc VAT 2024/25 £	Change %	Assume 01-Apr-24		Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
							Proposed date effective from				
		Document disclosed by a coroner as a paper copy: - document of 10 pages or less	5.00	5.00	5.00	0%	01/04/2024		Statutory	NB	No change
		Document disclosed in any other medium, other than by email or as a paper copy - fee per document	5.00	5.00	5.00	0%	01/04/2024		Statutory	NB	No change
		No fee shall be payable where a document is disclosed by email by a coroner to an interested person	No charge	No charge	No charge	n/a	01/04/2024		Statutory	NB	No change
		Transcription of an inquest hearing: - copy consisting of 360 words or less	6.20	6.20	6.20	0%	01/04/2024		Statutory	NB	No change
		Transcription of an inquest hearing: - copy consisting of between 1,440 words or more - each additional 72 words or part thereof	0.70	0.70	0.70	0%	01/04/2024		Statutory	NB	No change
		Transcription of an inquest hearing: - copy consisting of between 1,440 words or more - first 1,440 words	13.10	13.10	13.10	0%	01/04/2024		Statutory	NB	No change
		Transcription of an inquest hearing: - copy consisting of between 361 words and up to and including 1,439 words	13.10	13.10	13.10	0%	01/04/2024		Statutory	NB	No change
History Service	Administrative Charge	Minimum charge for providing an invoice for any service	34.00	30.00	36.00	6%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - By 6% to create rational fee amount
	Certificates	Per Copy - Baptism Certificates	16.00	17.00	17.00	6%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	<b>INCREASE</b> - Set by Church of England Parochial Fees 2023
		Per Copy - Electoral register search certified letter	16.00	14.17	17.00	6%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - In line with Baptism certificate charge
		Per Copy - Motor Vehicle Registration copies	16.00	14.17	17.00	6%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - In line with Baptism certificate charge
	Computer Printouts	Self Service Copying - per A3 copy	0.70	0.58	0.70	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - 17% rise in 2023/24
		Self Service Copying - per A4 copy	0.35	0.29	0.35	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - 17% rise in 2023/24
		Staff Operated Copying - per A3 copy	1.00	0.83	1.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - 11% rise in 2023/24. (Fee also little used).
		Staff Operated Copying - per A4 copy	1.00	0.83	1.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - 11% rise in 2023/24. (Fee also little used).
		Audio / Oral History collection catalogue Price per mp3 file	5.00	4.17	5.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - new charge only introduced in May 2023 (automated online payment); need more time to assess impact.
		Digital copying permit (per day)	9.00	7.50	9.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - 13% rise in 2023/24
		Digital copying permit (per 5 visits in 1 calendar month)	25.00	20.83	25.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - 9% rise in 2023/24
		Electronic files (automated scan of Archive, microform, or delicate sources) - per sheet scanned	2.00	1.67	2.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - 11% rise in 2023/24
		Electronic files (automated scan, Local Studies sources) - per sheet scanned	1.00	0.83	1.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - 11% rise in 2023/24
		Electronic files (created to order, compressed) - per image 2500 pixels	13.00	10.83	13.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - 8% rise in 2023/24. Increase could suppress newly expanding Picture Oxon customer base.

Review of Charges 2024/25  
Resources

Assume  
01-Apr-24

Service Area	Charge	Unit	Current Charge £	Proposed Charge exc VAT 2024/25 £	Proposed Charge inc VAT 2024/25 £	Change %	Proposed date effective from	Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
		Electronic files (created to order, uncompressed) - per image 3200 pixels and above	17.00	14.17	17.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - 8% rise in 2023/24. Increase could suppress newly expanding Picture Oxon customer base.
		Electronic files (digitised maps) - per image	17.00	14.17	17.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - 6% rise in 2023/24. Increase could suppress newly expanding Picture Oxon customer base. <b>CHANGED WORDING.</b>
		Electronic files (pre-existing image, compressed) - per image 2250 pixels	9.00	7.50	9.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - 13% rise in 2023/24. Increase could suppress newly expanding Picture Oxon customer base.
		Electronic files (pre-existing image, compressed) - per image 700 pixels	2.00	1.67	2.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - 11% rise in 2023/24. Increase could suppress newly expanding Picture Oxon customer base.
		Electronic files (pre-existing image, uncompressed) - per image 3200 pixels and above	13.00	10.83	13.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - 8% rise in 2023/24. Increase could suppress newly expanding Picture Oxon customer base.
		Plain paper Digital Prints (created to order) - per copy on A3	13.00	10.83	13.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - 8% rise in 2023/24
		Plain paper Digital Prints (created to order) - per copy on A4	13.00	10.83	13.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - 8% rise in 2023/24
	Microform Copying	a) Self Service Copying - per A3 copy	1.00	0.83	1.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - 11% rise in 2023/24
		a) Self Service Copying - per A4 copy	1.00	0.83	1.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - 11% rise in 2023/24
		b) Copying by Staff - per A3 copy	2.00	1.67	2.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - 11% rise in 2023/24
		b) Copying by Staff - per A4 copy	2.00	1.67	2.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - 11% rise in 2023/24
		Minimum charge for providing copies	7.00	5.83	7.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - 17% rise in 2023/24. This min charge also means that transactions for remote customers start at £7, even for low unit value items.
	Oxfordshire History Service Lecture Fees plus travel at current OCC rates	Per event	72.50	64.17	77.00	6%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - By 6% to create rational fee amount
	Photocopies	All Archive Documents and Delicate Documents- per A4 or A3 copy	2.00	1.67	2.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - 11% rise in 2023/24, and charge is little used, as digital trend grows.
		Local Studies - Staff operated copying - per A4 copy	1.00	0.83	1.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - 11% rise in 2023/24, and charge is little used, as digital trend grows.
		Local Studies - Staff operated copying- per A3 copy	1.00	0.83	1.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - 11% rise in 2023/24, and charge is little used, as digital trend grows.
		Self Service Copying - per A3 copy	0.70	0.58	0.70	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - 17% rise in 2023/24
		Self Service Copying - per A4 copy	0.35	0.29	0.35	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - 17% rise in 2023/24
	Postage & Packing	UK postage	3.50	3.33	4.00	14%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - Inflationary rise
		Air Mail postage	7.00	6.67	8.00	14%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - Inflationary rise
	Reproduction Fees	Broadcast Media (all platforms, regions or countries) - per image used, 0-5 years	-	100.00	120.00	#DIV/0!	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>NEW CHARGE</b> - simplified structure, removing unenforceable distinctions between fees for different term lengths or geographical areas.
		Broadcast Media (all platforms, regions or countries) - per image used, in perpetuity	-	166.67	200.00	#DIV/0!	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>NEW CHARGE</b> - simplified structure, removing unenforceable distinctions between fees for different term lengths or geographical areas.
		Broadcast Media (multi-platform, including streaming and online catchup servers) One programme, unlimited transmissions, one country (EU = one country) - per image used, 0-6 years	89.00	-	-	-100%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>DELETE CHARGE</b> - differential fees little used and difficult to enforce. Replace by simplified structure.

Review of Charges 2024/25  
Resources

Assume  
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Service Area	Charge	Unit	Current Charge £	Proposed Charge exc VAT 2024/25 £	Proposed Charge inc VAT 2024/25 £	Change %	Proposed date effective from	Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
		Broadcast Media (multi-platform, including streaming and online catchup servers) One programme, unlimited transmissions, one country (EU = one country) – per image used, in perpetuity	—147.00	-	-	-100%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>DELETE CHARGE</b> - differential fees little used and difficult to enforce. Replace by simplified structure.
		Broadcast Media (multi-platform, including streaming and online catchup servers) One programme, unlimited transmissions, worldwide – per image used, 0-6 years	—222.00	-	-	-100%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>DELETE CHARGE</b> - differential fees little used and difficult to enforce. Replace by simplified structure.
		Broadcast Media (multi-platform, including streaming and online catchup servers) One programme, unlimited transmissions, worldwide – per image used, in perpetuity	—364.00	-	-	-100%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>DELETE CHARGE</b> - differential fees little used and difficult to enforce. Replace by simplified structure.
		Publication: Commercial –per use of 1- 5 images.	—	25.00	30.00	#DIV/0!	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>NEW CHARGE</b> in simplified structure, removing previous distinctions between commercial charges that were difficult to define and enforce.
		Publication: Commercial –per use of 6 or more images.	—	50.00	60.00	#DIV/0!	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>NEW CHARGE</b> in simplified structure, removing previous distinctions between commercial charges that were difficult to define and enforce.
		Publication Commercial – Per extra instance of an image.	—22.00	-	-	-100%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>DELETE CHARGE</b> - Previous distinctions between commercial charges difficult to define and enforce.
		Publication Commercial – Per extra instance of an image.	—51.00	-	-	-100%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>DELETE CHARGE</b> - Previous distinctions between commercial charges difficult to define and enforce.
		Publication Commercial Internal Use Commercial – For use within organisation	—30.00	-	-	-100%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>DELETE CHARGE</b> - Previous distinctions between commercial charges difficult to define and enforce.
		Publication Commercial Internal Use Commercial – Use on a website (per year) – per image	—71.00	-	-	-100%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>DELETE CHARGE</b> - Previous distinctions between commercial charges difficult to define and enforce.
		Publication: Academic - per use of 1-5 images	-	12.50	15.00	#DIV/0!	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>NEW CHARGE</b> , with simplified charging structure. Previous distinctions between academic charges little or nil used and difficult to enforce.
		Publication: Academic - per use of 6 or more images	-	25.00	30.00	#DIV/0!	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>NEW CHARGE</b> , with simplified charging structure. Previous distinctions between academic charges little or nil used and difficult to enforce.
		Publication: academic – Per image used (11-15 images)	—8.00	-	-	-100%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>DELETE CHARGE</b> . Replaced by simplified structure. Previous scale of academic fees little or nil used and difficult to enforce.
		Publication: academic – Per image used (16-20 images)	—7.00	-	-	-100%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>DELETE CHARGE</b> . Replaced by simplified structure. Previous scale of academic fees little or nil used and difficult to enforce.
		Publication: academic – Per image used (1st image)	—16.00	-	-	-100%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>DELETE CHARGE</b> . Replaced by simplified structure. Previous scale of academic fees little or nil used and difficult to enforce.
		Publication: academic – Per image used (2 images)	—13.00	-	-	-100%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>DELETE CHARGE</b> . Replaced by simplified structure. Previous scale of academic fees little or nil used and difficult to enforce.

Review of Charges 2024/25  
Resources

Assume  
01-Apr-24

Service Area	Charge	Unit	Current Charge £	Proposed Charge exc VAT 2024/25 £	Proposed Charge inc VAT 2024/25 £	Change %	Proposed date effective from	Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
		Publication: academic – Per image-used (21-40 images)	— 5.00	-	-	-100%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>DELETE CHARGE.</b> Replaced by simplified structure. Previous scale of academic fees little or nil used and difficult to enforce.
		Publication: academic – Per image-used (3 images)	— 12.00	-	-	-100%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>DELETE CHARGE.</b> Replaced by simplified structure. Previous scale of academic fees little or nil used and difficult to enforce.
		Publication: academic – Per image-used (4 images)	— 11.00	-	-	-100%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>DELETE CHARGE.</b> Replaced by simplified structure. Previous scale of academic fees little or nil used and difficult to enforce.
		Publication: academic – Per image-used (41-60 images)	— 4.00	-	-	-100%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>DELETE CHARGE.</b> Replaced by simplified structure. Previous scale of academic fees little or nil used and difficult to enforce.
		Publication: academic – Per image-used (5 images)	— 10.00	-	-	-100%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>DELETE CHARGE.</b> Replaced by simplified structure. Previous scale of academic fees little or nil used and difficult to enforce.
		Publication: academic – Per image-used (61 or more images)	— 3.00	-	-	-100%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>DELETE CHARGE.</b> Replaced by simplified structure. Previous scale of academic fees little or nil used and difficult to enforce.
		Publication: academic – Per image-used (6-10 images)	— 9.00	-	-	-100%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>DELETE CHARGE.</b> Replaced by simplified structure. Previous scale of academic fees little or nil used and difficult to enforce.
		Publication: Local individuals, organisations and partners - per use of 1-5 images	—	8.33	10.00	#DIV/0!	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>NEW CHARGE</b> - to encourage fair re-use and publication. Charge has a specific community focus and impacts on local history engagement.
		Publication: Local individuals, organisations and partners - per use of 6 or more images	—	16.67	20.00	#DIV/0!	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>NEW CHARGE</b> - to encourage fair re-use and publication. Charge has a specific community focus and impacts on local history engagement.
		Publication: local individuals, organisations and partners – Per use of one or more images	— 20.00	-	-	-100%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>DELETE CHARGE</b> - replaced by new scale of charges above
	Research Enquires	Higher rate for businesses and profit-making organisations - per hour (or pro-rata) Minimum 30 minutes £40. Maximum 2 hours £160.	80.00	66.67	80.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - increased by 11% in 2023/4. Existing fee already higher than comparable archive providers
		Written reply to each enquiry - per hour (or pro-rata) Minimum 30 minutes £23, Maximum 2 hours £92.	46.00	38.33	46.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - increased by 10% in 2023/4. Existing fee already higher than comparable archive providers
	USB memory sticks	per 4Bb-8Gb stick	7.00	6.67	8.00	14%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - To bring into line with Libraries. Although, in truth, very few sales, and commercial alternatives are cheaper.
	Use of Premises	Location fee for use of Oxfordshire History Centre premises for film / TV / broadcast purposes - per hour or part hour	80.00	70.00	84.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - Inflationary rise
	Certificates	Per Copy - Magistrates Court records certified copies	16.00	14.17	17.00	6%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - In line with Baptism certificate charge
<b>Library Service</b>	Audio Visual Hire Charges	a) DVDs (Per Week)	2.00	2.00	2.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - Held 'as is' for the coming year, with a plan to review income level in 2023/24/25 and adjust in 2025. A move to simplify charges in this area was made in 2022/23 in an attempt to slow down declining interest



**Review of Charges 2024/25  
Resources**

**Assume  
01-Apr-24**

Service Area	Charge	Unit	Current Charge £	Proposed Charge exc VAT 2024/25 £	Proposed Charge inc VAT 2024/25 £	Change %	Proposed date effective from	Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
		d) Music CDs (per Week)	2.00	2.00	2.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - Held 'as is' for the coming year, with a plan to review income level in 2023/24/25 and adjust in 2025. A move to simplify charges in this area was made in 2022/23 in an attempt to slow down declining interest
		g) Audio Books and Language Packs on CD (3 weeks)	2.00	2.00	2.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - Held 'as is' for the coming year, with a plan to review income level in 2023/24/25 and adjust in 2025. A move to simplify charges in this area was made in 2022/23 in an attempt to slow down declining interest
		g) Language Packs on CD (3 weeks)	3.50	3.50	3.50	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - Held 'as is' for the coming year, with a plan to review income level in 2023/24/25 and adjust in 2025. A move to simplify charges in this area was made in 2022/23 in an attempt to slow down declining interest
		g) Audio Books and Language Packs on CD (3 weeks): - Children in care, foster carers and people with reading impairment are exempt	Exempt	Exempt	Exempt	n/a	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - Accessibility and social value reasons linked to OCC Priority 2
		j) CD-ROM (per Week) - Band 1	2.20	2.30	2.30	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	<b>INCREASE</b> - inflationary rise - However, likely to have minimal impact and reflects increased cost of replacement
		Charge for lost/damaged AV	2.20	2.08	2.50	14%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - above inflationary rise - However, likely to have minimal impact and reflects increased cost of replacement
	Audio CDs late return charge	Weekly charge - Band 1 (maximum charge per item £5.40)	2.00	1.67	2.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - Reflects charge per week and associated cap limit (see above)
	Language Packs on CD late return charge	Language Packs on CD late return charge (maximum charge per item £10.50)	3.50	2.92	3.50	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - Reflects charge per week and associated cap limit (see above)
	CD-ROM late return charge	weekly charge (maximum charge per item £6.60)	2.20	1.92	2.30	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - Reflects increased charge per week and cap limit (see above)
	DVDs late return charge	weekly charge - Band 1 (maximum per item £6.00)	2.00	1.67	2.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - Reflects charge per week and associated cap limit (see above)
	Music CDs late return charge	weekly charge - (Band 1) (maximum charge per item £4.80)	2.00	1.67	2.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - Reflects charge per week and associated cap limit (see above)
	Hire of Accommodation	Library Service Partners: Conference Room (21-30 people) per hour	25.00	25.00	25.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	EX	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - Brought in competitive, tiered rates in April 2023 and need to fully assess how these have impacted income generation
		Library Service Partners: Seminar Room (5-20 people) per hour	20.00	20.00	20.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	EX	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - Brought in competitive, tiered rates in April 2023 and need to fully assess how these have impacted income generation
		Library Service Partners: Interview Room (2-4 people) per hour	12.50	12.50	12.50	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	EX	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - Introduced competitive, tiered rates in April 2023 and need to fully assess how these have impacted income generation
		Community Group use: Conference Room (21-30 people) per hour	-	-	-	#DIV/0!	01/04/2024	Discretionary	EX	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - Introduced competitive, tiered rates in April 2023 and need to fully assess how these have impacted income generation
		Community Group use: Seminar Room (5-20) per hour	-	-	-	#DIV/0!	01/04/2024	Discretionary	EX	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - Introduced competitive, tiered rates in April 2023 and need to fully assess how these have impacted income generation
		Community Group use: Interview Room (2-4) per hour	-	-	-	#DIV/0!	01/04/2024	Discretionary	EX	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - Introduced competitive, tiered rates in April 2023 and need to fully assess how these have impacted income generation
		Commercial entity use: Conference Room (21-30 people) per hour	50.00	50.00	50.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	EX	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - Introduced competitive, tiered rates in April 2023 and need to fully assess how these have impacted income generation

Review of Charges 2024/25  
Resources

Service Area	Charge	Unit	Current Charge £	Proposed Charge exc VAT 2024/25 £	Proposed Charge inc VAT 2024/25 £	Change %	Assume 01-Apr-24		Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
							Proposed date effective from				
		Commercial entity use: Seminar Room (5-20) per hour	40.00	40.00	40.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	EX	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - Introduced competitive, tiered rates in April 2023 and need to fully assess how these have impacted income generation
		Commercial entity use: Interview Room (2-4) per hour	25.00	25.00	25.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	EX	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - Introduced competitive, tiered rates in April 2023 and need to fully assess how these have impacted income generation
	Internet Service	A3 BW & Colour	0.70	0.58	0.70	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - Introduced significant rises in 2023 which appear to have stunted income growth in this area
		A4 BW & Colour	0.35	0.29	0.35	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - Introduced significant rises in 2023 which appear to have stunted income growth in this area
		Sales of headphones	3.00	2.67	3.20	7%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - Inflationary rise, income generation
		Sales of memory sticks	8.00	6.67	8.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - Cheaper retail alternatives available and sell very few
	Library Overdue Charges for Static Libraries	Adults - per day library open during first week (daily rate)	0.35	0.35	0.35	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - social value and accessibility to books; linked to OCC Priority 2. Also budget request in to lose these charges altogether re. cost of living crisis and positive equality impact
		Adults - maximum per item	5.25	5.25	5.25	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - social value and accessibility to books; linked to OCC Priority 2. Also budget request in to lose these charges altogether re. cost of living crisis and positive equality impact
		Charge for lost/damaged books (Recommended retail price plus processing fee where applicable)	Various	Various	Various	n/a	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	<b>NO CHANGE</b>
		Children - maximum per item	1.50	1.50	1.50	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - social value and accessibility to books; linked to OCC Priority 2. Also budget request in to lose these charges altogether re. cost of living crisis and positive equality impact
		Children - per day library open during first week (daily rate)	0.05	0.05	0.05	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - social value and accessibility to books; linked to OCC Priority 2. Also budget request in to lose these charges altogether re. cost of living crisis and positive equality impact
		Children in public care	Exempt	Exempt	Exempt	n/a	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - social value and aligned to OCC Priority 2
		Institutions - maximum per item	7.50	7.80	7.80	4%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	<b>INCREASE</b> - Inflationary rise
		Institutions - per day library open during first week (daily rate)	0.40	0.45	0.45	13%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	<b>INCREASE</b> - above Inflationary rise for a sensible charge figure
	Library Reservation Fees	a) Book / Audio Books Reservations - Standard charge	1.30	1.30	1.30	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - social value and accessibility to books; linked to OCC Priority 2. Also budget request in to lose these charges altogether re. cost of living crisis and positive equality impact
		a) Book / Audio Books Reservations - Under 18s (Incl children in public care)	n/a	Exempt	Exempt	n/a	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - Hold as is, in light of cost of living crisis and general accessibility; and alignment to OCC Priority 2 and 7
		b) Items supplied from outside Oxfordshire - Standard charge	10	10.00	10.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - Hold as is, in light of cost of living crisis and general accessibility
		c) Audio Visual Reservations (excluding Audio Books) - Concessionary rate	0.65	0.65	0.65	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - social value and accessibility to books; linked to OCC Priority 2. Also budget request in to lose these charges altogether re. cost of living crisis and positive equality impact
		c) Audio Visual Reservations (excluding Audio Books) - Standard charge	1.30	1.30	1.30	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - social value and accessibility to books; linked to OCC Priority 2. Also budget request in to lose these charges altogether re. cost of living crisis and positive equality impact

**Review of Charges 2024/25  
Resources**

Service Area	Charge	Unit	Current Charge £	Proposed Charge exc VAT 2024/25 £	Proposed Charge inc VAT 2024/25 £	Change %	Assume 01-Apr-24		Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
							Proposed date effective from				
		Items supplied by the British Library and Universities	20.00	20.00	20.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - Market rate from British Library
	Microform Copying	a) self service copying	1.00	0.83	1.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - encourage self-service
		b) staff service	2.00	1.67	2.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - To bring into line with History Centre
	Photocopying	A3 BW & Colour	0.70	-	-	-100%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - in line with History Centre - encourage self-service
		A4 BW & Colour	0.35	-	-	-100%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - Inflationary rise, income generation
	Vocal/Orchestral Play sets	Orchestral Sets - Non Oxfordshire Borrowers	60.00	65.00	65.00	8%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	<b>INCREASE</b> - Inflationary rise, income generation from external libraries
		Orchestral Sets - Oxfordshire Borrowers	45.00	45.00	45.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - seeking to support local culture and mindful of cost of living crisis
		Play Sets	6.80	7.00	7.00	3%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	<b>INCREASE</b> - Inflationary rise, income generation
		a) Booking Fee per 4 month loan Oxfordshire Borrowers - per score with performance time of 5 minutes or less	1.00	1.00	1.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - seeking to support local culture and mindful of cost of living crisis
		a) Booking Fee per 4 month loan Oxfordshire Borrowers - per score with performance time of more than 5 minutes	2.40	2.40	2.40	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - seeking to support local culture and mindful of cost of living crisis
		a) Booking Fee per 4 month loan Non Oxfordshire Borrowers - per score with performance time of more than 5 minutes	4.00	4.50	4.50	13%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	<b>INCREASE</b> - Inflationary rise, income generation
		a) Booking Fee per 4 month loan Non Oxfordshire Borrowers - per score with performance time of 5 minutes or less	1.80	2.00	2.00	11%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	<b>INCREASE</b> - Inflationary rise, income generation
		b) Overdue charge - per playset, per day library open during first week (daily rate) (maximum £5.70)	0.35	0.35	0.35	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - Keep in line with general overdue fee
		b) Overdue charge - per week or part week, per loan, vocal or orchestral	16.00	16.00	16.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - Keep in line with general overdue fee
		c) Administration fee for performance sets supplied from outside Oxfordshire.	10.00	10.50	10.50	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	<b>INCREASE</b> - Inflationary rise, income generation
		d) Administration fee for loss of/or damage to music scores	-	10.00	10.00	#DIV/0!	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	<b>NEW</b> - General admin fee introduced to cover staff time and resource required to manage loss and damage to scores (has been compromising viability of provision in the last year)
<b>Museum Service</b>	Conservation & Exhibition Services	a) MRC Remedial conservation - private / commercial (per hour)	67.00	60.00	72.00	7%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - Slightly above standard 5% as commercial specific rate
		a) MRC Remedial conservation - Loans (per hour)	£50	43.33	52.00	4%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - Less than standard 5% to encourage loans from smaller local museums
		c) Specialist Climate Controlled Collections Storage and Care per year - Large Item (c.0.5 cubic meters)	505.00	441.67	530.00	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - Follow standard inflationary rise
		c) Specialist Climate Controlled Collections Storage and Care per year - Medium Item (c 20x20xx20cm)	288.00	252.08	302.50	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - Follow standard inflationary rise

**Review of Charges 2024/25  
Resources**

Service Area	Charge	Unit	Current Charge £	Proposed Charge exc VAT 2024/25 £	Proposed Charge inc VAT 2024/25 £	Change %	Assume 01-Apr-24		Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
							Proposed date effective from				
		c) Specialist Climate Controlled Collections Storage and Care per year - Small Item (c.10x10x10cm)	145.00	126.67	152.00	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - Follow standard inflationary rise
		d) General Collections storage and Care per year -Large Item	575.00	504.17	605.00	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - Follow standard inflationary rise
		e) Environmental Monitoring (per month) - for 3 thermohygrographs	67.00	58.75	70.50	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - Follow standard inflationary rise
		f) Conservation Advice - per hour	67.00	58.75	70.50	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - Follow standard inflationary rise
		f) Conservation Advice - per day	496.00	433.33	520.00	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - Follow standard inflationary rise
		f) Conservation Advice - per half-day	248.00	216.67	260.00	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - Follow standard inflationary rise
		g) Museum Pest Management plus materials - per day	496.00	433.33	520.00	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - Follow standard inflationary rise
		g) Museum Pest Management plus materials - per half day	248.00	216.67	260.00	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - Follow standard inflationary rise
		g) Museum Pest Management plus materials - per hour	67.00	58.33	70.00	4%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - Follow standard inflationary rise
		h) Hire of display equipment - arrangement charge for not for profit heritage & arts organisations	25.25	22.08	26.50	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - Follow standard inflationary rise
		h) Hire of display equipment (cases) - per month	258.00	225.00	270.00	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - Follow standard inflationary rise
		h) Hire of display equipment (cases) - per week	118.00	103.33	124.00	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - Follow standard inflationary rise
		i) Training - per day	496.00	433.33	520.00	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - Follow standard inflationary rise
		i) Training - per half day	248.00	216.67	260.00	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - Follow standard inflationary rise
		k) Documentation and storage of archaeological archives - Administration charge (specialist)	65.00	54.17	65.00	0%	01/04/2024			SR	<b>NO CHANGE / CHANGE OF UNIT WORDING</b> - As this was a new charge from 2023, we wish to retain the fee to allow it to 'bed in' with our users and it more than covers out internal costs
		k) Documentation and accessioning of archaeological archives -per additional archaeological storage box (0.022m3)	79.00	69.17	83.00	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - Follow standard inflationary rise
		k) Documentation and accessioning of archaeological archives- site archive up to 3 archaeological storage boxes ((0.022m3)	121.00	105.83	127.00	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - Follow standard inflationary rise
		Loan of datalogger and printout per period up to 2 months	67.00	58.75	70.50	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - Follow standard inflationary rise
	Hire of Accommodation	a) Oxfordshire Museum - Exhibition Gallery (per week)	230.00	241.00	241.00	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	EX	<b>INCREASE</b> - Follow standard inflationary rise
		b) Brewhouse - Commercial Use (half day)	80.00	84.00	84.00	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	EX	<b>INCREASE</b> - Follow standard inflationary rise
		b) Brewhouse - Community Use (half day)	32.00	33.50	33.50	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	EX	<b>INCREASE</b> - Follow standard inflationary rise
		b) Brewhouse - Commercial Use (per day)	125.00	131.00	131.00	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	EX	<b>INCREASE</b> - Follow standard inflationary rise
		b) Brewhouse - Community Use (per day)	60.00	63.00	63.00	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	EX	<b>INCREASE</b> - Follow standard inflationary rise
		b) Brewhouse - Community Use (per month)	300.00	315.00	315.00	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	EX	<b>INCREASE</b> - Follow standard inflationary rise
		c) Coachhouse - Commercial Use (half day)	100.00	105.00	105.00	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	EX	<b>INCREASE</b> - Follow standard inflationary rise

**Review of Charges 2024/25  
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Service Area	Charge	Unit	Current Charge £	Proposed Charge exc VAT 2024/25 £	Proposed Charge inc VAT 2024/25 £	Change %	Assume 01-Apr-24		Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
							Proposed date effective from				
		c) Coachhouse - Community Use (half day)	45.00	47.50	47.50	6%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	EX	<b>INCREASE</b> - rounded up from inflationary rise to create a rational fee amount
		c) Coachhouse - Commercial Use (per day)	170.00	178.00	178.00	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	EX	<b>INCREASE</b> - Follow standard inflationary rise
		c) Coachhouse - Community Use (per day)	75.00	79.00	79.00	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	EX	<b>INCREASE</b> - Follow standard inflationary rise
		d) MRC Education Lecture Room - Community Use (half day)	41.00	43.00	43.00	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	EX	<b>INCREASE</b> - Follow standard inflationary rise
		d) MRC Education Lecture Room - Community Use (per day)	60.00	63.00	63.00	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	EX	<b>INCREASE</b> - Follow standard inflationary rise
		e) Provision of staff to support - activities of hirer per hour - during Museum open hours	25.75	22.92	27.50	7%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - Above standard inflationary rise
		e) Provision of staff to support - activities of hirer per hour (out of Museum open hours)	42.00	22.92	27.50	-35%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>DECREASE</b> - staff are not paid a higher rate for out of hours so proposed to bring this rate in line to in hours rate
		f) Coach House charge for use outside normal hours plus staffing as necessary - Commercial use (up to 3 hours)	90.00	95.00	95.00	6%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	EX	<b>INCREASE</b> - Above standard inflationary rise
		f) Coach House charge for use outside normal hours plus staffing as necessary - Community / Education use (up to 3 hours)	54.00	57.00	57.00	6%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	EX	<b>INCREASE</b> - Above standard inflationary rise
		Location fee for use of Oxfordshire Museum/Museums Resource Centre or Swalcliffe Barn premises for film / TV / broadcast purposes per hour or part hour plus staff time as required	80.00	70.83	85.00	6%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - Above standard inflationary rise
	Learning & Access	Facilitated Community Group Visits to The Oxfordshire Museum - per group during normal opening hours	30.00	30.00	30.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - Retain current fee for session, as many small groups struggle currently to afford session.
		Family Learning Drop In at The Oxfordshire Museum - per child costs supported by Friends of Museum	2.00	2.00	2.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - Suggest no increase to encourage educational use. However, on holidays where Friends do not cover the cost, we will actively encourage donations to cover cost of materials (at suggested £2 pp)
		<del>Family Learning Drop In at The Oxfordshire Museum - per family of up to 3 children. Costs supported by Friends of Museum</del>	5.00	-	-	-100%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	<b>DELETE CHARGE</b> - As not in use and covered by fee in line above
		Outreach School Sessions KS1 (approximately 1.25 hours) - up to 30 children	110.00	115.00	115.00	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	<b>INCREASE</b> - Follow standard inflationary rise
		Outreach School Sessions KS2 (approximately 1.5 hours) - up to 30 children	133.00	140.00	140.00	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	<b>INCREASE</b> - Follow standard inflationary rise
		Community Group: Box Loans - per 2 week loan	25.00	26.00	26.00	4%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	<b>INCREASE</b> - Upped by 4% to make an even number
		Community Group session - Maximum 15 participants	25.00	25.00	25.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - Retain current fee for session, as many small groups struggle currently to afford session. Suggest introducing second charging level for groups over 15. See below
		Reminiscence sessions - Over 15 participants	35.00	35.00		0%	01/04/2024				<b>NO CHANGE</b> - This is a new fee from last year, suggest retain at current rate to encourage more uptake

**Review of Charges 2024/25  
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Service Area	Charge	Unit	Current Charge £	Proposed Charge exc VAT 2024/25 £	Proposed Charge inc VAT 2024/25 £	Change %	Assume 01-Apr-24		Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
							Proposed date effective from				
		School Box Loans - per term	39.00	39.00	39.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - See below, introducing new transport fee - freeze loan box fee to encourage uptake as we introduce additional logistical cost to the service
		NEW: delivery charge for Oxfordshire loan box delivery (inc. return collection)	8.00	8.00	8.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	<b>NEW</b> - Propose we introduce transport fee as currently doing at own cost. Gives option to user to collect / return themselves and avoid the fee.
		NEW: non Oxfordshire School / commercial loan box fee (exc. delivery as will require customer to arrange/collect) per term / use	45.00	45.00	45.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	<b>NEW</b> - Introducing a new fee to cover possibility of non OXON school requests or commercial requests
		School Sessions at The Oxfordshire Museum - up to 30 children	93.00	93.00	93.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - Retain to attract more schools to the OM site (have levied increase for outreach sessions to balance income)
		NEW: Workshops for adults. Minimum of £10 pp per session (based on minimum of 7 participants to cover costs)	10.00	10.00	10.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	NB	<b>NEW</b> - Introducing minimum fee for charged for workshops - actual fee will depend on freelancer cost and materials etc.
	Microform Copying	Copying by Staff - per A3 copy	1.00	1.67	2.00	100%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - To bring it into line with History Service
		Copying by Staff - per A4 copy	1.00	1.67	2.00	100%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - To bring it into line with History Service
	MRC Digital Imaging	Administration fee - for any staff time per hour needed to prepare digital Museum files (not applicable in all cases)	67.00	54.17	65.00	-3%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>DECREASE</b> - To bring into line with Archaeology team admin fee
		Plain paper Digital Prints (pre-existing image) - per copy on A3	9.00	7.50	9.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - To bring into line with History Service fees
		Electronic files (pre-existing image, compressed) - per image 700 pixels	2.00	1.67	2.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - To bring into line with History Service fees
		Use of Digital Camera/USB Memory Stick - per day	9.00	7.50	9.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - Following last year's increase and concerns around reducing in demand/income
		Use of Digital Camera/USB Memory Stick - per week	26.00	21.67	26.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - Following last year's increase and concerns around reducing in demand/income
		Electronic files (automated scan or pre-existing scans) - per sheet scanned	2.00	1.67	2.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - To bring into line with History Service fees
		Electronic files (photographed to order, uncompressed) - per image 3200 pixels and above	17.00	14.17	17.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - To bring into line with History Service fees
		Electronic files (photographed to order, compressed) - per image 2500 pixels	13.00	10.83	13.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - To bring into line with History Service fees
		Electronic files (pre-existing image, compressed) - per image 2250 pixels	9.00	7.50	9.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - To bring into line with History Service fees
		Electronic files (pre-existing image, uncompressed) - per image 3200 pixels and above	13.00	10.83	13.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - To bring into line with History Service fees
		Internal Use Commercial - For use within organisation	30.00	26.25	31.50	5%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - Follow standard inflationary rise

Review of Charges 2024/25  
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Service Area	Charge	Unit	Current Charge £	Proposed Charge exc VAT 2024/25 £	Proposed Charge inc VAT 2024/25 £	Change %	Assume 01-Apr-24		Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
							Proposed date effective from				
		Photo paper Digital Prints (photographed to order) - per copy on A3 paper	17.00	14.17	17.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - To bring into line with History Service fees
		Photo paper Digital Prints (photographed to order) - per copy on A4 (or smaller)	17.00	14.17	17.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - To bring into line with History Service fees
		Photo paper Digital Prints (pre-existing image) - per copy A3	13.00	10.83	13.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - To bring into line with History Service fees
		Photo paper Digital Prints (pre-existing image) - per copy A4	13.00	10.83	13.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - To bring into line with History Service fees
		Plain paper Digital Prints (photographed to order) - per copy on A4	13.00	10.83	13.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - To bring into line with History Service fees
		Plain paper Digital Prints (photographed to order) - per copy on A3	13.00	10.83	13.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - To bring into line with History Service fees
		Plain paper Digital Prints (pre-existing image) - per copy on A4	9.00	7.50	9.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - To bring into line with History Service fees
		Publication: Commercial –per use of 1- 5 images	—	25.00	30.00	#DIV/0!	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE / CHANGE OF UNIT WORDING</b> - To bring into line with History Centre fees
		Publication: Commercial –per use of 6 or more images.	—	50.00	60.00	#DIV/0!	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE / CHANGE OF UNIT WORDING</b> - To bring into line with History Centre fees
		Broadcast Media (all platforms, regions or countries) - per image used, 0-5 years	-	100.00	120.00	#DIV/0!	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>NEW CHARGE</b> - simplified structure, removing unenforceable distinctions between fees for different term lengths or geographical areas.
		Broadcast Media (all platforms, regions or countries) - per image used, in perpetuity	-	166.67	200.00	#DIV/0!	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>NEW CHARGE</b> - simplified structure, removing unenforceable distinctions between fees for different term lengths or geographical areas.
		<del>One programme, unlimited transmissions, one country (EU = one country) - per image used, 0-6 years</del>	90.00	83.33	100.00	11%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>DELETE CHARGE</b> - differential fees little used and difficult to enforce. Replace by simplified structure.
		<del>One programme, unlimited transmissions, one country (EU = one country) - per image used, in perpetuity</del>	150.00	133.33	160.00	7%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>DELETE CHARGE</b> - differential fees little used and difficult to enforce. Replace by simplified structure.
		<del>One programme, unlimited transmissions, worldwide - per image used, 0-6 years</del>	225.00	200.00	240.00	7%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>DELETE CHARGE</b> - differential fees little used and difficult to enforce. Replace by simplified structure.
		<del>One programme, unlimited transmissions, worldwide - per image used, in perpetuity</del>	370.00	333.33	400.00	8%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>DELETE CHARGE</b> - differential fees little used and difficult to enforce. Replace by simplified structure.
		Publication: Academic - per use of 1-5 images	-	12.50	15.00	n/a	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	<b>NEW CHARGE</b> , with simplified charging structure. Previous distinctions between academic charges little or nil used and difficult to enforce.

**Review of Charges 2024/25  
Resources**

**Assume  
01-Apr-24**

Service Area	Charge	Unit	Current Charge £	Proposed Charge exc VAT 2024/25 £	Proposed Charge inc VAT 2024/25 £	Change %	Proposed date effective from	Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
		Publication: Academic - per use of 6 or more images	-	25.00	30.00	n/a	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>NEW CHARGE</b> , with simplified charging structure. Previous distinctions between academic charges little or nil used and difficult to enforce.
		Publication: Local individuals, organisations and partners - per use of 1-5 images	———	8.33	10.00	n/a	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>NEW CHARGE</b> - to encourage fair re-use and publication. Charge has a specific community focus and impacts on local history engagement.
		Publication: Local individuals, organisations and partners - per use of 6 or more images	———	16.67	20.00	n/a	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>NEW CHARGE</b> - to encourage fair re-use and publication. Charge has a specific community focus and impacts on local history engagement.
		<del>Publication: Academic (per image used)</del>	8.50	12.50	15.00	76%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>DELETE CHARGE</b> - To bring into line with equivalent charging by History Service
		<del>Publication: Local individuals, organisations and partners - per use of one or more images</del>	5.50	8.33	10.00	82%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>DELETE CHARGE</b> - To bring into line with equivalent charging by History Service
	Museums Service Research Enquires	Higher rate for businesses and profit-making organisations - per hour (or pro-rata) Minimum 30 minutes £40. Maximum 2 hours £160.	80.00	66.67	80.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - Consistent with History Service and competitors rates
		Written reply to each enquiry - per hour (or pro-rata) Minimum 30 minutes £21, Maximum 2 hours £92.	42.00	38.33	46.00	10%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - To bring it into line with History Service fees
	Oxfordshire Museum Lecture Fees plus travel at current OCC rates	Per event	72.50	63.33	76.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - Follow standard inflationary rise
		Air Mail postage	7.00	6.67	8.00	14%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - By 7% to create rational fee amount
		Reinforced Envelope C4 envelope	3.50	3.33	4.00	14%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>INCREASE</b> - By 7% to create rational fee amount
	Administrative Charge	Minimum charge for providing an invoice for any service	34.00	30.00	36.00	6%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	<b>DECREASE</b> - Bringing into line with History Service charging, so we are consistent across Heritage
	Use of Oxfordshire Museum Garden for Wedding Photography	Per event	108.00	115.00	115.00	6%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	EX	<b>INCREASE</b> - Commercial rate slightly higher than inflation 5%
	Virtual workshop for OCC controlled schools	Per session	35.00	35.00	35.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - We only do on average one a year and there is no change in real terms cost to deliver.
	Virtual workshop for non-OCC controlled schools	Per session	35.00	35.00	35.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	EX	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - We only do on average one a year and there is no change in real terms cost to deliver.
	Virtual workshop with loan box for OCC controlled schools	Per session	56.00	56.00	56.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - We only do on average one a year and there is no change in real terms cost to deliver.
	Virtual workshop with loan box for non-OCC controlled schools	Per session	56.00	56.00	56.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	EX	<b>NO CHANGE</b> - We only do on average one a year and there is no change in real terms cost to deliver.
<b>Customer Service Centre</b>	Concessionary Fares	Card issue and admin	10.00	10.00	10.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	No change to costs
	Disabled Parking	Card issue and admin, assessment service	10.00	10.00	10.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	No change to costs
<b>Human Resources</b>	Job Evaluations for Academies	Ad-Hoc/ Re-evaluation of a Role per hour up to 25 hours	180.00	180.00	216.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	No change to the assumption



**Review of Charges 2024/25  
Resources**

Service Area	Charge	Unit	Current Charge £	Proposed Charge exc VAT 2024/25 £	Proposed Charge inc VAT 2024/25 £	Change %	Assume 01-Apr-24		Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
							Proposed date effective from				
		Rate per hour if it takes more than 25 hours per role	270.00	270.00	324.00	0%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	No change to the assumption
<b>Innovation Hub</b>	Charging for work of officers in Innovation and research projects for bespoke agreements	Group Manager / Operational Manager	792.00	910.80	1,092.96	15%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	Standardise across Children, E&P iHUB, Property. 15% increase brings the charge in line with the cost of delivering the service.
		Team Leader	710.00	816.50	979.80	15%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	Standardise across Children, E&P, iHUB, Property. 15% increase brings the charge in line with the cost of delivering the service.
		Principal Officer / Technical Lead	585.00	672.75	807.30	15%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	Standardise across Children, E&P, iHUB, Property. 15% increase brings the charge in line with the cost of delivering the service.
		Officer	459.00	527.85	633.42	15%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	Standardise across Children, E&P, iHUB, Property. 15% increase brings the charge in line with the cost of delivering the service.
		Assistant	370.00	425.50	510.60	15%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	Standardise across Children, E&P, iHUB, Property. 15% increase brings the charge in line with the cost of delivering the service.
		Large meeting (up to 5 Officers in attendance)	1,602.00	1,842.30	2,210.76	15%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	Standardise across Children, E&P, iHUB, Property. 15% increase brings the charge in line with the cost of delivering the service.
		Small meeting (2-3 Officers in attendance)	799.00	918.85	1,102.62	15%	01/04/2024		Discretionary	SR	Standardise across Children, E&P, iHUB, Property. 15% increase brings the charge in line with the cost of delivering the service.

Review of Charges 2024/25  
Resources - Music Annex

2,463.80    2,427.80    2,427.80    -    Assume  
01-Sep-24

Service Area	Charge	Unit	Current Charge £	Proposed Charge exc VAT 2024/25 £	Proposed Charge inc VAT 2024/25 £	Change %	Date effective from	Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
Music Service	Charges to Schools	Curriculum (per hour)	65.00	68.00	68.00	5%	01/09/2024	Discretionary	EX	
		First Access (60 or 45 minutes)	1,544.00	1,600.00	1,600.00	4%	01/09/2024	Discretionary	EX	
		<b>Play On (1 hour or 45 min)</b>	<b>-1,764.00</b>	<b>-1,800.00</b>	<b>-1,800.00</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>01/09/2024</b>	<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>EX</b>	<b>Deleted</b>
		Summer fun	N/A		-		01/09/2024	Discretionary	EX	One off project - calculated at full cost recovery (on number of participants)
		workshops	N/A		-		01/09/2024	Discretionary	EX	One off project - calculated at full cost recovery (on number of participants)
	Ensembles	County Level Ensemble 1 hrs groups of 10 (individual price £5.20)	48.00	52.00	52.00	8%	01/09/2024	Discretionary	EX	
		County Level Ensemble 1.5 hrs groups of 10 (individual price £7.80)	72.00	78.00	78.00	8%	01/09/2024	Discretionary	EX	
		County Level Ensemble 2 hrs Groups of 10 (individual price £10.40)	96.00	104.00	104.00	8%	01/09/2024	Discretionary	EX	
		<b>Full Membership / 2.5hr ensemble Group of 10 (individual price £12.80)</b>	<b>120.00</b>	<b>130.00</b>	<b>130.00</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>01/09/2024</b>	<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>EX</b>	
		<b>OCMS Full Membership / 3.5hr ensemble group 15 (Individual price £14.30)</b>	<b>135.00</b>	<b>145.00</b>	<b>145.00</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>01/09/2024</b>	<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>EX</b>	
	<b>Group Tuition</b>	<b>Group of 2 (20 minutes)</b>	<b>10.50</b>	<b>11.50</b>	<b>11.50</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>01/09/2024</b>	<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>EX</b>	
		Group of 3 or more (variables of 20 minutes)	6.40	6.80	6.80	6%	01/09/2024	Discretionary	EX	
		<b>Adult Group of 10 (Individual price £11.80)</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>		<b>01/09/2024</b>		<b>EX</b>	<b>Deleted</b>
	Hire	Hire of Instruments (All other instruments on offer)	50.00	55.00	55.00	10%	01/09/2024	Discretionary	EX	
		Hire of Instruments (Violin, Viola and Guitars only)	30.00	33.00	33.00	10%	01/09/2024	Discretionary	EX	
		Instrument Purchase Charge	N/A		-		01/09/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Oxfordshire intermediate orchestra - 6 sessions (per session charge)	25.00	27.50	27.50	10%	01/09/2024	Discretionary	EX	
		Oxfordshire Youth Music Theatre	N/A		-		01/09/2024	Discretionary	EX	project - calculated at full cost recovery (on number of participants)
	Individual Tuition	Individual 40 minutes	37.00	39.00	39.00	5%	01/09/2024	Discretionary	EX	
		Individual 20 minutes - Multiples of 20 minutes only	18.50	19.50	19.50	5%	01/09/2024	Discretionary	EX	
		Individual 60 minutes	55.00	58.50	58.50	6%	01/09/2024	Discretionary	EX	
	Other Charges	Key stage 1 festival	N/A	N/A	N/A		01/09/2024	Discretionary	EX	One off project - calculated at full cost recovery (on number of participants)
		Massed Singing Festivals	N/A	N/A	N/A		01/09/2024	Discretionary	EX	One off project - calculated at full cost recovery (on number of participants)
	Own teacher accompanist	Accompanist own teacher	N/A	N/A	N/A		01/09/2024	Discretionary	EX	One off project - calculated at full cost recovery (on number of participants)
	Not own teacher accompanist	Accompanist Oxfordshire County Music Service teacher	N/A	N/A	N/A		01/09/2024	Discretionary	EX	One off project - calculated at full cost recovery (on number of participants)

Review of Charges 2024/25  
Resources - Registration Annex

ALREADY AGREED (Cabinet January 2024)

NEW CHARGES HIGHLIGHTED IN BOLD

Service Area	Charge	Unit	Agreed Charge 2023/24 £	Proposed Charge exclusive of VAT 2024/25 £	Proposed Charge inclusive of VAT 2024/25 £	Change %	Proposed date effective from	Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
Registration Service	Amendment Fee for all Marriage and Civil partnership ceremonies.	per amendment	60.00	63.00	63.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Amendment Fee for other Civil ceremonies- If the fee for other civil ceremonies attracts VAT so does the amendment fee.	per amendment	60.00	52.50	63.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Should attract VAT as this is a non-statutory fee.
	<b>Amendment Fee for Private Citizenship Ceremonies</b>	<b>per amendment</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>20.00</b>	<b>24.00</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>01/04/2024</b>	<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>SR</b>	<b>New Fee. Should attract VAT as this is a non-statutory fee.</b>
	Births, Deaths, Marriage or Civil Partnership Certificates (Marriage inc line 19-46)	per certificate	11.00	11.00	11.00	0%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review.
	Short Birth Certificate	per certificate	11.00	11.00	11.00	0%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review.
	Space 17 addition	Per application	40.00	40.00	40.00	0%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review.
	Commemorative Certificates	per certificate	10.00	8.33	10.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Should attract VAT as this is a non-statutory fee.
	Consideration for a correction	Per application	75.00	75.00	75.00	0%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review.
	Consideration for a correction (RG involvement)	Per application	90.00	90.00	90.00	0%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review.
	Consideration of Foreign Divorce	Per application	50.00	50.00	50.00	0%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review.
	Consideration of Foreign Divorce (RG involvement)	Per application	75.00	75.00	75.00	0%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review.
	Conversion of a Civil Partnership into Marriage	Standard Service	45.00	45.00	45.00	0%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review.
		Two stage procedure on other premises - completing the declaration	27.00	27.00	27.00	0%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review.
		Two stage procedure on other premises -signing the declaration in a religious registered for marriage of same sex couples	91.00	91.00	91.00	0%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review.
	Statutory Priority Certificate	Per application	35.00	35.00	35.00	0%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review.
	Approved Premises license application fee	Per application for 3 year licence	2,325.00	2,425.00	2,425.00	4%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Approved Premises license amendment fee	Per amendment	n/a	125.00	150.00		01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	New Fee. Should attract VAT as this is a non-statutory fee.
	Classic Marriage & Civil partnership ceremony at former Register Office Ceremony rooms at advertised times Monday - Friday	Registration Office Ceremony Room  (Monday to Friday during advertised hours)	355.00	375.00	375.00	6%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	Certificates no longer included and will be charged separately.
	<b>Classic Marriage &amp; Civil partnership ceremony at large registration office ceremony room at advertised times Monday - Friday</b>	<b>Registration Office Large Ceremony Room (Monday to Friday during advertised hours)</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>490.00</b>	<b>490.00</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>01/04/2024</b>	<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>NB</b>	<b>New Service.Certificates will be charged separately</b>

Review of Charges 2024/25  
Resources - Registration Annex

ALREADY AGREED (Cabinet January 2024)

NEW CHARGES HIGHLIGHTED IN BOLD

Service Area	Charge	Unit	Agreed Charge 2023/24 £	Proposed Charge exclusive of VAT 2024/25 £	Proposed Charge inclusive of VAT 2024/25 £	Change %	Proposed date effective from	Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
	Enhanced Marriage & Civil partnership ceremony at former Register Office Ceremony rooms outside of advertised times Monday - Friday	Registration Office Ceremony Room (Monday to Friday - outside advertised hours)	450.00	475.00	475.00	6%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	Certificates no longer included and will be charged separately.
	<b>Enhanced Marriage &amp; Civil partnership ceremony at large Registration Office Ceremony rooms outside of advertised times Monday - Friday</b>	<b>Registration Office large Ceremony Room (Monday to Friday - outside advertised hours)</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>620.00</b>	<b>620.00</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>01/04/2024</b>	<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>NB</b>	<b>New Service.Certificates will be charged separately</b>
	<b>Classic Marriage &amp; Civil partnership ceremony at former Register Office Ceremony rooms on advertised Saturday mornings only 09:00 - 12:00</b>	<b>Registration Office Ceremony Room (Saturday - during advertised hours)</b>	<b>430.00</b>	<b>460.00</b>	<b>460.00</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>01/04/2024</b>	<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>NB</b>	<b>Certificates no longer included and will be charged separately.</b>
	<b>Classic Marriage &amp; Civil partnership ceremony at large Registration Office Ceremony rooms on advertised Saturday mornings only 09:00 - 12:00</b>	<b>Registration Office Large Ceremony Room (Saturday - during advertised hours)</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>600.00</b>	<b>600.00</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>01/04/2024</b>	<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>NB</b>	<b>New Service.Certificates will be charged separately</b>
	Enhanced Marriage & Civil partnership ceremony at former Register Office Ceremony rooms outside of advertised times Saturday 09:00 - 17:30	Registration Office Ceremony Room (Saturday - outside advertised hours)	510.00	560.00	560.00	10%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	Certificates no longer included and will be charged separately.  Increase from previously agreed £540 to £560 to reflect full cost recovery of new hourly rate of pay model
	<b>Enhanced Marriage &amp; Civil partnership ceremony at large Registration Office Ceremony rooms outside of advertised times Saturday 09:00 - 17:30</b>	<b>Registration Office Ceremony Room (Saturday - outside advertised hours)</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>700.00</b>	<b>700.00</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>01/04/2024</b>	<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>NB</b>	<b>New Service.Certificates will be charged separately</b>
	Enhanced Marriage & Civil partnership fees at former Register Office Ceremony rooms Sundays and Bank Holidays 09:00 - 17:30	Registration Office Ceremony Room (Sunday / Bank Holiday)	570.00	660.00	660.00	16%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	Certificates no longer included and will be charged separately.  Increase from previously agreed £605 to £660 to reflect full cost recovery of new hourly rate of pay model
	<b>Enhanced Marriage &amp; Civil partnership fees at large Register Office Ceremony rooms Sundays and Bank Holidays 09:00 - 17:30</b>	<b>Registration Office Large Ceremony Room (Sunday / Bank Holiday)</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>780.00</b>	<b>780.00</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>01/04/2024</b>	<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>NB</b>	<b>New Service.Certificates will be charged separately</b>
	Enhanced Marriage & Civil partnership fees at former Register Office Ceremony rooms Monday to Sunday  Surcharge on top of standard fee for ceremony taking place OOH at 6pm or later	Registration Office Ceremony Room Monday - Sunday OOH	100.00	105.00	105.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Marriage & Civil Partnership and Register Premises (Church or Chapel)	Attending chapel / church	97.00	97.00	97.00	0%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	
	Marriage & Civil Partnership fees in Oxford Register Office Statutory Room	Statutory Marriage or Civil Partnership RO (Tues only)	57.00	46.00	46.00	-19%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	Certificates (£11 each) no longer included and will be charged separately.
	Non refundable booking fee.	Per Ceremony	100.00	100.00	100.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Marriages and Civil Partnerships at Approved Venues (9.00 - 17:30)	Monday - Friday	680.00	700.00	700.00	3%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	Certificates no longer included and will be charged separately.

Review of Charges 2024/25  
Resources - Registration Annex

ALREADY AGREED (Cabinet January 2024)

NEW CHARGES HIGHLIGHTED IN BOLD

Service Area	Charge	Unit	Agreed Charge 2023/24 £	Proposed Charge exclusive of VAT 2024/25 £	Proposed Charge inclusive of VAT 2024/25 £	Change %	Proposed date effective from	Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
		Saturday	680.00	740.00	740.00	9%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	Certificates no longer included and will be charged separately.
		Sunday & Bank Holiday	730.00	850.00	850.00	16%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	Certificates no longer included and will be charged separately. Increase from previously agreed £780 to £850 to reflect full cost recovery of new hourly rate of pay model
	Marriages at Approved Venues	Monday - Sunday OOH	100.00	105.00	105.00	5%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Surcharge on top of standard fee for ceremony taking place OOH at 6pm or later									
	Notice of Marriages and Civil Partnership - Foreign Nationals	Extended 70 day Notice for foreign Nationals ( for 1 person)	47.00	47.00	47.00	0%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review.
	Notice of Marriages and Civil Partnership	Notice of Marriage/Civil Partnership (for 1 person)	35.00	35.00	35.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review.
	Other Non-Statutory Civil Ceremonies ( Naming Ceremonies, Renewal of Vows, Partnership/Commitment Ceremonies) at Registration Offices (09:00 - 17:30)	Registration Office Ceremony Room	300.00	250.00	300.00	0%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Monday - Friday								
		Registration Office Ceremony Room	320.00	291.67	350.00	9%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Increase from previously agreed £340 to £350 to reflect full cost recovery of new hourly rate of pay model
		Registration Office Ceremony Room	360.00	333.33	400.00	11%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Increase from previously agreed £380 to £400 to reflect full cost recovery of new hourly rate of pay model
	Other Non-Statutory Civil Ceremonies (Naming Ceremonies, Renewal of Vows, Partnership/Commitment Ceremonies) at Approved venues (09:00 - 17:30)	Approved Venue	320.00	275.00	330.00	3%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Monday - Friday								
		Approved Venue	350.00	308.33	370.00	6%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		Saturday								
		Approved Venue	360.00	345.83	415.00	15%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Increase from previously agreed £380 to £415 to reflect full cost recovery of new hourly rate of pay model
		Sunday & Bank Holiday								
	Other Non-Statutory Civil Ceremonies (Naming Ceremonies, Renewal of Vows, Partnership/Commitment Ceremonies) at venues not approved by Oxfordshire County Council (09:00 - 17:30)	Venues not approved by Oxfordshire County Council	400.00	395.83	475.00	19%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Increase from previously agreed £440 to £475 to reflect full cost recovery of new hourly rate of pay model
		Monday - Friday								
		Venues not approved by Oxfordshire County Council	450.00	429.17	515.00	14%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Increase from previously agreed £470 to £515 to reflect full cost recovery of new hourly rate of pay model
		Venues not approved by Oxfordshire County Council	460.00	466.67	560.00	22%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Increase from previously agreed £480 to £560 to reflect full cost recovery of new hourly rate of pay model
	<b>Marriage or Civil Partnership Ceremony and a non-statutory civil ceremony</b>	<b>Your day your way ceremony</b>	<b>760.00</b>	<b>820.00</b>	<b>820.00</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>01/04/2024</b>	<b>Statutory</b>	<b>NB/SR</b>	
	Other Civil Ceremonies - Group Citizenship	Group Citizenship Ceremony at County Hall	80.00	80.00	80.00	0%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review.
	Monday - Friday (09:00 - 15:00)									

Review of Charges 2024/25  
Resources - Registration Annex

ALREADY AGREED (Cabinet January 2024)

NEW CHARGES HIGHLIGHTED IN BOLD

Service Area	Charge	Unit	Agreed Charge 2023/24 £	Proposed Charge exclusive of VAT 2024/25 £	Proposed Charge inclusive of VAT 2024/25 £	Change %	Proposed date effective from	Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
	Other Civil Ceremonies - Private Individual Citizenship Monday - Friday (09:00 - 16:00)	Private Individual Ceremony at a Registration Office only	90.00	95.83	115.00	28%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	Increase from previously agreed £95 to £115 to reflect full cost recovery
	Other Civil Ceremonies - Private Individual Citizenship Saturday (09:00 - 12:00)	Individual Ceremony at a Registration Office only	N/A	116.67	140.00	N/A	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	New service. Should attract VAT as this is a non-statutory fee.
	Other Civil Ceremonies - Family Citizenship (2 adults and up to 3 children) Monday - Friday (09:00 - 16:00)	Individual Ceremony at Oxford Register Office only	N/A	240.00	288.00	N/A	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	New service. Should attract VAT as this is a non-statutory fee.
	Other Civil Ceremonies -Private Family Citizenship (2 adults and up to 3 children)	Individual Ceremony at Oxford Register Office only	N/A	275.00	330.00	N/A	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	New service. Should attract VAT as this is a non-statutory fee.
	Completion of PD2 Change of Name for Passport Form	Per form	N/A	25.00	30.00	N/A	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	New service. Should attract VAT as this is a non-statutory fee.
	Completion of Foreign Pension Proof of Life & Residence forms	Per form	N/A	25.00	30.00	N/A	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	New service. Should attract VAT as this is a non-statutory fee.
	Certificate Keepsake Folder	Per folder	N/A	2.50	3.00	N/A	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	New product. Should attract VAT as this is a non-statutory fee.
	Searches in indexes	General Search	18.00	18.00	18.00	0%	01/04/2024	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review.

Review of Charges 2024/25  
Resources - Registration Annex

Assume  
01-Apr-25

Service Area	Charge	Unit	Agreed Charge 2024/25 £	Proposed Charge exclusive of VAT 2025/26 £	Proposed Charge inclusive of VAT 2025/26 £	Change %	Proposed date effective from	Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
Registration Service	Amendment Fee for all Marriage and Civil partnership ceremonies.	per amendment	63.00	65.00	65.00	3%	01/04/2025	Discretionary	NB	
	Amendment Fee for other Civil ceremonies- If the fee for other civil ceremonies attracts VAT so does the amendment fee. Fee already at limit so no increase	per amendment	63.00	54.17	65.00	3%	01/04/2025	Discretionary	SR	
	<b>Amendment Fee for Private Citizenship Ceremonies</b>	<b>per amendment</b>	<b>24.00</b>	<b>20.00</b>	<b>24.00</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>01/04/2024</b>	<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>SR</b>	
	Births, Deaths Certificates ( Marriage inc line 24-46)	per certificate	11.00	11.00	11.00	0%	01/04/2025	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review.
	Short Birth Certificate	per certificate	11.00	11.00	11.00	0%	01/04/2025	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review
	Space 17 addition	Per application	40.00	40.00	40.00	0%	01/04/2025	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review
	Commemorative Certificates	per certificate	10.00	8.33	10.00	0%	01/04/2025	Discretionary	SR	
	Consideration for a correction	Per application	75.00	75.00	75.00	0%	01/04/2025	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review
	Consideration for a correction (RG involvement)	Per application	90.00	90.00	90.00	0%	01/04/2025	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review
	Consideration of Foreign Divorce	Per application	50.00	50.00	50.00	0%	01/04/2025	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review
	Consideration of Foreign Divorce (RG involvement)	Per application	75.00	75.00	75.00	0%	01/04/2025	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review
	Conversion of a Civil Partnership into Marriage	Standard Service	45.00	45.00	45.00	0%	01/04/2025	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review
		Two stage procedure on other premises - completing the declaration	27.00	27.00	27.00	0%	01/04/2025	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review
		Two stage procedure on other premises -signing the declaration in a religious registered for marriage of same sex couples	91.00	91.00	91.00	0%	01/04/2025	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review
	Statutory Priority Certificate	Per application	35.00	29.17	35.00	0%	01/04/2025	Statutory	SR	No proposed date for statutory fee review
	Licence for approved premises. No increase proposed as already at limit ( from benchmarking undertaken).	3 year licence	2,425.00	2,606.50	2,606.50	7%	01/04/2025	Discretionary	NB	
	<b>Approved Premises license amendment fee</b>	<b>per amendment</b>	<b>150.00</b>	<b>133.33</b>	<b>160.00</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>01/04/2025</b>	<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>SR</b>	

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Service Area	Charge	Unit	Agreed Charge 2024/25 £	Proposed Charge exclusive of VAT 2025/26 £	Proposed Charge inclusive of VAT 2025/26 £	Change %	Proposed date effective from	Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
	Classic Marriage & Civil partnership ceremony at former Register Office Ceremony rooms at advertised times Monday - Friday	Registration Office Ceremony Room (Monday to Friday during advertised hours)	375.00	403.00	403.00	7%	01/04/2025	Discretionary	NB	
	<b>Classic Marriage &amp; Civil partnership ceremony at large registration office ceremony room at advertised times Monday - Friday</b>	<b>Registration Office Large Ceremony Room (Monday to Friday during advertised hours)</b>	<b>490.00</b>	<b>527.00</b>	<b>527.00</b>	<b>7.6%</b>	<b>01/04/2024</b>	<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>NB</b>	
	Enhanced Marriage & Civil partnership ceremony at former Register Office Ceremony rooms outside of advertised times Monday - Friday	Registration Office Ceremony Room (Monday to Friday - outside advertised hours)	475.00	510.00	510.00	7%	01/04/2025	Discretionary	NB	Proposed increase for 203/24 based on full cost recovery analysis, using rate card.
	<b>Enhanced Marriage &amp; Civil partnership ceremony at large Registration Office Ceremony rooms outside of advertised times Monday - Friday</b>	<b>Registration Office large Ceremony Room (Monday to Friday - outside advertised hours)</b>	<b>620.00</b>	<b>667.00</b>	<b>667.00</b>	<b>7.6%</b>	<b>01/04/2024</b>	<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>NB</b>	
	Classic Marriage & Civil partnership ceremony at former Register Office Ceremony rooms on advertised Saturday mornings only 09:00 - 12:00	Registration Office Ceremony Room (Saturday - during advertised hours)	460.00	494.00	494.00	7%	01/04/2025	Discretionary	NB	Proposed increase for 203/24 based on full cost recovery analysis, using rate card, as well as increased staffing costs for Saturday enhancements
	<b>Classic Marriage &amp; Civil partnership ceremony at large Registration Office Ceremony rooms on advertised Saturday mornings only 09:00 - 12:00</b>	<b>Registration Office Large Ceremony Room (Saturday - during advertised hours)</b>	<b>600.00</b>	<b>645.00</b>	<b>645.00</b>	<b>7.5%</b>	<b>01/04/2024</b>	<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>NB</b>	
	Enhanced Marriage & Civil partnership ceremony at former Register Office Ceremony rooms outside of advertised times Saturday 09:00 - 17:30	Registration Office Ceremony Room (Saturday - outside advertised hours)	560.00	602.00	602.00	8%	01/04/2025	Discretionary	NB	Proposed increase for 203/24 based on full cost recovery analysis, using rate card, as well as increased staffing costs for Saturday enhancements
	<b>Enhanced Marriage &amp; Civil partnership ceremony at large Registration Office Ceremony rooms outside of advertised times Saturday 09:00 - 17:30</b>	<b>Registration Office Ceremony Room (Saturday - outside advertised hours)</b>	<b>700.00</b>	<b>730.00</b>	<b>730.00</b>	<b>4.3%</b>	<b>01/04/2024</b>	<b>Discretionary</b>		
	Enhanced Marriage & Civil partnership fees at former Register Office Ceremony rooms Sundays and Bank Holidays 09:00 - 17:30	Registration Office Ceremony Room (Sunday / Bank Holiday)	660.00	709.00	709.00	7%	01/04/2025	Discretionary	NB	Proposed increase for 203/24 based on full cost recovery analysis, using rate card, as well as increased staffing costs for Sunday / Bank Hol enhancements



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Service Area	Charge	Unit	Agreed Charge 2024/25 £	Proposed Charge exclusive of VAT 2025/26 £	Proposed Charge inclusive of VAT 2025/26 £	Change %	Proposed date effective from	Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
	<b>Enhanced Marriage &amp; Civil partnership fees at large Register Office Ceremony rooms Sundays and Bank Holidays 09:00 - 17:30</b>	<b>Registration Office Large Ceremony Room (Sunday / Bank Holiday)</b>	<b>780.00</b>	<b>838.00</b>	<b>838.00</b>	<b>7.4%</b>	<b>01/04/2024</b>	<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>NB</b>	
	Marriage & Civil partnership fees at former Register Office Ceremony rooms Monday to Sunday -  Surcharge on top of standard fee for ceremony taking place OOH at 6pm or later	Registration Office Ceremony Room Monday - Sunday OOH	105.00	94.17	113.00	8%	01/04/2025	Discretionary	SR	
	Marriage & Civil Partnership and Register Premises (Church or Chapel)	Attending chapel / church	97.00	97.00	97.00	0%	01/04/2025	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review
	Marriage & Civil Partnership fees in Oxford Register Office Statutory Room	Statutory Marriage or Civil Partnership RO (Tues only)	46.00	46.00	46.00	0%	01/04/2025	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review
	Non refundable booking fee.	Per Ceremony	100.00	83.33	100.00	0%	01/04/2025	Discretionary	SR	
	<b>Marriages and Civil Partnerships at Approved Venues (9.00 - 17:30)</b>	<b>Monday - Friday</b>	<b>700.00</b>	<b>710.00</b>	<b>710.00</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>01/04/2025</b>	<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>NB</b>	<b>At limit of full cost recovery</b>
		<b>Saturday</b>	<b>740.00</b>	<b>785.00</b>	<b>785.00</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>01/04/2025</b>	<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>NB</b>	<b>At limit of full cost recovery</b>
		<b>Sunday &amp; Bank Holiday</b>	<b>850.00</b>	<b>914.00</b>	<b>914.00</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>01/04/2025</b>	<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>NB</b>	
	<b>Marriages at Approved Venues</b>	<b>Monday - Sunday OOH</b>	<b>105.00</b>	<b>113.00</b>	<b>113.00</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>01/04/2025</b>	<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>NB</b>	
	<b>Surcharge on top of standard fee for ceremony taking place OOH at 6pm or later</b>									
	Notice of Marriages and Civil Partnership - Foreign Nationals	Extended 70 day Notice for foreign Nationals ( for 1 person)	47.00	47.00	47.00	0%	01/04/2025	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review
	Notice of Marriages and Civil Partnership	Notice of Marriage/Civil Partnership (for 1 person)	35.00	35.00	35.00	0%	01/04/2025	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review
	Other Non-Statutory Civil Ceremonies ( Naming Ceremonies, Renewal of Vows, Partnership/Commitment Ceremonies) at Registration Offices (09:00 - 17:30)	Registration Office Ceremony Room  Monday - Friday	300.00	268.33	322.00	7%	01/04/2025	Discretionary	SR	
		Registration Office Ceremony Room  Saturday	350.00	313.33	376.00	7%	01/04/2025	Discretionary	SR	

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Service Area	Charge	Unit	Agreed Charge 2024/25 £	Proposed Charge exclusive of VAT 2025/26 £	Proposed Charge inclusive of VAT 2025/26 £	Change %	Proposed date effective from	Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
		Registration Office Ceremony Room	400.00	358.33	430.00	8%	01/04/2025	Discretionary	SR	
		Sunday & Bank Holiday								
	Other Non-Statutory Civil Ceremonies (Naming Ceremonies, Renewal of Vows, Partnership/Commitment Ceremonies) at Approved venues (09:00 - 17:30)	Approved Venue Monday - Friday	330.00	295.00	354.00	7%	01/04/2025	Discretionary	SR	
		Approved Venue Saturday	370.00	330.83	397.00	7%	01/04/2025	Discretionary	SR	
		Approved Venue Sunday & Bank Holiday	415.00	371.67	446.00	7%	01/04/2025	Discretionary	SR	
	Other Non-Statutory Civil Ceremonies (Naming Ceremonies, Renewal of Vows, Partnership/Commitment Ceremonies) at venues not approved by Oxfordshire County Council (09:00 - 17:30)	Venues not approved by Oxfordshire County Council Monday - Friday	475.00	425.00	510.00	7%	01/04/2025	Discretionary	SR	
		Venues not approved by Oxfordshire County Council Saturday	515.00	460.83	553.00	7%	01/04/2025	Discretionary	SR	
		Venues not approved by Oxfordshire County Council Sunday & Bank Holiday	560.00	501.67	602.00	8%	01/04/2025	Discretionary	SR	
	<b>Marriage or Civil Partnership Ceremony and a non-statutory civil</b>	<b>Your day your way ceremony</b>	<b>820.00</b>	<b>733.33</b>	<b>880.00</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>01/04/2025</b>	<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>SR</b>	
	Other Civil Ceremonies - Group Citizenship  Monday - Friday (09:00 - 15:00)	Group Citizenship Ceremony at County Hall	80.00	80.00	80.00	0%	01/04/2025	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review
	Other Civil Ceremonies - Private Individual Citizenship  Monday - Friday (09:00 - 16:00)	Private Individual Ceremony at a Registration Office only	115.00	102.50	123.00	7%	01/04/2025	Discretionary	SR	
	Other Civil Ceremonies - Private Individual Citizenship  Saturday (09:00 - 12:00)	Individual Ceremony at a Registration Office only	140.00	125.00	150.00	7%	01/04/2025	Discretionary	SR	

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Service Area	Charge	Unit	Agreed Charge 2024/25 £	Proposed Charge exclusive of VAT 2025/26 £	Proposed Charge inclusive of VAT 2025/26 £	Change %	Proposed date effective from	Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
	Other Civil Ceremonies - Family Citizenship (2 adults and up to 3 children)  Monday - Friday (09:00 - 16:00)	Individual Ceremony at Oxford Register Office only	288.00	257.50	309.00	7%	01/04/2025	Discretionary	SR	
	Other Civil Ceremonies -Private Family Citizenship (2 adults and up to 3 children)  Saturday (09:00 - 12:00)	Individual Ceremony at Oxford Register Office only	330.00	295.00	354.00	7%	01/04/2025	Discretionary	SR	
	Completion of PD2 Change of Name for Passport Form	Per form	30.00	26.67	32.00	7%	01/04/2025	Discretionary	SR	
	Completion of Foreign Pension Proof of Life & Residence forms	Per form	30.00	26.67	32.00	7%	01/04/2025	Discretionary	SR	
	Certificate Keepsake Folder	Per folder	3.00	2.67	3.20	7%	01/04/2025	Discretionary	SR	
	Searches in indexes	General Search	18.00	18.00	18.00	0%	01/04/2025	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review

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Service Area	Charge	Unit	Agreed Charge 2025/26 inclusive of VAT £	Proposed Charge exclusive of VAT 2026/267 £	Proposed Charge inclusive of VAT 2026/27 £	Change %	Proposed date effective from	Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
Registration Service	Amendment Fee for all Marriage and Civil partnership ceremonies.	per amendment	65.00	69.50	69.50	7%	01/04/2026	Discretionary	NB	
	Amendment Fee for other Civil ceremonies- If the fee for other civil ceremonies attracts VAT so does the amendment fee. Fee already at limit so no increase	per amendment	65.00	57.92	69.50	7%	01/04/2026	Discretionary	SR	
	Amendment Fee for Private Citizenship Ceremonies Births, Deaths Certificates ( Marriage inc line 24-46)	per amendment	24.00	20.83	25.00	4.2%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	SR	
		per certificate	11.00	11.00	11.00	0%	01/04/2026	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review.
	Short Birth Certificate	per certificate	11.00	11.00	11.00	0%	01/04/2026	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review
	Space 17 addition	Per application	40.00	40.00	40.00	0%	01/04/2026	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review
	Commemorative Certificates	per certificate	10.00	8.75	10.50	5%	01/04/2026	Discretionary	SR	
	Consideration for a correction	Per application	75.00	75.00	75.00	0%	01/04/2026	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review
	Consideration for a correction (RG involvement)	Per application	90.00	90.00	90.00	0%	01/04/2026	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review
	Consideration of Foreign Divorce	Per application	50.00	50.00	50.00	0%	01/04/2026	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review
	Consideration of Foreign Divorce (RG involvement)	Per application	75.00	75.00	75.00	0%	01/04/2026	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review
	Conversion of a Civil Partnership into Marriage	Standard Service	45.00	45.00	45.00	0%	01/04/2026	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review
		Two stage procedure on other premises - completing the declaration	27.00	27.00	27.00	0%	01/04/2026	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review
		Two stage procedure on other premises -signing the declaration in a religious registered for marriage of same sex couples	91.00	91.00	91.00	0%	01/04/2026	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review
	Statutory Priority Certificate	Per application	35.00	29.17	35.00	0%	01/04/2026	Statutory	SR	No proposed date for statutory fee review
	Licence for approved premises. No increase proposed as already at limit ( from benchmarking undertaken).	3 year licence	2,545.00	2,735.00	2,735.00	7%	01/04/2026	Discretionary	NB	
	Approved Premises license amendment fee	per amendment	160.00	142.50	171.00	7%	01/04/2026	Discretionary	SR	
	Classic Marriage & Civil partnership ceremony at former Register Office Ceremony rooms at advertised times Monday - Friday	Registration Office Ceremony Room (Monday to Friday during advertised hours)	394.00	423.00	423.00	7%	01/04/2026	Discretionary	NB	
	Classic Marriage & Civil partnership ceremony at large registration office ceremony room at advertised times Monday - Friday	Registration Office Large Ceremony Room (Monday to Friday during advertised hours)	527.00	567.00	567.00	7.6%	01/04/2024	Discretionary	NB	
	Enhanced Marriage & Civil partnership ceremony at former Register Office Ceremony rooms outside of advertised times Monday - Friday	Registration Office Ceremony Room (Monday to Friday - outside advertised hours)	499.00	536.00	536.00	7%	01/04/2026	Discretionary	NB	Proposed increase for 203/24 based on full cost recovery analysis, using rate card.

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Service Area	Charge	Unit	Agreed Charge 2025/26 inclusive of VAT £	Proposed Charge exclusive of VAT 2026/27 £	Proposed Charge inclusive of VAT 2026/27 £	Change %	Assume 01-Apr-26		Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
							Proposed date effective from				
	<b>Classic Marriage &amp; Civil partnership ceremony at Registration Office Ceremony rooms on advertised Saturday mornings only 09:00 - 12:00</b>	<b>Registration Office Ceremony Room (Saturday - during advertised hours)</b>	<b>510.00</b>	<b>548.00</b>	<b>548.00</b>	<b>7.5%</b>	<b>01/04/2024</b>		<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>NB</b>	
	Classic Marriage & Civil partnership ceremony at former Register Office Ceremony rooms on advertised Saturday mornings only 09:00 - 12:00	Registration Office Ceremony Room (Saturday - during advertised hours)	483.00	519.00	519.00	7%	01/04/2026		Discretionary	NB	Proposed increase for 203/24 based on full cost recovery analysis, using rate card, as well as increased staffing costs for Saturday enhancements
	<b>Classic Marriage &amp; Civil partnership ceremony at Large Registration Office Ceremony rooms on advertised Saturday mornings only 09:00 - 12:00</b>	<b>Registration Office Large Ceremony Room</b>	<b>494.00</b>	<b>531.00</b>	<b>531.00</b>	<b>7.5%</b>	<b>01/04/2026</b>		<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>NB</b>	
	Enhanced Marriage & Civil partnership ceremony at former Register Office Ceremony rooms outside of advertised times Saturday 09:00 - 17:30	Registration Office Ceremony Room (Saturday - outside advertised hours)	588.00	632.00	632.00	7%	01/04/2026		Discretionary	NB	Proposed increase for 203/24 based on full cost recovery analysis, using rate card, as well as increased staffing costs for Saturday enhancements
	<b>Enhanced Marriage &amp; Civil partnership ceremony at large Registration Office Ceremony rooms outside of advertised times Saturday 09:00 - 17:30</b>	<b>Registration Office Ceremony Room (Saturday - outside advertised hours)</b>	<b>730.00</b>	<b>780.00</b>	<b>780.00</b>	<b>6.8%</b>	<b>01/04/2024</b>		<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>NB</b>	
	Enhanced Marriage & Civil partnership fees at former Register Office Ceremony rooms Sundays and Bank Holidays 09:00 - 17:30	Registration Office Ceremony Room (Sunday / Bank Holiday)	693.00	745.00	745.00	8%	01/04/2026		Discretionary	NB	Proposed increase for 203/24 based on full cost recovery analysis, using rate card, as well as increased staffing costs for Sunday / Bank Hol enhancements
	<b>Enhanced Marriage &amp; Civil partnership fees at large Register Office Ceremony rooms Sundays and Bank Holidays 09:00 - 17:30</b>	<b>Registration Office Large Ceremony Room (Sunday / Bank Holiday)</b>	<b>838.00</b>	<b>900.00</b>	<b>900.00</b>	<b>7.4%</b>	<b>01/04/2024</b>		<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>NB</b>	
	<b>Marriage &amp; Civil partnership fees at former Register Office Ceremony rooms Monday to Sunday - Surcharge on top of standard fee for ceremony taking place OOH at 6pm or later</b>	<b>Registration Office Ceremony Room Monday - Sunday OOH</b>	<b>110.00</b>	<b>118.00</b>	<b>118.00</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>01/04/2026</b>		<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>NB</b>	
	Marriage & Civil Partnership and Register Premises (Church or Chapel)	Attending chapel / church	97.00	97.00	97.00	0%	01/04/2026		Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review
	Marriage & Civil Partnership fees in Oxford Register Office Statutory Room	Statutory Marriage or Civil Partnership RO (Tues only)	46.00	46.00	46.00	0%	01/04/2026		Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review
	Non refundable booking fee.	Per Ceremony	100.00	83.33	100.00	0%	01/04/2026		Discretionary	SR	
	<b>Marriages and Civil Partnerships at Approved Venues (9.00 - 17:30)</b>	<b>Monday - Friday</b>	<b>710.00</b>	<b>752.00</b>	<b>752.00</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>01/04/2026</b>		<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>NB</b>	
		<b>Saturday</b>	<b>785.00</b>	<b>817.00</b>	<b>817.00</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>01/04/2026</b>		<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>NB</b>	
		<b>Sunday &amp; Bank Holiday</b>	<b>892.00</b>	<b>958.00</b>	<b>958.00</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>01/04/2026</b>		<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>NB</b>	
	<b>Marriages at Approved Venues</b>	<b>Monday - Sunday OOH</b>	<b>110.00</b>	<b>118.00</b>	<b>118.00</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>01/04/2026</b>		<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>NB</b>	
	<b>Surcharge on top of standard fee for ceremony taking place OOH at 6pm or later</b>										
	Notice of Marriages and Civil Partnership - Foreign Nationals	Extended 70 day Notice for foreign Nationals ( for 1 person)	47.00	47.00	47.00	0%	01/04/2026		Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review

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Service Area Charge		Unit	Agreed Charge 2025/26 inclusive of VAT £	Proposed Charge exclusive of VAT 2026/267 £	Proposed Charge inclusive of VAT 2026/27 £	Change %	Assume 01-Apr-26 Proposed date effective from	Discretionary or Statutory	VAT Class	Comments
	Notice of Marriages and Civil Partnership	Notice of Marriage/Civil Partnership (for 1 person)	35.00	35.00	35.00	0%	01/04/2026	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review
	Other Non-Statutory Civil Ceremonies ( Naming Ceremonies, Renewal of Vows, Partnership/Commitment Ceremonies) at Registration Offices (09:00 - 17:30)	Register Office Ceremony Room	315.00	281.67	338.00	7%	01/04/2026	Discretionary	SR	
		Monday - Friday								
		Register Office Ceremony Room	367.00	328.33	394.00	7%	01/04/2026	Discretionary	SR	
		Saturday								
		Register Office Ceremony Room	420.00	375.83	451.00	7%	01/04/2026	Discretionary	SR	
		Sunday & Bank Holiday								
	Other Non-Statutory Civil Ceremonies (Naming Ceremonies, Renewal of Vows, Partnership/Commitment Ceremonies) at Approved venues (09:00 - 17:30)	Approved Venue	347.00	310.83	373.00	7%	01/04/2026	Discretionary	SR	
		Monday - Friday								
		Approved Venue	389.00	348.33	418.00	7%	01/04/2026	Discretionary	SR	
		Saturday								
		Approved Venue	435.00	389.17	467.00	7%	01/04/2026	Discretionary	SR	
		Sunday & Bank Holiday								
	Other Non-Statutory Civil Ceremonies (Naming Ceremonies, Renewal of Vows, Partnership/Commitment Ceremonies) at venues not approved by Oxfordshire County Council (09:00 - 17:30)	Venues not approved by Oxfordshire County Council	499.00	446.67	536.00	7%	01/04/2026	Discretionary	SR	
		Monday - Friday								
		Venues not approved by Oxfordshire County Council	540.00	483.33	580.00	7%	01/04/2026	Discretionary	SR	
		Saturday								
		Venues not approved by Oxfordshire County Council	588.00	526.67	632.00	7%	01/04/2026	Discretionary	SR	
		Sunday & Bank Holiday								
	<b>Marriage or Civil Partnership Ceremony and a non-statutory civil ceremony</b>	<b>Your day your way ceremony</b>	<b>880.00</b>	<b>785.00</b>	<b>942.00</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>01/04/2026</b>	<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>SR</b>	
	Other Civil Ceremonies - Group Citizenship	Group Citizenship Ceremony at County Hall	80.00	80.00	80.00	0%	01/04/2026	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review
	Monday - Friday (09:00 - 15:00)									
	Other Civil Ceremonies - Private Individual Citizenship	Private Individual Ceremony at a Registration Office only	123.00	110.00	132.00	7%	01/04/2026	Discretionary	SR	
	Monday - Friday (09:00 - 16:00)									
	Other Civil Ceremonies - Private Individual Citizenship	Individual Ceremony at a Registration Office only	150.00	134.17	161.00	7%	01/04/2026	Discretionary	SR	
	Saturday (09:00 - 12:00)									

**Review of Charges 2024/25**  
**Resources - Registration Annex**

		<b>Assume 01-Apr-26</b>								
<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Charge</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Agreed Charge 2025/26 inclusive of VAT £</b>	<b>Proposed Charge exclusive of VAT 2026/267 £</b>	<b>Proposed Charge inclusive of VAT 2026/27 £</b>	<b>Change %</b>	<b>Proposed date effective from</b>	<b>Discretionary or Statutory</b>	<b>VAT Class</b>	<b>Comments</b>
	Other Civil Ceremonies - Family Citizenship (2 adults and up to 3 children) Monday - Friday (09:00 - 16:00)	Individual Ceremony at Oxford Register Office only	309.00	276.67	332.00	7%	01/04/2026	Discretionary	SR	
	Other Civil Ceremonies -Private Family Citizenship (2 adults and up to 3 children) Saturday (09:00 - 12:00)	Individual Ceremony at Oxford Register Office only	354.00	316.67	380.00	7%	01/04/2026	Discretionary	SR	
	Completion of PD2 Change of Name for Passport Form	Per form	32.00	28.33	34.00	6%	01/04/2026	Discretionary	SR	
	Completion of Foreign Pension Proof of Life & Residence forms	Per form	32.00	28.33	34.00	6%	01/04/2026	Discretionary	SR	
	Certificate Keepsake Folder	Per folder	3.20	2.88	3.45	8%	01/04/2026	Discretionary	SR	
	Searches in indexes	General Search	18.00	18.00	18.00	0%	01/04/2026	Statutory	NB	No proposed date for statutory fee review

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## **SEND Programme & High Needs Budget**

### **1. Executive Summary**

The purpose of this paper is to provide Cabinet with an update on:

- How work with the SEND Local Area Strategy and SEND System Reforms is impacting the High Needs Deficit Recovery plan
- The progress of the Department for Education (DfE) Delivering Better Value (DBV) programme and the early findings from this work
- Explain the further investment being sought to support inclusion in mainstream settings - DBV grant, disapplication from Schools Block money and continued investment in top ups for mainstream and special schools - and the potential approaches to support this.

The outcomes for children and young people with SEND in Oxfordshire are not good enough. In addition, in the past five years, spending in Oxfordshire on children and young people with SEND has exceeded the available budget.

SEND (High Needs) expenditure is forecast to exceed the grant funding available by £25.0m in 2024/25. The cumulative deficit by 31st March 2024 is forecast to be £62.3m.

Thanks to the work which took place in 2022, there is now a clear and public-approved Local Area SEND Strategy to help frame the changes required, as well as a number of approved System Reforms.

Significant progress has taken place over the last year in many areas including:

- activity planning with system colleagues around the Local Area SEND Strategy
- enhanced pathways in mainstream education for children with SEND - five programmes have taken place with great outcomes, including forecast savings of £0.45million
- development of partnership working with Health (health funding protocol and special schools nursing contract are in the process of being finalised).
- as per the 2022 public SEND consultation regarding the transfer of resource bases to schools, positive engagement with schools is underway and full staff consultation will be held accordingly.
- ongoing progress on the build of two special schools and free school funding proposals submitted to the DfE for two further schools.
- engagement with Oxfordshire colleges is ongoing to establish enhanced post-16 opportunities in Oxfordshire.

In addition, there is ongoing insight and support via intensive engagement with the DfE DBV programme. The DBV programme has confirmed and provided evidence for

areas of change already identified, as well as bringing to the surface several areas to explore further.

## **2. Background**

### **2.1 National Policy**

It is clear that the government will use the outputs from the DBV programme to inform any future policy, which highlights the importance of our ongoing commitment to this programme. However, it is also becoming clear that changes in national policy will be incremental not revolutionary, and that no new funding will be provided in the short term. Therefore, there are very few available options and OCC will need to use available resources creatively to lever the greatest possible impact.

### **2.2. Statistical Neighbour and National Benchmarking**

Oxfordshire's High Needs block allocation per 1,000 of the 2-18 population is rising, but still remains below Local Authority average both nationally (England) and compared to statistical neighbours.

The proportion of young people with Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans has grown by over 40%% over the past 3 years, a similar rate of growth to statistical neighbours, but the overall rate is still below the national (England) average.

In Oxfordshire the number of EHC Plans has risen from 2,027 in 2015/16 to a forecast 6,506 in this year, 2023/24. This is an increase of 221% so although central government has increased the allocation for SEN to Oxfordshire by 49% over the same period, this has fallen considerably short of the increased demand.

Oxfordshire has a higher proportion of children with EHC Plans in a mainstream setting than the national Local Authority average and a higher proportion than most statistical neighbours.

### **2.3. Forecast Deficit**

The forecast deficit for SEND is set out in the table below. The High Needs Board has developed plans (including plans to increase special school places), to deliver the savings over a five-year period, but these are insufficient to remove the High Needs deficit.

The forecast deficit is based on existing savings plans. The DBV exercise has confirmed the spend trajectory for Oxfordshire is in line with the existing forecast. The next stage of DBV DMP is to complete a redrafting and reprofiling of the plan to be progressed and delivered over a two to three year timeframe. This exercise may change the focus of savings activities.

### **2.4. DfE Support & Advice**

The DfE have a SEND support programme that consists of Safety Valve Agreements for those local authorities with the highest deficits and DBV programme for the remaining deficit authorities. A Safety Valve arrangement attracts funding from the DfE to help deal with the SEND cumulative deficit. Oxfordshire does not qualify for the DfE Safety Valve scheme. The DfE have recently published details of the latest Safety Valve agreements that give an insight into thinking consistent with the Green Paper.

Oxfordshire was successful in lobbying to be included as part of Tranche 1 of the DBV Programme and qualify for the Safety Valve arrangements. This was based on the trajectory of the High Needs deficit.

Engagement with the DfE contracted consultants Newton Europe and more recently, CIPFA have led to a requirement to revise the Deficit Management Plan (DMP) and re-profile the programme spend and target mitigations / cost reduction savings over 2/3 years.

The savings that form the High Needs Deficit Recovery plan are summarised in the annex. The key contribution to deficit recovery is the expansion of Special School places and the impact that Early Intervention and Inclusion Hubs may have. Early Intervention proposals and the potential impact of Inclusion Hubs and other approaches form part of the bid for DBV grant.

### **3. How Local Area SEND Strategy and System Reforms are Impacting the Deficit Reduction Plan**

#### **3.1. Build New Special Schools & expand places where possible**

Expansions continue. Two new builds in progress and two in planning. Based on current data, it has been established that up to 700 new special school places will be required (ages 4-19) by 2026. This assumption will continue to be tested in conjunction with the data analysis taking place in the DBV Programme. A plan is being developed, which includes new schools at Bloxham Grove and Faringdon, progressing with the new school in Didcot through a bid to the DfE for a Free School, and continuing with a rolling programme of expansions where feasible. Property Services are engaged in a site search suitable for a further new school to support pupils with SEMH (social, emotional and mental health) needs in the southeast of Oxfordshire, also to be the subject of a Free School bid, and if the need is confirmed by data analysis, potentially two further new schools. This project will require considerable investment, £19m has been allocated from the High Needs DfE capital grant over the next three years. Two Free School bids have been made in latest round and the outcome is expected in January 2023.

#### **3.2. Enhanced pathways**

Five programmes have taken place with significant impact, including forecast savings of £0.45m.

Further funding would be targeted at the creation of In-reach/Out-reach Inclusion Hubs, which from initial modelling have the potential to support more children locally, meeting needs at an earlier stage and avoiding the escalation to specialist provision. Business case based on case reviews suggests that some young people could be prevented from escalating to more expensive placements. Early modelling suggests a saving up to £5.6m over 5 years but this estimate will be reassessed as part of the DBV analysis.

Ongoing investment for this project is subject to the success of the bid for DBV grant and the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) block transfer application to the Secretary of State

#### **3.3. Early Intervention**

Further work would focus on building confidence in schools for working with CYP with SEND. Modelling of the financial impact will be completed as part of DBV programme. Activities may include expanding the reach of SEND Helpdesk, further training and support to school to implement the Ordinarily Available Toolkit and Inclusion Support. All initiatives are aimed at supporting schools to deliver a robust graduated approach, meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND at the earliest opportunity.

### **3.4. Resource Bases**

Following on from the Local Area SEND Strategy and system reforms consultation, regarding the transfer of resource bases to schools, positive engagement with schools is underway and full staff consultation will be held accordingly.

### **3.5. Specialist Colleges**

To create a right sized model through reviewing the current Independent Specialist Provider and re-establishing the pre-annual review process. Key activities have been determined, with a plan in progress. Meetings have commenced with colleges to ascertain courses on offer. These savings may come earlier as reviews taking place

### **3.6. Preparing for Adulthood**

Long term project to develop alternative education and support services in County.

### **3.7. Contract Renegotiation**

To date a rationalisation in line with demand for Alternative Provision places / top up has resulted in £0.4m savings, with a £0.2m impact on financial year 2022/23. This has exceeded the £0.3m target.

A revised paper on Alternative Provision will be taken to Schools Forum in the next quarter and a high-level plan will be drafted. A category management spend review will be undertaken to analyse the service, reduce spend, develop alternatives and review packages to see whether some children could return to mainstream education.

Independent Non-Maintained Specialist Schools (INMSS) contracts: Oversight of procurement/contracts for INMSS providers is required by contract management specialists in order to ensure that fees, including uplifts are managed strategically, allowing more accurate financial forecasting and ensuring principles of best value. Anticipated savings to be modelled. Procurement activity is also needed beyond the framework that we have joined as this alone is unlikely to provide adequate capacity.

Health Funding Provision: A review of Health funding for provision currently covered by schools is taking place. An agreed protocol has been drafted, which establishes the correct proportion of funding to be provided by Health. This also includes a contribution to INMSS placements. It is hoped that a final draft will be complete by the end of the year and approval will be sought from the Joint Commissioning Executive by the end of January 2023.

## **4. Delivering Better Value Programme - Progress & Key Drivers for our Current Position**

The revised DBV DMP submitted to DfE on Friday 19 January 2024 contains details of unmitigated forecasts, areas driving spend and keys areas of focus for cases studies (Special Schools Inreach / Outreach, Enhanced Pathways, Relational Schools, and Behavioural Inclusion). Case studies, parent carer surveys and data deep dives took place during 2023 to gather further insight.

The revised final plan will be completed in the next 3 months.

The work with the DBV programme has helped to confirm several key areas of SEND expenditure, and possible drivers for this expenditure. The intention is to investigate these further, as part of the implementation plan and DBV funding proposal to the DfE:

- i. Independent Non-Maintained Special School (INMSS) expenditure represents the highest area of growth over the next 5 years and is driven by number of EHC Plans. (Current spend is c.£25m on 450 children/young people)
- ii. Mainstream expenditure is the second highest forecasted spend in the next 5 years and is driven by increasing number of EHC Plans Page 384
- iii. Of the number of EHC Plans in INMSS, the caseload is primarily driven by children and young people (CYP) with pre-existing EHC Plans who move provision.
- iv. Of the number of EHC Plans in mainstream, the caseload is primarily driven by new EHC Plan starts.
- v. Oxfordshire already has a comparatively low rate of EHC Plans compared to statistical neighbours and is below the national (England) average. This suggests that there is minimal opportunity in supporting more CYP with SEN support if the target is what has been achievable in similar authorities.
- vi. From work with the DBV programme, escalation of provision has contributed to the rise of EHC Plans in special schools. Amongst the parents and carers with children that moved from mainstream to specialist provisions, the driving factor most commonly cited behind these moves is a perceived inability to meet need by the mainstream setting.
- vii. Confidence in the ability to meet need is low across all key stages apart from in KS5 (post 16) settings and nursery. This reflects earlier findings that EHC Plans spike in transition years.
- viii. There are, however, always cohorts of parents and carers who are happy with the support their child is getting. This is reflected in the survey comments, suggesting that there may be opportunity to ensure greater consistency in how students with SEN are supported across schools and educational settings.
- ix. The escalation of EHC Plans to specialist provision is more prominent in certain settings and merits further investigation.
- x. Initial findings from case reviews and deep dives suggest there may be the potential to achieve a significant reduction in INMSS placements and for those children whose needs could be met or improved in other local settings. Further investigation is taking place around this.

## **5. Investment/Enhanced Funding strategy**

Outlined below are the approaches to enable expansion of project work with schools and continue to enhance pathways in mainstream education.

The service will develop partnerships to create the implementation plans for early intervention, including how impact would be measured:

- Inreach / outreach hubs for primary age SEMH needs.
- Whole county training in trauma informed practice.

- Specialist team that can be deployed to carry out short term direct work with teachers and teaching assistants.



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Annex B: Table 1: High Needs Budgeted DSG Deficits 2024/25 – 2026/27

High Needs Budget - Annual Budget	2024/25 £'m	2025/26 £'m	2026/27 £'m
<b>Base Budget</b>	<b>124.113</b>	<b>129.262</b>	<b>137.121</b>
<b>Proposed Budget Increases</b>			
Demographic growth	11.298	12.949	14.801
Inflation - pay	0.476	0.476	0.486
Inflation - contracts	1.247	1.735	1.735
<b>Total Forecast Spend Before Savings</b>	<b>137.134</b>	<b>144.422</b>	<b>154.143</b>
<b>Proposed Budget Reductions</b>			
<b>Support without an EHCP</b>			
Enhanced Pathways - Seed	-0.354	-0.354	-0.354
<b>Sufficiency - reduce use of independent sector</b>			
Opening of new Special Schools	-4.583	-3.284	-1.040
Unidentified additional Special Schools spaces	-0.444	-0.888	
Investment in Resource bases & enhanced mainstream	-0.781	-2.025	
<b>Post 16 &amp; Preparation for Adulthood</b>			
Preparing for Adulthood	-0.250	-0.250	-0.250
Specialist colleges (ISP)	-0.500	-0.500	-0.500
<b>Review Internally provided services:</b>			
Resource Base Transfer	-0.310		
Review SENSS Service	-0.500		
<b>Contract Renegotiation:</b>			
Full Category management review	-0.250		
Reduction in Meadowbrook places / top-up			
<b>Housekeeping</b>			
Admin	0.100		
<b>TOTAL Savings</b>	<b>-7.872</b>	<b>-7.301</b>	<b>-2.144</b>
<b>Revised Spend</b>	<b>129.262</b>	<b>137.121</b>	<b>151.999</b>
<b>High Needs Block (DSG) Funding</b>	<b>-108.000</b>	<b>-112.108</b>	<b>-116.339</b>
<b>REVISED DEFICIT</b>	<b>21.262</b>	<b>25.013</b>	<b>35.660</b>

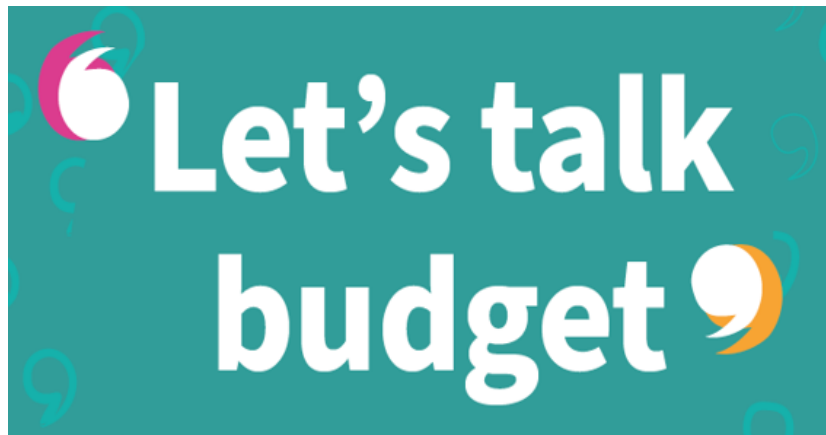
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**Section 2.0****Budget Engagement & Consultation Feedback**

1. Section 2 of the report sets out the feedback from the council's budget engagement and consultation and observations from Performance & Corporate Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Section		Title
2.1		Budget engagement & consultation responses 2024-25
2.2		Observations from Performance & Corporate Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee (to follow)

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## **Budget consultation and engagement 2024/25**

### **Key findings**

**Report by: Consultation and engagement team**

**Date: 18 January 2024**

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## **1. Executive summary**

- 1.1 Budget consultation and engagement is an important part of the democratic process. This year, our activities included two phases:
  - Phase 1: Representative residents' survey
  - Phase 2: Budget consultation and engagement using an online budget simulator, online feedback form and ten outreach and engagement events.
- 1.2 Oxfordshire County Council provides 80 per cent of local government services in Oxfordshire by expenditure. With new predicted pressures of £36 million in 2024/2025, we face significant financial challenges.
- 1.3 Following the government's confirmation of its financial settlement for local government on 18 December 2023, the council identified a £11.2 million funding gap for 2024/2025. This has grown from £9.1m as set previously in November 2023, due to fewer grant funds being available. As of late November, we had already identified £9.8 million of savings and this figure, alongside the £9.1m funding gap provided the context for our phase 2 budget consultation and engagement. The figures included in the simulator are those as known when the consultation launched and before the local government settlement. This includes the initial £9.1m funding gap not £11.2m.
- 1.4 Our phase 1 engagement comprised a representative residents' survey conducted between 23 May and 18 July 2023. It was a postal survey with an option to complete online, which was sent to representative selection of households across county. The postal survey was supplemented by 166 on-street interviews targeting younger adults aged 18 - 44 years.
- 1.5 Our phase 2 budget consultation and engagement activities, were open to all and specifically targeted Oxfordshire residents including children and young people and seldom heard adults. It was widely promoted across a range of channels including organic and paid for social media advertising (attracting many comments that were largely negative in their sentiment), e-newsletters, internal communications for council staff and councillors and targeted stakeholder communications.
- 1.6 Activity ran for approximately eight weeks as follows:
  - Online budget simulator tool open for six weeks between Wednesday 29 November 2023 and Wednesday 10 January 2024.
  - Online feedback form for comments on draft budget proposals open for six weeks between feedback Wednesday 29 November 2023 and Wednesday 10 January 2024.
  - Two in-person sounding board events with children and young people on Friday 17 November and Friday 24 November 2023.
  - Three online Oxfordshire conversations on Monday 4 December, Wednesday 6 December and Monday 11 December 2023.

- five in-person targeted events (and one follow-up session) with seldom heard adults between Tuesday 12 December 2023 and Wednesday 10 January 2024.

1.7 In all, 1,144 Oxfordshire residents aged 18+ responded to our representative residents' survey and over 1,500 individuals, groups and organisations participated in our phase 2 budget consultation and engagement in some form and specifically:

- 1,364 people submitted a budget using the simulator tool. They also provided 1,674 comments across all sections of the simulator
- 140 online feedback forms were submitted, in addition to 3 emails
- 88 secondary school aged children took part across our two in-person sounding board events
- 32 people took part across our three online Oxfordshire conversations
- 38 people participated across our five in-person targeted events (and one follow-up session) with seldom heard adults.

## Key findings

### Representative residents survey

- 62 per cent of respondents 'felt worse off' than they were the previous year.
- 26 per cent of respondents said they had 'sometimes struggled' to pay at least one of their household bills over the last 12 months, 11 per cent said they struggled 'most of the time' and 4 per cent said they struggled 'all of the time'.
- 31 per cent of respondents spontaneously suggested road surfaces in poor repair/dangerous/too many potholes as the most important issue that residents in their local area faced.
- Just under two in five (39 per cent) of respondents were satisfied with the services provided by the council, 30 per cent were neutral and 30 per cent of respondents were dissatisfied.
- Of all the council services tested, respondents were most dissatisfied with the maintenance of roads (net satisfaction rating of -62.5%), followed by the maintenance of pavements (net satisfaction rating of -45.7%)
- The services felt to be most important services for local people in the area were maintenance of roads (67%), fire and rescue service – emergency response (40%), and household waste and recycling (34%).
- Respondents were most receptive to the council acting on the following ideas as ways to make savings and generate income:
  - 'generating additional income by maximising the use of buildings and land the council owns (our assets)' (net agreement +83 per cent)
  - 'reducing costs by using digital technology to deliver services more efficiently' (net agreement +65%),



- They were not in favour of:
  - 'generate additional income by increasing council tax' (net agreement of -40 %)
  - 'reduce spending on frontline services' (-56% respectively).
- 34 % of respondents agreed the council should consider a 4.99 per cent increase
- 20% of respondents agreed the council should consider a 5.99 per cent increase
- 16% of respondents agreed the council should consider a 6.99 per cent increase

## **Budget simulator**

- The budget simulator is a great example of the council using innovative digital tools to engage residents. It was specifically designed to give residents and stakeholders the opportunity to:
  - learn more about the services we provide and the financial challenges we face
  - have their say on where we should focus savings and spending, by adjusting core service budgets and council tax income, weighing up choices and making trade-offs
- The simple, gamification approach certainly engaged a wide range residents and for some it helped them to understand more about the council. "A useful and simple insight into your income and your burdens. May help public understand more and be more engaged with the council. Thank you." and "I have newfound appreciation for the work the council does, the scope of its duties and the decisions it makes."
- We received feedback from residents from across the county with spikes in response in the Oxford and Didcot and surrounding villages. This innovative approach to consultation was particularly successful at engaging younger adults (aged under 44 years) and people with disabilities or long-term health conditions, which have previously been underrepresented in our budget consultation exercises.
- Our starting budget was £612.5 million with a funding gap of £9.1 million. The simulator was not designed to especially close the funding gap exactly, rather to explore how people make choices when faced with difficult decisions (as the councillors need to). However, that said:
  - 9 people (0.7%) managed to close the £9.1million funding gap exactly
  - a further 928 people (68%) made budget reductions over and above the £9.1 million funding gap. This included people choosing to increase council tax to create additional expenditure budget.
- The service areas items which respondents most frequently selected for an increase in funding using the budget simulator were:
  - Highways maintenance (37%) \* (to maintain service not to improve it)

- SEND (25%)
  - Education (23%)
  - Public health (20%)
  - Place, transport and infrastructure (19%)
  - Environment and climate action (18%)
  - Children's services, family help (16%)
  - Children's social care (15%)
- The service area items most frequently selected for a decrease in funding on the simulator as people sought to balance their budget were:
    - Running the business (55%)
    - Street lighting (45%)
    - Strategic planning (44%)
    - Environment and climate action (39%)
    - Museums and history services (38%)
    - Place, transport and infrastructure (35%)
  - Those service items most likely to be selected to remain at 0 (no change either positive or negative and for these items it would main the service at the current level) were:
    - Fire and rescue (79%)
    - Children's social care (74%)
    - Waste disposal (72%)
    - Community safety (73%)
  - The overall impact of people's budget choices is shown as average budget percentage changes. These are presented for each service item and ranged from 1% to -3.57%.

Service group	Service item	Average budget change as%
Highways operations	Highways maintenance	1.00%
Education and learning	Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)	0.61%
Education and learning	Education	0.56%
Children's and family services	Children's social care	0.14%
Community safety	Community safety	-0.16%
Fire and rescue	Fire and rescue	-0.24%
Public health	Public health	-0.37%
Planning, environment and climate change	Waste disposal	-0.38%
Children's and family services	Family help	-0.41%
Adult social care	Age well	-0.68%
Adult social care	Adult social work	-1.01%
Adult social care	Live well	-1.09%
Education and learning	Home to school transport	-1.21%
Place, transport and infrastructure	Place, transport and infrastructure	-1.32%

Libraries, museums and history services	Libraries	-1.35%
Planning, environment and climate change	Environment and climate action	-1.99%
Libraries, museums and history services	Museums and history services	-2.03%
Planning, environment and climate change	Strategic planning	-2.49%
Highways operations	Street lighting	-2.49%
Running the business	Running the business	-3.57%

- Four service items, (highlighted in red) have a positive average budget percentage change:
  - Highways maintenance (1%)
  - Special education needs and disabilities (0.61%)
  - Education (0.56%)
  - Children's social care (0.14%).
- The four service items, which on average, had the greatest negative percentage changes of between -1.99% to -3.57% (highlighted in green) were:
  - Back-office support services (running the business) (-3.57%)
  - Street lighting (-2.49%)
  - Strategic planning (-2.49%)
  - Museums and history services (-2.03%)
  - Environment and climate action (-1.99%).
- Overall, 741 people chose to increase council tax as part of their citizens' budget, on top of the 4.99% already proposed in the council's medium term financial plan.
  - On average, the budget simulator shows that people were willing to increase council tax by 0.84 per cent. To enact this, a referendum would be required.
  - 343 people (25%) chose to increase council tax by an additional one per cent (to 5.99%)
  - 398 people (29 %) chose to increase council tax by an additional one per cent (to 6.99%).

### Online feedback form

- While we expressly invited people to give feedback on our published budget proposals, nearly all respondents used this opportunity to give general feedback on council services, spending and budget matters with many sharing their views on a range of matters.
- Highways and transport were the two primary themes, accounting for 69 per cent of all comments. For highways, people felt Oxfordshire roads were in poor condition and complained about the volume of potholes (16 comments). A smaller proportion felt that street cleansing and footpath, cycle path and verge maintenance should be improved (9 comments).

- In terms of transport schemes, active travel initiatives (22 comments), 20mph zones (14 comments), ZEZs (4 comments) and workplace parking levy (6 comments) all came under criticism, with most people who commented considering these to be ‘a waste of money’ and ‘politically driven’ projects. One stakeholder, (CoHSAT - Coalition for Healthy Streets and Active Travel), wrote to the council in support of a range of active travel schemes.
- Support for funding for proposed rail projects (Witney & Grove specifically) featured in four per cent of all responses (4 comments) and we also received two letters of support (of very similar content); one from Railfuture and the other from a member of the public.
- 16 per cent of responses (16 comments) focussed on council tax. Specifically, respondents shared that they would be willing to support an increase in council tax to pay for services (8 comments) and/or that they feel there is a need to reform council tax bands (3 comments).

### **Qualitative discussions with different audiences**

- Our discussions with adults at the Oxfordshire Conversations and at the targeted focus groups; and with young people, focussed on some similar questions:
  - What services matter to you most? (all)
  - Which services do you think we should protect? (conversations and focus groups only)
  - Which services do you think we could reduce? (conversations and focus groups only)
- The discussions at the Oxfordshire Conversations were spontaneous for all, while the focus groups and sounding boards used prompt cards for people to use in their deliberations about which services matter most.

### **Which services are the most important/matter most?**

<b>Oxfordshire Conversations (spontaneous, no limit)</b>	<b>Adult focus groups (card prompts from a list of 20 services, limit of four choices)</b>	<b>Young people's sounding boards (card prompts from a list of 20 services, limit of four choices)</b>
Social care	Children's social care (voted for by seven of the 11 sub-groups)	Secondary education (voted for by 10 tables)
Public health, NHS health checks	Support/care for vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities, and/or mental health problems, general frailty (voted for by seven of the 11 sub-groups)	Fire and rescue service – emergency response (voted for by 9 tables)

Highways maintenance	Fire and rescue service - emergency response (999) (voted for by seven of the 11 sub-groups)	Public health (voted for by 8 tables)
Traffic management	Support/care for older people (voted for by five of the 11 sub-groups)	Children's social care Primary education Support/care for vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities, and/or mental health problems, general frailty (voted for by 7 tables)
Fix my street		

### Which services do you think we could protect?

- **Oxfordshire conversations:** participants didn't focus on individual services, rather that the vulnerable in society should be protected, carers are important and that early intervention is important to prevent problems downstream.
- **Adult focus groups:** a wide range of services were listed, but education and support for older people were recurrent themes, spontaneously mentioned by 3 of the 5 groups.

### Which services do you think we could reduce?

- **Oxfordshire Conversations:** It was deemed very difficult to identify services to cut or stop. Participants gave examples of how to reduce costs for example, through the use of digital technology, minimising out of county children's placements, turning off streetlights, reducing reliance on agency staff and consultants.
- **Adult focus groups:** a range of services were suggested, but there was no commonality across the groups. There was discussion about reducing costs by making efficiencies, looking inward and doing things differently. Practical suggestions included turning off streetlights and considering innovations by using digital technology.

### Should we increase council tax?

- **Oxfordshire conversations:** more receptive to council tax increases as a way to generate income to prevent cuts, but felt the they council more generally needed more freedom to raise income in different ways such as through fees and charges.
- **Adult focus groups:** Overwhelmingly it was felt that council tax should not increase. However, some felt, that if people could afford it, they should pay. It was

also suggested in two groups that council tax bands need to be reconsidered as they are out of date and unfair.

### **How else can we make savings?**

- Young people at the sounding boards, also provided feedback on different approaches to making savings and generating income (adapted from the residents' survey). They were most receptive to the council acting on the following ideas as ways to make savings and generate income:
  - 'reducing costs by using digital technology to deliver services more efficiently' (chosen by 74 young people)
  - Negotiating with organisations who provide services to make sure we get the best value from the contracts we have (chosen by 64 young people)
- They were not in favour of:
  - Spending less on staff such as: redesigning services so we need fewer people to deliver them, not filling jobs when people leave, and using fewer agency staff to fill gaps (68 young people disagreed)
  - Increasing how much households have to pay in council tax (71 young people disagreed)
  - Using council savings (our financial reserves) ... but once our savings have gone, they've gone forever (78 young people disagreed)

### **Which of the council's strategic priorities are most important?**

- Creating opportunities for children and young people to reach their full potential, and prioritising the health and wellbeing of residents were chosen by young people at the sounding boards as their top two council strategic priorities.

### **Next steps**

- 1.12 Feedback from our 2024/2025 budget consultation and engagement programme will be reported to cabinet on 30 January 2024 and to Council on 20 February 2024. The budget, including the council tax level, will be decided at a meeting with all county councillors on 20 February 2024.

## 2. Introduction

- 2.1 Budget consultation and engagement is an important part of the democratic process. This year, our activities included two phases:
- Phase 1: Representative residents' survey
  - Phase 2: Budget consultation and engagement using an online budget simulator, online feedback form and ten outreach and engagement events.
- 2.2 Oxfordshire County Council provides 80 per cent of local government services in Oxfordshire by expenditure. With new predicted pressures of £36 million in 2024/2025, we face significant financial challenges.
- 2.3 Following the government's confirmation of its financial settlement for local government on 18 December 2023, the council identified a £11.2 million funding gap for 2024/2025. This has grown from £9.1m as set previously in November 2023, due to fewer grant funds being available. As of late November, we had already identified £9.8 million of savings and this figure, alongside the £9.1m funding gap provided the context for our phase 2 budget consultation and engagement. The figures included in the simulator are those as known when the consultation launched and before the local government settlement. This includes the initial £9.1m funding gap not £11.2m.
- 2.4 This year, we undertook a two-phase approach to consultation and engagement to inform 2024/2025 budget and business planning:
- phase 1: representative residents' survey
  - phase 2: budget consultation and engagement using an online budget simulator, online feedback form and ten outreach and engagement events
- 2.5 The aims of our activities were to:
- Involve, inform and engage residents, businesses, staff and partners about the financial pressures facing the council and underline our ongoing commitment to delivering against our strategic priorities.
  - Enable the council to develop a clear understanding of what is important to local people, their priorities and the challenges facing their communities and to feed that insight into budget and business planning.
  - Increase understanding of how the council works, the range of services it delivers and what council tax is spent on.
- 2.6 Our phase 1 engagement comprised a representative residents' survey conducted between 23 May and 18 July 2023. It was a postal survey with an option to complete online, which was sent to a representative selection of households across county. The postal survey was supplemented by 166 on-street interviews targeting younger adults aged 18 - 44 years.
- 2.7 Our phase 2 budget consultation and engagement activities, were open to all and specifically targeted Oxfordshire residents including children and young

people and seldom heard adults. It was widely promoted across a range of channels including organic and paid for social media advertising, e-newsletters, internal communications for council staff and councillors and targeted stakeholder communications.

2.8 Activity ran for an eight-week period as follows:

- Online budget simulator tool open for six weeks between Wednesday 29 November 2023 and Wednesday 10 January 2024.
- Online feedback form for comments on draft budget proposals open for six weeks between feedback Wednesday 29 November 2023 and Wednesday 10 January 2024.
- Two in-person sounding board events with children and young people on Friday 17 November and Friday 24 November 2023.
- Three online Oxfordshire conversations on Monday 4 December, Wednesday 6 December and Monday 11 December 2023.
- Five in-person targeted events (and one follow-up session) with seldom heard adults between Tuesday 12 December 2023 and Wednesday 10 January 2024.

2.9 In all, 1,144 Oxfordshire residents aged 18+ responded to our representative residents' survey and over 1,500 individuals, groups and organisations participated in our phase 2 budget consultation and engagement in some form and specifically:

- 1,364 people submitted a budget using the simulator tool. They also provided 1,674 comments across all sections of the simulator
- 140 online feedback forms were submitted, in addition to 3 emails
- 88 secondary school aged children took part across our two in-person sounding board events
- 32 people took part across our three online Oxfordshire conversations
- 38 people participated across our five in-person targeted events (and one follow-up session) with seldom heard adults.

### **This report**

2.10 This report brings together the key findings from our phase 1 and phase 2 budget consultation and engagement activities. Separate reports on the 2023 residents' survey, 2023 let's talk budget Oxfordshire conversations and 2023 let's talk budget sounding boards are also published on [Let's talk Oxfordshire](#).

2.11 The executive summary from this document will be reported to cabinet on 30 January 2024 and to Council on 20 February 2024. The budget, including the council tax level, will be decided at a meeting with all county councillors on 20 February 2024.



### 3. Phase 1: representative residents survey

#### Introduction and methodology

- 3.1 Oxfordshire County Council's representative residents' satisfaction survey took place between 23 May and 18 July 2023. Its aim is to gauge residents' satisfaction with the council, its services and their local area, and collect opinions on council priorities and budget decisions
- 3.2 It was a postal survey with an option to complete online, which was sent to representative selection of households across county. The postal survey was also supplemented by on-street interviews targeting younger adults.
- 3.3 In total 1,144 residents aged 18+ took part, delivering statistically representative results to +/- 3 per cent at the 95 per cent level of confidence at a county level. All the survey data has been 'weighted' by local authority area, age and gender in order to be reflective of Oxfordshire's population aged 18+ from the 2021 census profile.

#### Key findings

##### Personal financial circumstances

- 3.4 Overall, 32 per cent of respondents felt their personal financial situation was 'about the same' compared to a year ago, 4 per cent 'felt better off' and 62 per cent 'felt worse off'. In terms of being able to manage their household bills, 26 per cent of respondents said they had 'sometimes struggled' to pay at least one of their household bills over the last 12 months, 11 per cent said they struggled 'most of the time' and 4 per cent said they struggled 'all of the time'.

##### Most important issues facing residents, their local area as a place and the people who live in it

- 3.5 When respondents were asked to state in their own words what they felt the most important issues were facing them, their local area as a place and the people who live in it, by far the most recurrent theme was the state of the county's roads: 'road surfaces in poor repair/dangerous', 'too many potholes', 'poor quality of repairs' mentioned spontaneously by 31 per cent of respondents.

##### Council services

- 3.6 Across 20 different council services, the degree of residents' satisfaction varied widely, as did the proportion of respondents able to rate each service at all given the lack of experience of using or receiving each service. Taking out the "Don't know" responses to give the clearest view of the results for each service, ratings varied from 72% satisfied and net satisfaction of +66% for **libraries**, to only 13% satisfied and -63% net satisfaction for **maintenance of roads** (the latter was also the lowest-rated service in 2022, but with slightly less poor ratings then). The tables below summarise the key figures for each

service:

- 3.7 Only two of the services showed significantly increased net satisfaction compared with 2022; **libraries** (+9% compared with 2022), and the **museums and history service** (+7%). Almost all of the others had shown a significant decline in net satisfaction.

2023 Satisfaction Ratings of Services (base totals shown after each service)	% dissatisfied	% satisfied	Net % Score
Libraries (750)	6%	72%	+65.8%
Museums and history service (632)	4%	68%	+63.7%
Fire and rescue service - emergency response (651)	9%	60%	+50.7%
Household waste and recycling centres (tips) (1,039)	18%	66%	+48.1%
Fire and rescue service - public safety and road safety advice and support (653)	12%	52%	+40.6%
Registration of births and deaths, and ceremonies including marriages and citizenship (442)	11%	46%	+34.8%
Primary education (5 -11 years) (403)	18%	51%	+32.7%
Countryside services (e.g., rights of way) (865)	21%	50%	+28.5%
Secondary education (over 11 years) (396)	21%	43%	+21.5%
Early years education (birth to 4 years) (344)	21%	42%	+20.3%
Public health (helping people to stay healthy and protecting them from health risk) (713)	26%	34%	+7.8%
Trading standards (491)	21%	28%	+6.7%
Children's social care (protecting and supporting vulnerable children and families) (366)	27%	29%	+1.5%
Support/care for older people (aged over 65) (535)	34%	30%	-4.1%
Support/care for vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities, and/or mental health problems, general frailty (512)	38%	27%	-10.8%
Parking (enforcement, controlled parking zones, on-street parking) (944)	46%	25%	-20.9%
Managing the road network (e.g., traffic lights, speed limits, traffic and transport) (1,059)	57%	28%	-28.5%
Road and transport schemes (e.g., new or improved junctions, bus lanes, cycle lanes etc.) (1,009)	54%	24%	-29.9%
Maintenance of pavements (1,085)	64%	18%	-45.7%
Maintenance of roads (1,091)	75%	13%	-62.5%

- 3.8 The services felt to be most important for local people in the area were **maintenance of roads** (67%), **fire and rescue service – emergency response** (40%), and **household waste and recycling** (34%). These are the same top three as in the 2022 survey, with maintenance of roads the only one of the three to be selected by significantly more respondents than had done so in 2022.

### **Approaches to budget management**

- 3.10 Focusing specifically on the county council's budget, respondents were most receptive to the council acting on the following ideas as ways to make savings and generate income: 'generating additional income by maximising the use of buildings and land the council owns (our assets)' (net agreement +83 per cent), 'reducing costs by using digital technology to deliver services more efficiently' (net agreement +65 per cent), 'reducing the costs of the contracts we use to provide services (net agreement +55 per cent) and reducing staffing costs by redesigning 'using fewer agency staff and/or holding vacancies' (net agreement +47 per cent).
- 3.11 By far the least popular of the nine ideas for how the council could make savings and generate income presented were: 'generate additional income by increasing council tax' and 'reduce spending on frontline services' (net agreement of –40 per cent and –56 per cent respectively).

### **Council tax**

- 3.12 With regards to council tax levels, 34 per cent of respondents agreed the council should consider a 4.99 per cent increase and 39 per cent disagreed. A majority of respondents disagreed that the council should consider a 5.99 per cent increase and 6.99 per cent increase (52 per cent and 60 per cent respectively). Overall, 20 per cent of respondents were willing to agree that the council should consider a 5.99 per cent increase and 16 per cent a 6.99 per increase – both slightly higher proportions than in 2022 (17 per cent and 12 per cent respectively).

## 4. Budget simulator

### Introduction and methodology

- 4.1 Between Wednesday 29 November 2023 and Wednesday 10 January 2024 we ran an interactive tool, encouraging residents and stakeholders to take on the role of councillors and create a balanced budget for 2024/25.
- 4.2 The budget simulator was specifically designed to give residents and stakeholders the opportunity to:
- learn more about the services we provide and the financial challenges we face
  - have their say on where we should focus savings and spending, by adjusting core service budgets and council tax income, weighing up choices and making trade-offs
- 4.3 Using the simulator, residents and stakeholders were prompted to think about:
- What services matter to you most?
  - Which services do you think we should protect?
  - Which services do you think we could reduce?
  - Would you raise council tax?
- 4.4 The budget simulator was promoted as our primary phase 2 consultation tool. It was advertised to a wide range of audiences using a range of channels, this included organic and paid for social media advertising (attracting many comments that were largely negative in their sentiment), eNewsletters, internal communications for council staff and councillors and targeted stakeholder communications. It was also cross promoted to people who engaged with our Oxfordshire conversations, sounding boards and targeted focus group events.
- 4.5 Figures show that the Let's talk Oxfordshire page created to promote the budget simulator and the online form had over 7,100 unique page views. Around a fifth (19 per cent) of those viewing the page went on to submit a budget, this does not include those people who chose to take a look at the simulator but did not progress to submit a budget. The simple, gamification approach certainly engaged a wide range residents and for some it helped them to understand more about the council *"A useful and simple insight into your income and your burdens. May help public understand more and be more engaged with the council. Thank you"* and *"I have newfound appreciation for the work the council does, the scope of its duties and the decisions it makes."*

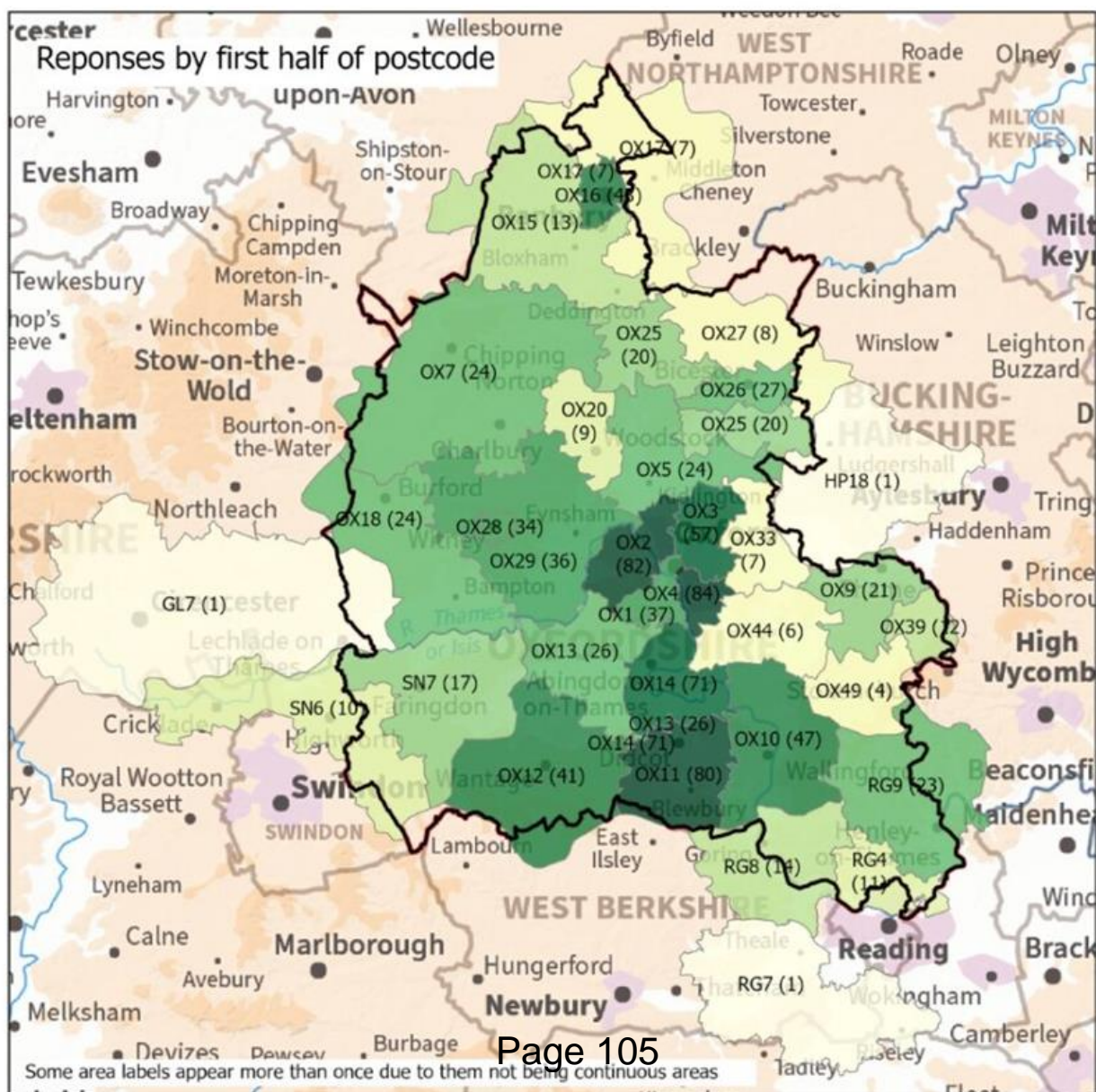
### Respondent profile

- 4.6 In all 1,364 people submitted a budget using the simulator. Whilst a sizeable proportion of people chose not to provide their demographic details, for those we do have information for, overall:
- More people who identified as men (62%) responded than women (38%), Oxfordshire's population is more evenly balanced.

- There was a good spread of ages, with the exception of young people and young adults aged (aged 16-24 years). This is more balanced against the county's population than for previous budget years' budget consultations.
- Budget simulator respondents were more likely to identify their ethnic group as 'white' (93%), a slight overrepresentation compared to Oxfordshire's population.
- One in five respondents (20%) stated that they had long-term illness or disability, which impacted them either a little or a lot, again a slight overrepresentation (14%) compared to Oxfordshire's population.
- 51 people (4%) said they worked for Oxfordshire County Council.
- People from across Oxfordshire responded to the simulator, with significant spikes in response in OX2 (82) and OX4 (84) in Oxford city, OX11 (80) in Didcot and surrounding areas.

4.7 The map below shows the distribution of responses geographically and the following table, the respondent profile, against Oxfordshire's population.

**Map 1: Geographical distribution of responses**



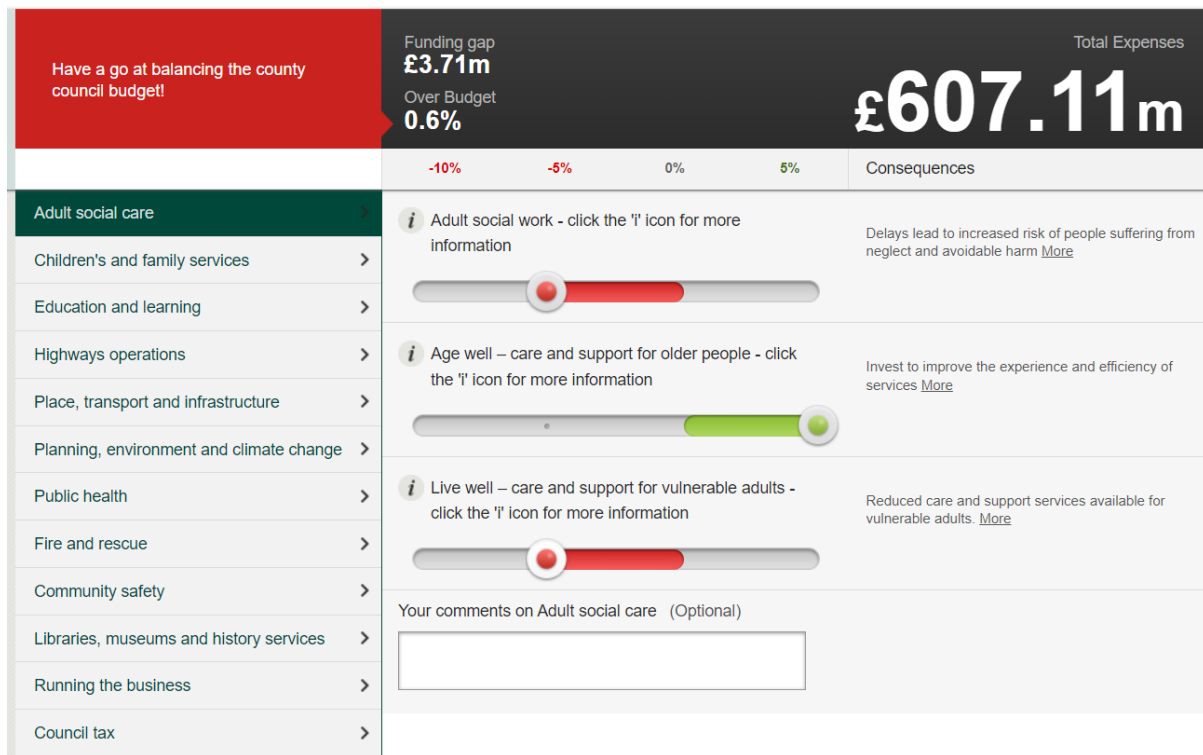
**Table 1: Respondent profile**

	Number of budget simulator respondents	% of response budget simulator respondents	Actual % in Oxfordshire's population
<b>Age band</b>			
Under 16	1	0%	18%
16 - 24	46	4%	12%
25 - 34	154	14%	14%
35 - 44	215	20%	13%
45 - 54	205	19%	13%
55 - 64	205	19%	12%
65 - 74	178	16%	9%
75 - 84	88	8%	6%
85 or over	10	1%	3%
Prefer not to say	40		
Not answered	222		
<b>Sex</b>			
Female	390	38%	51%
Male	634	62%	49%
I use another term	8		
Prefer not to say	102		
Not answered	230		
<b>Ethnic group</b>			
Asian or Asian British	18	2%	5%
Black or Black British	8	1%	2%
Chinese	4	0%	1%
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	27	3%	3%
White	912	93%	87%
Other ethnic group or background	15	2%	2%
Prefer not to say	122		
<b>Long term illness or disability</b>			
Yes - a lot	52	5%	5%
Yes - a little	157	15%	9%
No	835	80%	85%
Prefer not to say	75		
Not answered	245		

## Key findings

- 4.8 The budget simulator organised core council services under 12 service groups and gave people 20 service items (sliders), on which to make choices and a further slider to consider an increase in council tax for 2024/2025.
- 4.9 Each of the service items sliders provided information and aimed to give people a broad understanding of what each service area does and the 'consequences' of reducing, maintaining or increasing spending. The sliders were not, however, designed to set out actual savings proposals or pressures.
- 4.10 The financial figures used in the simulator were based on the forecast budget for 2024/2025 at the time of its launch, taking account of pressures and proposed savings and were indicative figures only.
- 4.11 For each of the 20 service items (sliders) in the simulator, with the exception of community safety, four standard choices were given:
- increase the allocated service item budget by 5%
  - maintain the allocated service item budget (0%)
  - decrease the allocated service item budget by 5%
  - decrease the allocated service item budget by 10%
- 4.12 For community safety, the budget could only be decreased by a maximum of 5% because this was tipping point where the council would fail to meet its statutory and legal duties across trading standards, emergency planning and gypsy and traveller services.
- 4.13 It should be noted however, that moving the sliders had different consequences for each service item. For example, for most service areas, moving the slider positively would mean an increase in budget to improve or actively develop a service. However, for highways maintenance and home to school transport this would only maintain services at their current level. Specifically for home to school transport, the simulator stated that even with an increase in funding there would be remaining pressures.
- 4.14 The image below shows the budget simulator as it was presented on a laptop/desktop computer. The top right of the page shows the council's total budget, the top left shows the funding gap to be closed and below this the current status of your choices, ie if you are over or under budget to the nearest million or if you have exactly balanced the budget.

## Image of budget simulator





## Key findings

4.15 The following tables summarise how people made choices when submitting their own budget and the consequences of this in terms of overall percentage budget changes.

**Table 1: slider choices**

		Slider options			
Service group	Service item	10%	-5%	0%	5%
Highways operations	Highways maintenance	38	154	669	503
Education and learning	Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)	36	103	883	342
Education and learning	Education	25	105	925	309
Children's and family services	Children's social care	29	113	1012	210
Community safety	Community safety	n/a	206	997	161
Fire and rescue	Fire and rescue	20	149	1071	124
Public health	Public health	81	209	804	270
Planning, environment and climate change	Waste disposal	44	179	977	164
Children's and family services	Family help	47	233	870	214
Adult social care	Age well	69	226	890	179
Adult social care	Adult social work	78	283	840	163
Adult social care	Live well	65	299	867	133
Education and learning	Home to school transport	85	264	910	105
Place, transport and infrastructure	Place, transport and infrastructure	139	341	625	259
Libraries, museums and history services	Libraries	135	260	808	161
Planning, environment and climate change	Environment and climate action	259	267	596	242
Libraries, museums and history services	Museums and history services	165	350	723	126
Planning, environment and climate change	Strategic planning	188	407	664	105
Highways operations	Street lighting	190	417	640	117
Running the business	Running the business	261	488	578	37

**Table 2: slider movements**

Service group	Service	% of people who move the slider to decrease budget (-5% or -10%)	% of people who made no change (selected 0%)	% of people who moved the slider to increase budget (+5%)
Highways operations	Highways maintenance	14	49	37
Education and learning	Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)	10	65	25
Education and learning	Education	10	68	23
Children's and family services	Children's social care	10	74	15
Community safety	Community safety	15	73	12
Fire and rescue	Fire and rescue	12	79	9
Public health	Public health	21	59	20
Planning, environment and climate change	Waste disposal	16	72	12
Children's and family services	Family help	21	64	16
Adult social care	Age well	22	65	13
Adult social care	Adult social work	26	62	12
Adult social care	Live well	27	64	10
Education and learning	Home to school transport	26	67	8
Place, transport and infrastructure	Place, transport and infrastructure	35	46	19
Libraries, museums and history services	Libraries	29	59	12
Planning, environment and climate change	Environment and climate action	39	44	18
Libraries, museums and history services	Museums and history services	38	53	9
Planning, environment and climate change	Strategic planning	44	49	8
Highways operations	Street lighting	45	47	9
Running the business	Running the business	55	42	3

4.16 When considering and weighing-up choices, the service area items which respondents most frequently selected for an increase in budget were:

- Highways maintenance (37%) \* (to maintain service not to improve it)
- SEND (25%)
- Education (23%)
- Public health (20%)
- Place, transport and infrastructure (19%)
- Environment and climate action (18%)
- Children's services, family help (16%)
- Children's social care (15%)

These were all selected by 15 per cent or more of respondents.

4.17 Conversely, the service items which respondents most frequently selected for a decrease in budget (selected by at least 30 per cent of respondents) were:

- Running the business (55%)
- Street lighting (45%)
- Strategic planning (44%)
- Environment and climate action (39%)
- Museums and history services (38%)
- Place, transport and infrastructure (35%)

4.18 As per the views expressed by county residents in our representative residents' survey, the budget simulator responses indicate that there are divergent views across Oxfordshire's communities on environment and climate action and place, transport and infrastructure, with these two service items appearing in the list of those most frequently selected for an increase in funding and in the list for those most frequently selected for a decrease funding.

4.19 Some service items presented in the budget simulator, did not see any significant movement positively or negatively, with people choosing to maintain the current level of budget. Those service items most likely to be selected to remain at 0 were:

- Fire and rescue (79%)
- Children's social care (74%)
- Waste disposal (72%)
- Community safety (73%)

For all these service areas, this equated to maintaining the service at their current level.

4.20 Focussing now on the impact of slider choices, table 3 shows the impact of people's choices on service item budgets, by presenting the average budget percentage change. This ranges from 1% to -3.57%.

**Table 3: average budget percentage change**

Service group	Service item	Average budget change as%
Highways operations	Highways maintenance	1.00%
Education and learning	Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)	0.61%
Education and learning	Education	0.56%
Children's and family services	Children's social care	0.14%
Community safety	Community safety	-0.16%
Fire and rescue	Fire and rescue	-0.24%
Public health	Public health	-0.37%
Planning, environment and climate change	Waste disposal	-0.38%
Children's and family services	Family help	-0.41%
Adult social care	Age well	-0.68%
Adult social care	Adult social work	-1.01%
Adult social care	Live well	-1.09%
Education and learning	Home to school transport	-1.21%
Place, transport and infrastructure	Place, transport and infrastructure	-1.32%
Libraries, museums and history services	Libraries	-1.35%
Planning, environment and climate change	Environment and climate action	-1.99%
Libraries, museums and history services	Museums and history services	-2.03%
Planning, environment and climate change	Strategic planning	-2.49%
Highways operations	Street lighting	-2.49%
Running the business	Running the business	-3.57%

4.21 Four service items, (highlighted in red) have a positive average budget percentage change:

- Highways maintenance (1.00%)
- Special education needs and disabilities (0.61%)
- Education (0.56%)
- Children's social care (0.14%)

4.22 These were followed by a further six services items (highlighted in orange), with an average percentage change in budget of less than one per cent:

- Community safety (-0.16%)
- Fire and rescue (0.24%)
- Public health (-0.37%)
- Waste disposal (-0.38%)
- Children's and family services, family help (-0.41%)
- Adult social care - age well, care and support for older people (-0.68%)

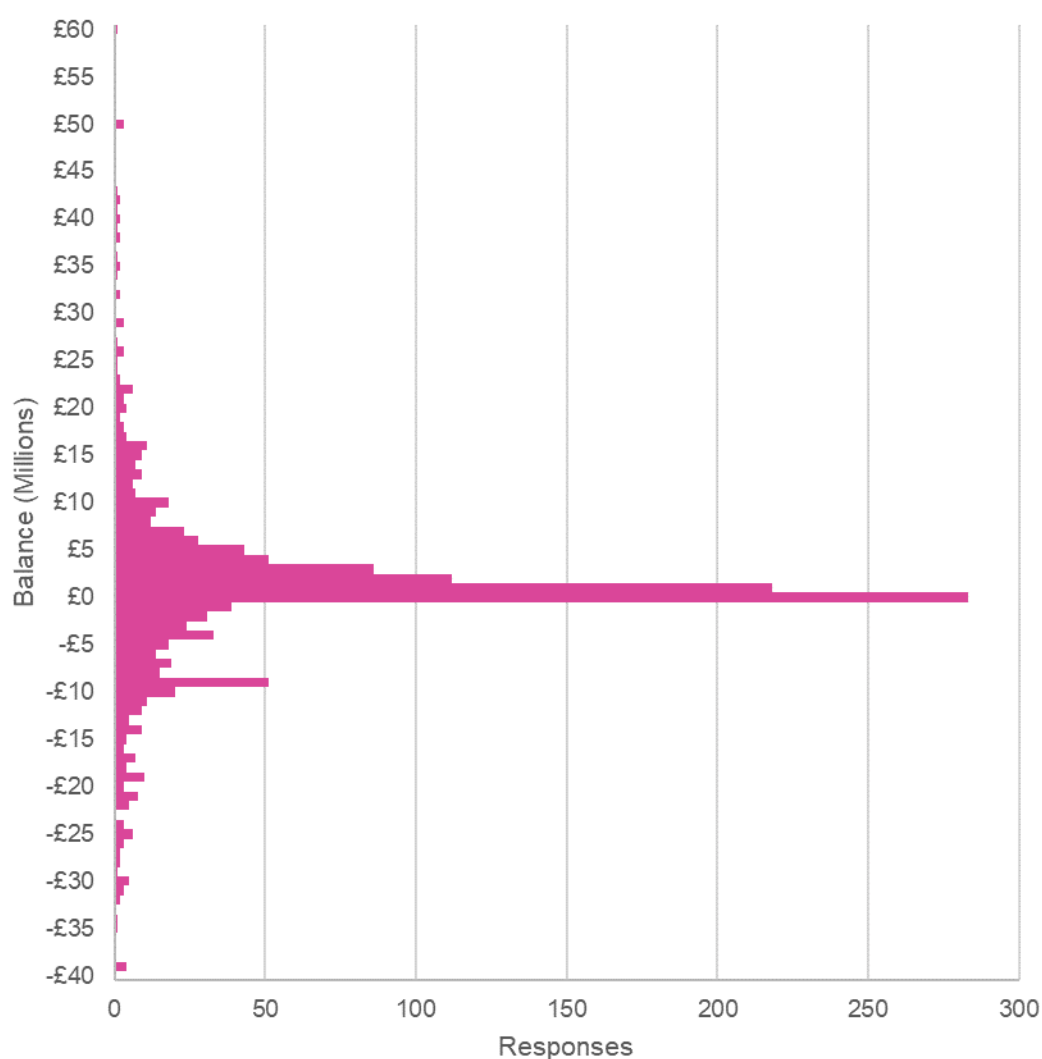
- 4.23 The five service items, which on average, had the greatest negative percentage changes of between -1.99% to -3.57% were:
- Back-office support services (running the business) (-3.57%)
  - Street lighting (-2.49%)
  - Strategic planning (-2.49%)
  - Museums and history services (-2.03%)
  - Environment and climate action (-1.99%)
- 4.24 These were followed by a further five services items (highlighted in yellow), which had an average negative percentage changes of between -1.01% and -1.35%:
- Libraries (-1.35%)
  - Place, transport and infrastructure (-1.32%)
  - Home to school transport (-1.21%)
  - Adult social care – live well, care and support for vulnerable adults (-1.09%)
  - Adult social work (-1.01%)

### **Closing the funding gap**

- 4.25 Our starting budget was £612.5 million with a funding gap of £9.1 million. The simulator was not designed to especially close the funding gap exactly, rather to explore how people make choices when faced with difficult decisions (as the councillors need to). However, that said:
- 9 people (0.7%) managed to close the £9.1million funding gap exactly
  - a further 928 people (68%) made budget reductions over and above the £9.1 million funding gap. This included people choosing to increase council tax to create additional expenditure budget.

The chart below shows the distribution in 'balance' of the budgets submitted, where £0 is an exact balance.

## Budget Balance by Responses



4.26 Before submitting their final budget, respondents were asked if they had any further comments to share with the council. 140 people gave written feedback, which included 202 different comments. Comments, were wide and diverging, however two equally significant areas of comment were:

- Review services for efficiencies / identify waste spending (19 mentions)
- An increase in council tax is acceptable (19 mentions)

4.27 Other notable themes were:

- Negative feedback about the budget simulator (12 mentions)
- Positive feedback about the budget simulator (11 mentions)
- Reduce spending and reduce services (10 mentions)
- Council tax - need for increased funding from national government (10 mentions)
- Climate action viewed as unimportant or unnecessary (9 mentions)
- General comments about the need to reduce spending (9 mentions)
- Various mixed comments about the budget simulator (8 mentions)

- 4.28 The next section of the report sets out how budget simulator respondents chose to adjust each of the service item budgets, within service groups. The section is ordered, as per the simulator.
- Adult social care
  - Children's and family services
  - Education and learning
  - Highways operations
  - Place, transport and infrastructure
  - Planning, environment and climate change
  - Public health
  - Fire and rescue
  - Community safety
  - Libraries, museums and history services
  - Running the business
- 4.29 It also includes an analysis of all the accompanying qualitative comments by service group, which bring to life how people made their decisions for the service item budgets when asked to weigh-up choices and make trade-offs. A coding framework was created to analyse this rich written feedback and all comments across the entire simulator were read and coded against this.

## **Adult social care**

### Budget simulator descriptions

- 4.30 The law says we must work with people and organisations to protect vulnerable adults in Oxfordshire and their right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. Safeguarding is everyone's business, and we have statutory and legal responsibilities in this area under the Health and Social Care Act 2018.

We:

- assess the needs of vulnerable adults and develop care plans, setting out the services that people require to support their needs
- monitor and review care packages to make sure they are fit for purpose and meet people's needs
- assess vulnerable adults' needs and either directly provide or commission services (through our age well or live well work areas) if their needs meet a national set of eligibility criteria

We provide a wide range of activities to help older people in Oxfordshire to live independently and stay well and safe by:

- providing information and advice, including support to unpaid carers

- planning, commissioning, managing, and delivering short-term and long-term care and support services with people and their families
- enabling the development of specialist housing schemes

We provide a wide range of activities to help adults aged 18+ in Oxfordshire with a disability or physical or mental illness to stay well and safe.

We:

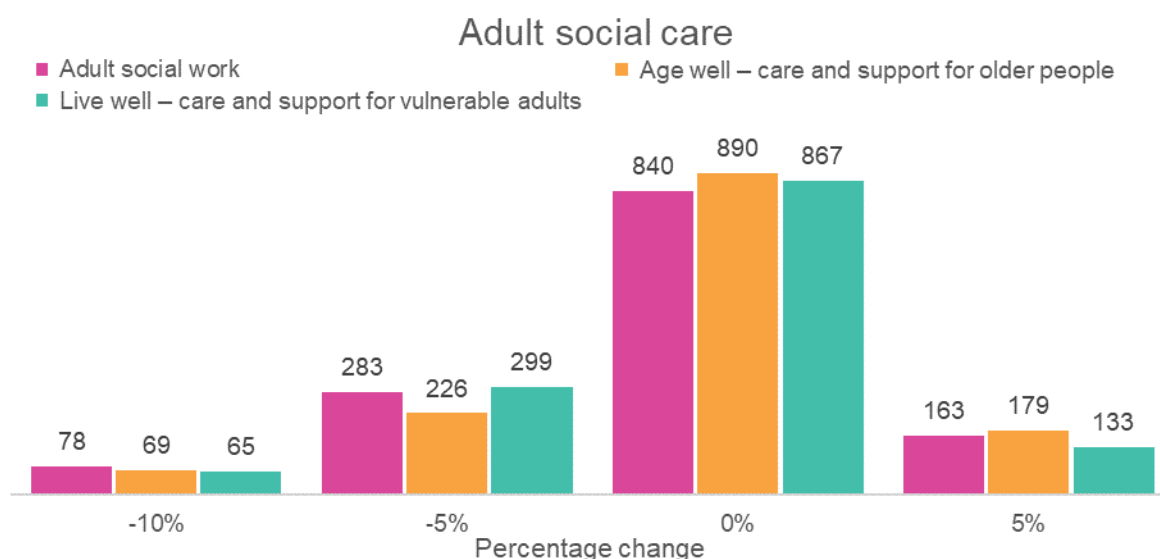
- provide information and advice, including to unpaid carers
- assess people's needs
- plan, commission, manage and deliver short-term and long-term care and support services with people and their families
- enable the development of specialist housing schemes.

The adult social care service group, contained three sliders: adult social work, age well - care and support for older people and live well - care and support for vulnerable adults.

- Around a third of respondents (range 35% to 38%) chose to move one or more sliders in the adult social care group to either increase or decrease funding in this area.
- Around one in ten respondents chose to increase the budget (range 10% to 13%) to improve/develop services.
- 22% to 27% chose to decrease funding across all service areas
- In terms of the average percentage budget change, these were in mid-range of all services presented on the simulator: adult social care - age well (-0.68), adult social work (-1.01%) and adult social care - live well (-1.09%).
- The chart below shows how people responded for all three service items (sliders) presented in the simulator.



## Budget simulator choices for adult social care grouping



### Written feedback

- 4.31 In all, 139 people gave written feedback to support their choices on the ‘adult social care’ section of the simulator, which included 149 different comments. More detailed analysis has been undertaken for themes (codes) which received 10 per cent or more comments in section and these are as follows:
- Reduce spending (36 mentions)
  - Do not reduce spending (35 mentions)
  - Importance of service (18 mentions)
  - Increase income (16 mentions)
  - Council should not provide this service (14 mentions)
- 4.32 As per the actual choices made in the simulator, comments were closely split on whether or not spending in this area should be reduced. However, where people chose to reduce spending in this they wanted to see this through **delivering efficiencies** rather than a reduction of services.
- “Work better; work smarter. Waste less. Less agency and other third-party work. Save on external consultancy.”
- 4.33 Where respondents did not want spending to be reduced, the majority felt that the **investment in the service should be increased**, with many comments highlighting that **services are stretched and in need of improvement**. A recurring suggestion for raising income to fund this was increasing fees and charges for the services.
- 4.34 Many comments emphasised the importance of this service, especially with an **ageing population** and to **reduce pressure on the NHS**. Where

comments felt that the service is not a priority, two of these said that services for children needed to take priority over those for older adults.

“Adult Social Care is severely underfunded and not fit for purpose. This adds huge pressure to the NHS. Older people suffer with the lack of funding.”

- 4.35 Just over ten per cent of comments stated that the council should not be responsible for funding care, with these people emphasising the role of **personal responsibility** and that care should either be paid for by the individual or provided by family members.

“Individuals and families should both plan and budget better for their old age and also for any issues (such as family problems, disability etc) that come along in life. Less reliance on the state should be the main mantra.”

- 4.36 Other themes for written feedback regarding adult social care related to:
- service quality (10 mentions)
  - misunderstanding of OCC power or responsibilities (3 mentions)

## Children's and family services

Budget simulator descriptions

- 4.37 The law says we must work with people and organisations, to protect the most vulnerable children and young people in Oxfordshire. Safeguarding and protection of children is everyone's business, we have statutory and legal responsibilities in this area and are governed by the Children Act 2018 and 2004 and the Health and Social Care Act 2018. Between January and December 2022, we cared for 864 children. We:

- Intervene and provide support when there are concerns that a child needs help and protection, or is at risk.
- Work collaboratively with families to ensure that they are able to care for their children within an extended network when children are unable to remain at home. We always aim to strengthen families and secure long-lasting relationships. At times our work involves legal proceedings, with an aim to keep families together where it is safe to do so.

We strive to be great corporate parents to our children and always be ambitious for their future. We:

- Care for children through our amazing foster carers and great children's homes, paying careful attention to their physical, emotional mental health needs.
- Help, support and nurture our care leaving young people to make sure they have a successful, safe and ambitious future.
- Provide care, support, education and a positive safe future for our unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and young people.

We assess people's needs and provide joined-up services to support families, children and young people to overcome difficulties at the earliest opportunity and to prevent and reduce future problems and build resilience.

We do this through:

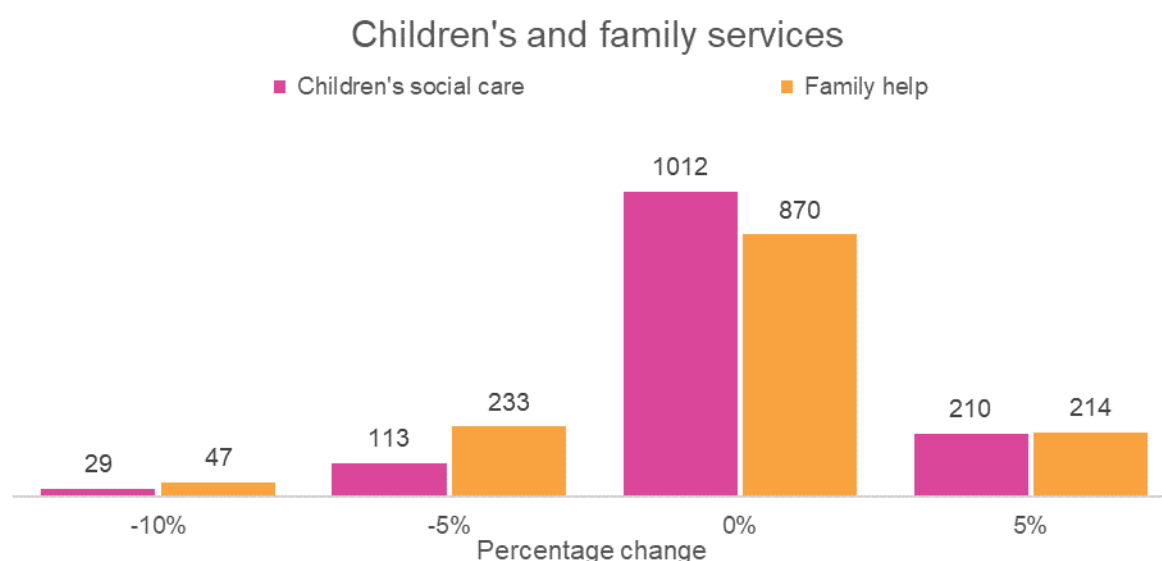
- Children and family hubs
- Education, employment and training service
- Local and community support
- Targeted youth support service

We work with children and families with disabilities through a range of support services.

4.38 The children's and family service group contained two sliders: children's social care and family help.

- Close to one in three respondents (26% for children's social care and 36% for family help) chose to move one or more sliders in the children's and family services group to either increase or decrease funding in this area
- For family help 16% increased the budget, whereas 21% decreased funding, compared to children's social care where 15% increased the budget, whereas as 10% decreased the budget
- the average percentage budget change for children's social care was 0.14% (an increase) and for family help it was -0.41%
- the chart below shows how people responded for both service items (sliders) presented in the simulator.

## Budget simulator choices for children's social care grouping



### Written feedback

4.39 In all, 90 people gave written feedback on the 'children's and family services' section of the simulator, which included 92 different comments. More detailed analysis has been undertaken for themes (codes) which received 10 per cent or more comments in section and these are as follows:

- Do not reduce spending (27 mentions)
- Reduce spending (26 mentions)
- Importance of service (10 mentions)

4.40 The 27 pieces of written feedback for 'do not reduce spending' are split between people wanting to increase the spending/service (15 mentions) and people wanting to protect/maintain what is already there (12 mentions). Some comments called for increasing spend/services due to more families needing support because of the challenging times we are currently in.

"Already been cut to bare bones. Maintain at current levels".

4.41 The 17 mentions for an increase of spending/services focussed on the following themes:

"Reintroduce SureStart"

"Youth support needs addressing. More Youth Clubs should be staffed and supported"

"There needs to be more help for families in these challenging times".

4.42 Reduce spending mentions were split around; inefficiencies and that reducing the use of agency staff and consultants would create a saving; two ideas for reducing services were stop benefits for some families and not support unaccompanied asylum seeking children. There were nine mentions for the need to put in place early intervention in order to prevent more spending in the future. One contributor said:

“Helping children get on the right track early will hopefully help them and reducing costs in the long run”.

- 4.43 There were 10 mentions emphasising how the service is of importance, many illustrating the necessity of supporting children

“Children become adults and without getting it right for them when they are children how do we expect their future to look. Including the pressures, they will place”.

- 4.44 Other themes for written feedback regarding children's and family services related to:

- Increase income (6 mentions)
- Council should not provide this service (8 mentions)
- Service quality (8 mentions)

## **Education and learning**

### **Budget simulator descriptions**

- 4.45 We provide fair access to education and training for Oxfordshire's children, including those permanently excluded from school and those in the criminal justice system. We oversee the school admissions process for primary and secondary schools in Oxfordshire, managing the demand for and parental choice of school places for their children. We also make sure there is enough early education provision for all of Oxfordshire's 3- and 4-year-olds and for all disadvantaged 2-year-olds. We also provide a range of specialist services to support school improvement for local authority, maintained schools.

We work with partners to meet the needs of children and young people aged 0-25 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their families. The law says we must assess children and young people with SEND if their needs meet a national set of eligibility criteria.

We:

- assess needs
- provide, commission and manage appropriate support according to children's individual needs
- provide an impartial information and advice service (SENDIASS)
- support some SEND pupils in schools with educational psychologists, speech and language therapy and occupational therapists
- provide a special educational needs teaching advisory support service.

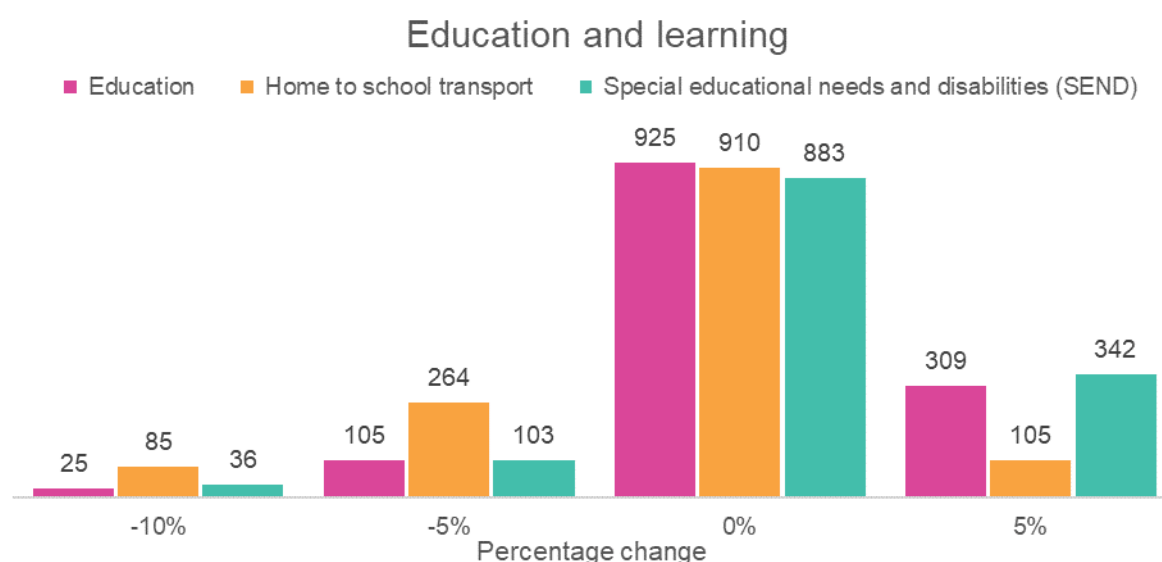
We oversee the provision of home to school transport assistance for eligible children in reception to year 11. Transport provision is usually through a free pass to use on public buses or trains; however sometimes it is through specially contracted bus, coach or minibus services. A small number of children may have to be transported by taxi to meet their individual needs.

We also oversee the paid-for spare seats scheme for contracted home to school transport services.

4.46 The education and learning grouping contained three sliders: education, home to school transport and special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

- Just over one in three respondents (35%) chose to move one or more sliders in the education and learning group to either increase or decrease funding in this area.
- Around one in four (26%) respondents reduced the budget for home to school transport, compared to 10% for education and for SEND.
- Around one in four respondents increased the budgets for SEND (25%) and for education (23%). Eight per cent increased the budget for home to school transport.
- Two of the service options for the education and learning group saw positive average budget percentage changes: SEND (0.61%) and education (0.56%).
- The remaining service option, home to school transport had a negative average budget percentage change of -1.21%, ranked 13 of the 20 service items.
- The chart below shows how people responded for all three service items (sliders) presented in the simulator.

### Budget simulator choices for education and learning grouping



4.47 In all, 123 people gave written feedback on the 'education and learning' section of the simulator, which included 127 different comments. The key themes emerging were:

- Reduce spending (39 mentions)
- Importance of service (21 mentions)
- Do not reduce spending (18 mentions)

- Increase income (14 mentions)

4.48 Written feedback for education and learning was very mixed, with variation mainly based on which slider the comments were referring to. Overall, there was support for maintaining education and SEND services, but a strong desire to reduce home to school transport. Many respondents wanted to see home to school transport services reduced or viewed them as a waste of money, with comments reflecting a strong feeling that providing this (either practically or by paying for the service) should be the **responsibility of parents**.

“Parents should shoulder responsibility of getting their children to school”

“Parents need to be more responsible for their children and not expect to receive everything. As a parent myself, we all need to do our bit.”

Comments also reflected a misunderstanding of what the home to school transport provides, with a belief that the service will take a child to any school in or outside of the county.

4.49 Support for education was high, with comments highlighting the importance of investing in children as future adults and that this would **save money in the long term**.

“I have increased education because if we don't invest in our children, we have no worthwhile future.”

“Vital and by providing more funding for education, particularly around SEND, it will save money in the long run. I would invest even further in these.”

4.50 SEND services were identified as a priority area, with numerous comments emphasising the importance of these services and the need to increase investment to improve poor quality services.

“essential to spend more on SEND. There is nothing more important than children's education”

“Failing SEND services must be fixed to fulfil your legal and statutory obligations”

4.51 Other themes for written feedback regarding education and learning related to:

- Service quality (10)
- Council should not provide this service (8)

## Highways operations

Budget simulator descriptions

4.52 By law we must maintain a safe highways network. We are responsible for maintaining 3,000 miles of roads in Oxfordshire, as well as footways, cycle ways, bridges and trees. We repair defects, carry out resurfacing, implement

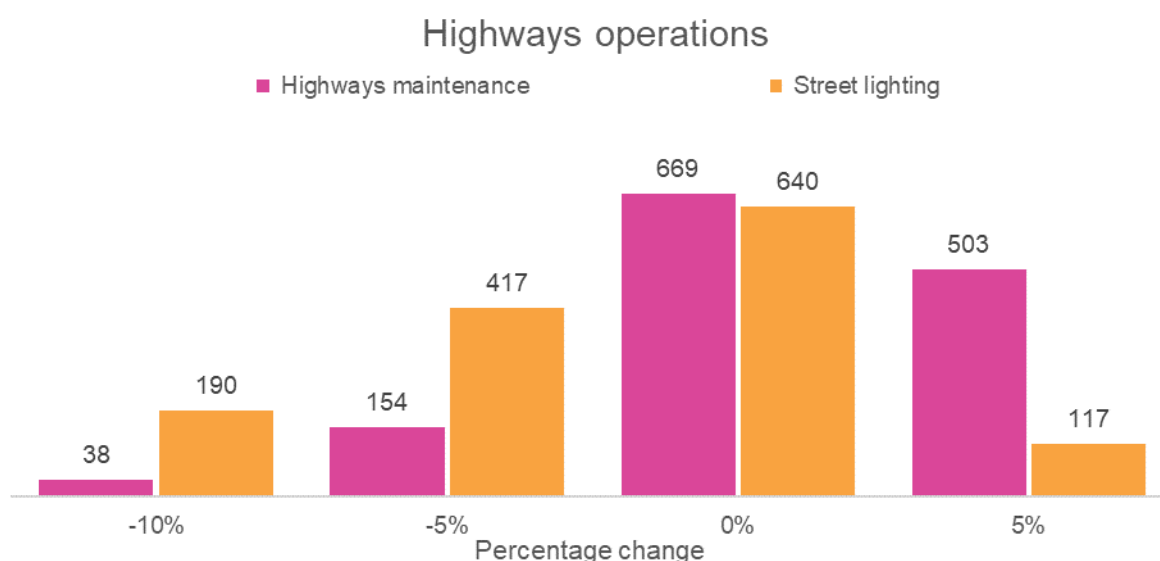
road safety measures, grit roads and clear snow during the winter, clear drains, and cut grass verges.

4.53 We maintain over 60,000 streetlights, illuminated traffic signs and bollards on the public highway, the majority of which are LED lights. Our streetlights are set automatically to turn on from dusk to dawn, however LED lights dim to 50 per cent on residential roads from 10pm to 6am and 75 per cent on traffic routes from midnight - 6am.

4.54 The highways operations grouping contained two sliders: highways maintenance and street lighting.

- Just over half the respondents (51%) chose to move one or more sliders in the highways operations group to either increase or decrease funding in this area.
- Just under half of respondents (45%) reduced funding for street lighting and 14% reduced it for highways maintenance.
- Nearly four in 10 respondents (37%) increased funding for highways maintenance, this was presented as maintaining the service at its current level not improving the services. Nine per cent of respondents chose to increase the funding for street lighting to improve the service.
- Highways maintenance saw the greatest positive average percentage budget change for all service items on the simulator (1%), in the red section of the previous table
- In contrast street lighting was ranked 19 out of 20, with an average change of -2.49%.
- The chart below shows how people responded for both items (sliders) presented in the simulator.

## Budget simulator choices for highways operations





### **Written feedback**

- 4.55 In all, 193 people gave written feedback on the 'highways operations' section of the simulator, which included 226 different comments. Comments in this section focussed on roads and transport (99 mentions) and reducing spending (75 mentions). Feedback was largely negative in tone, especially around perceived poorly maintained highways.

"Oxfordshire roads are a disgrace and with the potholes dangerous"

- 4.56 There were also many negative comments about traffic measures, with low traffic neighbourhoods (LTNs), traffic filters and 20mph speed limits all receiving criticism. Feedback suggests that there is misunderstanding about the costs and funding for these schemes, as shown by suggestions that removing LTNs would "fix" the budget. Comments which proposed a reduction of services were dominated by suggestions of ceasing LTN and 20mph schemes.

"Prioritise road maintenance and stop wasting money on unwanted and failed traffic schemes like ltns and 20 mph everywhere"

- 4.57 Other themes for written feedback regarding highways operations related to:
- Service quality (16 mentions)
  - Do not reduce spending (14 mentions)
  - Increase income (12 mentions)
  - Climate action (4 mentions)
  - Importance of service (2 mentions)

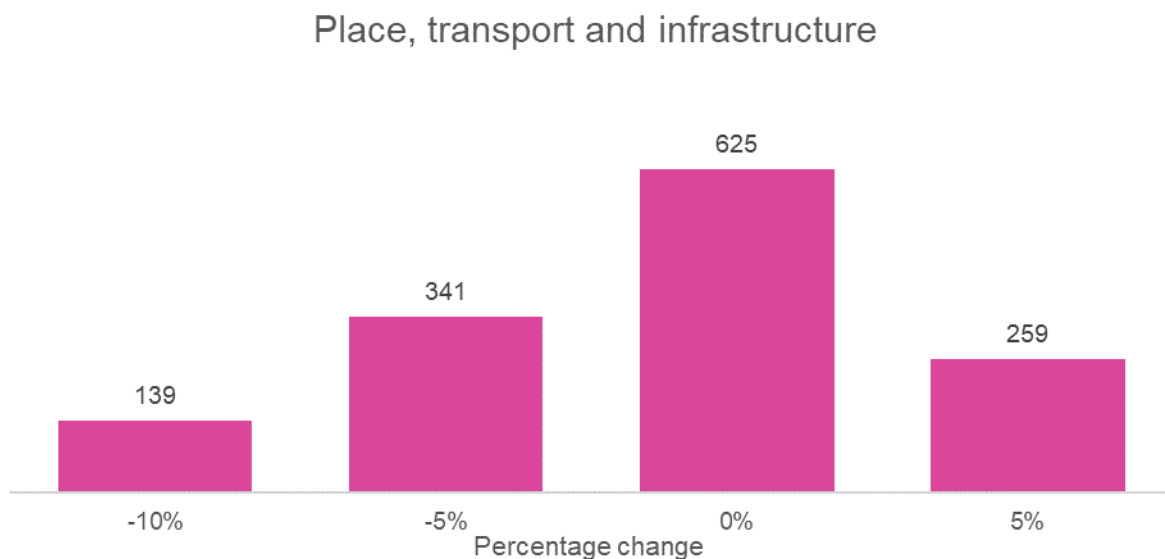
### **Place, transport and infrastructure**

Budget simulator description

- 4.58 By law we are responsible for Oxfordshire's local transport and connectivity plan and related area strategies, which set out the transport priorities for the county. We:
- promote active travel and public transport through a range of partnerships, contracts and direct delivery
  - design and deliver transport infrastructure, utilising capital funding secured from government departments
  - work with others to create sustainable communities, where new jobs are created, health inequalities are reduced and sustainable transport is encouraged
  - administer bus pass schemes for disabled people and their companions and older people
  - oversee new developments being built by developers to make sure they fit with Oxfordshire's strategic vision and priorities
  - develop future transport and infrastructure schemes and source funding for their delivery
- 4.59 The place, transport and infrastructure group had just one slider.

- Just over half of the respondents (54%) chose to move the slider to either increase or decrease funding in this area.
- Around one in three (35%) respondents reduced the budget for place, transport and infrastructure and around one in five (19%) increased it.
- This service options saw a negative average budget percentage change of -1.32%, ranked 14 of the 20 service items.
- The chart below shows how people responded for place, transport and infrastructure as presented in the simulator.

### Budget simulator choices for place, transport and infrastructure



### Written feedback

- 4.60 In all, 148 people gave written feedback on the 'place, transport and infrastructure' section of the simulator, which included 177 different comments. The key themes were 'roads and transport' (91 mentions) and reduce spending (29 mentions).
- 4.61 More than half of comments about roads and transport focussed on public transport. These comments were mixed, however, and spoke both about the need to improve public transport networks (especially in rural areas) and a desire to see new bus lane and bus gate schemes cancelled. The secondary focus for these comments was low traffic neighbourhoods (LTNs), with 28 negative comments about them, with them being characterised as ineffective and unwanted.  
 "Maintain rural bus services"  
 "The money for the above is just wasted on LTN's, 20mph zones, bus lanes and other bad initiatives."
- 4.62 Within the reducing spending theme there are two key areas of comment: reducing services making savings through efficiencies and reduction of waste spending. Those people who spoke in favour of reducing services were

aligned with the comments on roads and transport, focused on halting LTNs, bus lane and 20mph speed limit schemes.

“Our Council is wasting money on unwanted schemes for Oxford which are deeply divisive in the community and unlikely to succeed. All work on bus gates etc should be stopped and the money redeployed more productively elsewhere.”

4.63 Here is a high-level thematic summary of the other comments made for ‘place, transport and infrastructure’:

- Increase income (16 mentions)
- Service quality (16 mentions)
- Importance of service (8 mentions)
- Climate action (4 mentions)
- Misunderstanding of OCC power/responsibilities (4 mentions)
- Do not reduce spending (4 mentions)
- Council should not provide this service (1 mention)

## **Planning, environment and climate change**

Budget simulator description

4.64 By law we are responsible for minerals and waste planning across Oxfordshire. We also provide strategic infrastructure planning advice through statutory consultation responses to planning applications and local plan consultations.

By law we are the flood authority for Oxfordshire, responsible for setting the plan to mitigate surface water flood risk and working with partners and communities to investigate flood incidents and co-ordinate action. We are also the nature recovery authority for Oxfordshire, working with the district and city councils to improve and enhance the quality and quantity of nature and green space in Oxfordshire.

We provide opportunities for countryside access and by law we must map, maintain and signpost rights of way in Oxfordshire, including designated footpaths, bridleways and byways. We work with a network of local volunteers and community organisations to improve and safeguard the quality of the environment for current and future generations to enjoy.

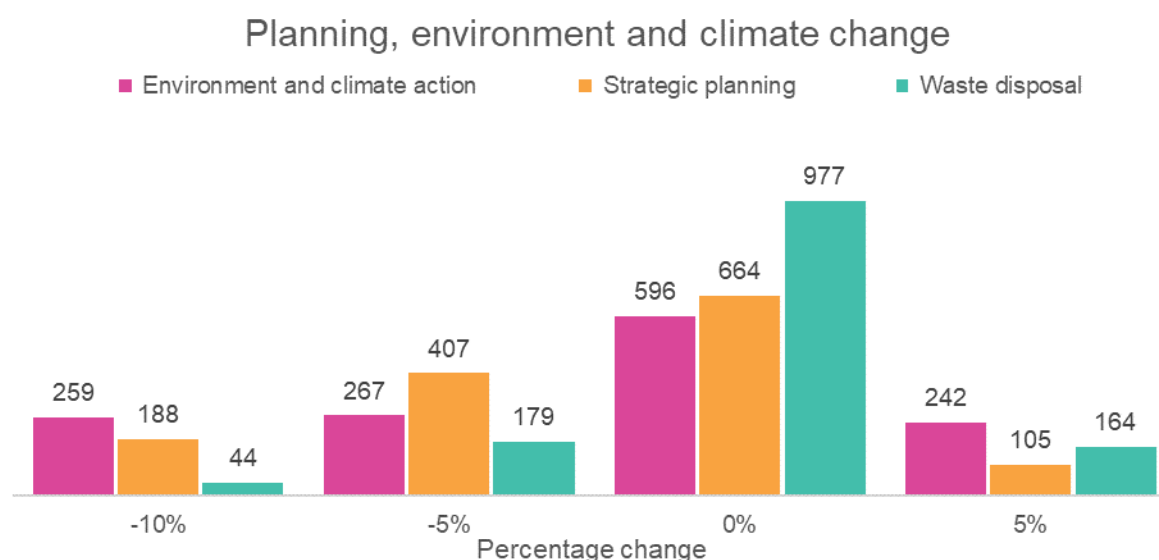
Climate action underpins all we do as a council and we work with, to reduce pollution and be resilient to more extreme weather. This means reducing pollution created by the council’s buildings, vehicles and suppliers, and working to reduce pollution more widely in Oxfordshire through planning and supporting communities and businesses.

By law we are also the waste disposal authority and responsible for disposing of household waste in Oxfordshire, this includes all recycling, green waste and residual, black bin waste. We also have a legal duty to provide two Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) where residents can recycle household waste. There are seven HWRCs in Oxfordshire, which collectively

receive around one million visits each year and accept approximately 40,000 - 45,000 tonnes of residual and recyclable material each year.

- 4.65 The planning, transport and climate change grouping contained three sliders: environment and climate action, strategic planning and waste disposal.
- Just over half of the respondents (56%) chose to move one or more sliders in the planning, transport and climate change group to either increase or decrease funding in this area.
  - Around one in five (18%) respondents increased the budget for environment and climate action compared to for waste disposal (12%) and strategic planning (8%).
  - Sizeable numbers of respondents chose to decrease the budget for strategic planning (44%) and environment and climate action (39%) compared to waste disposal (16%).
  - All three service options saw negative average budget percentage changes: waste disposal (-0.38%, ranked 9 out of 20), environment and climate action (-1.99%, ranked 16 out of 20) and strategic planning (-2.49%, ranked 18 out of 20).
  - The chart below shows how people responded for all three service items (sliders) presented in the simulator.

### Budget simulator choices for planning environment and climate change



### Written feedback

- 4.66 In all, 160 people gave written feedback on the 'Planning, environment and climate change' section of the simulator, which included 169 different comments. The key themes were:
- Climate action (38 mentions)
  - Reduce spending (34 mentions)

- Increase income (20 mentions)
  - Service quality (17 mentions)
- 4.67 Comments about the council's climate action work were significantly more likely to be negative (26 comments) than positive (9 comments). The negative comments tended to focus on a perception that climate change isn't a concern, and that the council should not be spending money on addressing it.
- “Stop all the climate nonsense. It's not a local authorities responsibility”.
- 4.68 The nine positive mentions felt the council should continue to spend money on climate change actions, with a focus on combatting the climate emergency.
- “We are in a climate emergency - this needs to be top priority.”
- 4.69 Overall, most of the 34 mentions which proposed 'reducing spending' wanted the council to identify inefficiencies and reduce waste spending to make savings. In addition, there were also ideas on how that could be done with technology and waste collection. The remaining comments ranged from reducing services such as the number of waste centres and also having early intervention measures to prevent costs in the future.
- “Reduce apart from addressing flooding”.
- 4.70 In the 'increase income' theme, the feedback shared focused on increasing the financial responsibility of residents for things such as fly tipping and waste collection; and businesses/developers needing to contribute to the local community to address local concerns/needs.
- “Property developers to contribute more. Houses pay more for their waste collection and recycling”.
- 4.71 The 17 mentions of 'service quality' were predominantly negative with many commenting on the high-level aspects of planning. In addition, there were some comments that mentioned the need for better mitigation for flooding and also a few positive mentions.
- “There is nothing strategic about the present planning”
- “Seems pretty good. Access to nature important”.
- 4.72 Other themes for written feedback regarding environment and climate change related to:
- Roads and transport (16 mentions)
  - Misunderstanding of OCC power/responsibilities (11 mentions)
  - Do not reduce spending (6 mentions)
  - Importance of service (4 mention)
  - Waste (15 mentions)
  - Council should not provide this service (8 mentions)

## Public health

### Budget simulator description

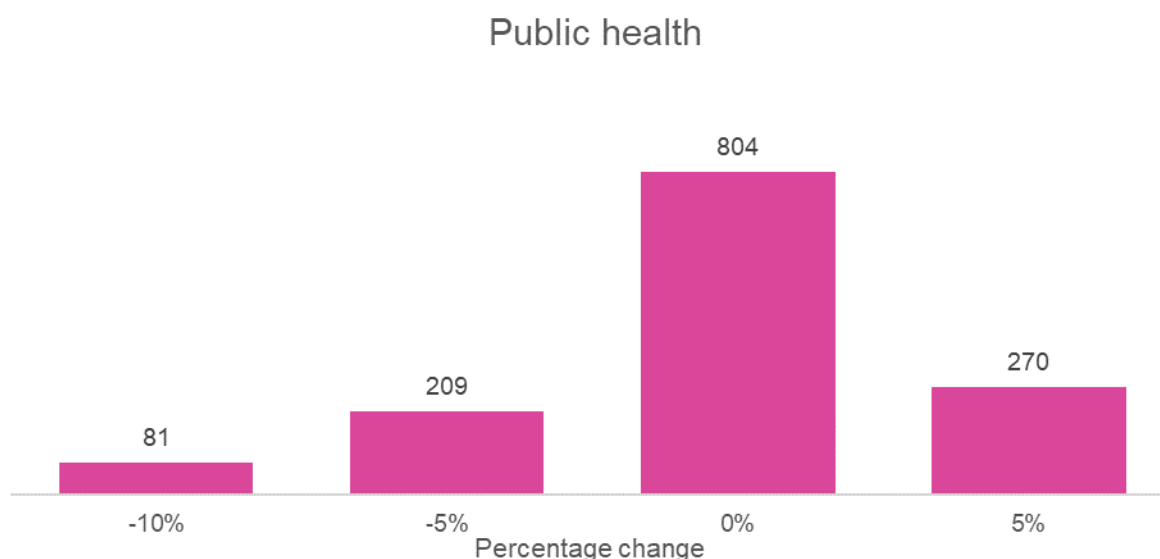
- 4.73 We provide public health improvement and prevention services to reduce health inequalities and support people in Oxfordshire to live longer, healthier lives including interventions to prevent illnesses that can be passed from one person to another. We also support local healthcare services to provide cost-effective, efficient and accessible healthcare that meets the population's needs. Finally, we work with other council services, with local communities and with other organisations from across the county to understand and address inequalities and to help create healthy places. Services that we commission include:

- health visiting services and school health nurses
- NHS health checks for over 40's
- services to reduce harm from smoking, alcohol, drugs and obesity
- sexual health services

Public health funding provided by government is protected, which means we cannot make savings in this area. It can be topped up if the council chooses to spend more on public health activities.

- 4.74 The public health group had just one slider.
- Around two in five respondents (41%) chose to move the slider to either increase or decrease funding in this area.
  - Near equal proportions (around one in five) of respondents increased the budget for public health (20%) and decreased it (21%).
  - This service option saw a small negative average budget percentage change of -0.37%, ranked 7 of the 20 service items.
  - The chart below shows how people responded for public health as presented in the simulator.

## Budget simulator choices for public health



### Written feedback

4.75 In all, 92 people gave written feedback on the Public Health section of the simulator, which included 99 different comments. Key themes were:

- Reduce spending (29)
- Do not reduce spending (18)
- Importance of service (11)

4.76 For those who wanted the council to reduce spending on public health, they wanted this to come from efficiencies rather than service reductions.

“Public health is important but increase efficiency and transparency.”

“Needs reforms not money thrown at it”.

4.77 Other comments in this area noted that investment in these services now will reduce future spending on adult social care and in health services. Many highlighted the importance of public health services should be protected and felt that the service was important.

“Crucial to prevent more ill health and future increased costs”.

“Public health is of uppermost priority”,

“While we are on the back of COVID recovery, this feels like a good place to maintain spend to promote more people back into good health - and hence more economically active”

4.78 Other themes for written feedback regarding public health to:

- Service quality (8 mentions)
- Council should not provide this service (8 mentions)

## Fire and rescue

### Budget simulator description

4.79 Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service is part of the county council. We:

- protect life and property in the event of fires
- rescue people from road traffic accidents and promote road safety
- protect life during chemical incidents, flooding, heat wave and other extreme weather events
- work with partners to deal with major emergencies
- protect communities, reduce harm and save lives through education and advice about fire safety

Our firefighters operate from 25 fire stations. Between January and December 2022, we attended 6,340 fire and rescue service call outs. We are the statutory fire authority for Oxfordshire. By law we must also carry out fire safety inspections, audits and advise businesses on their fire safety responsibilities. We also take enforcement action against businesses when required to ensure safety.

We support safety in Oxfordshire through a range of activities including:

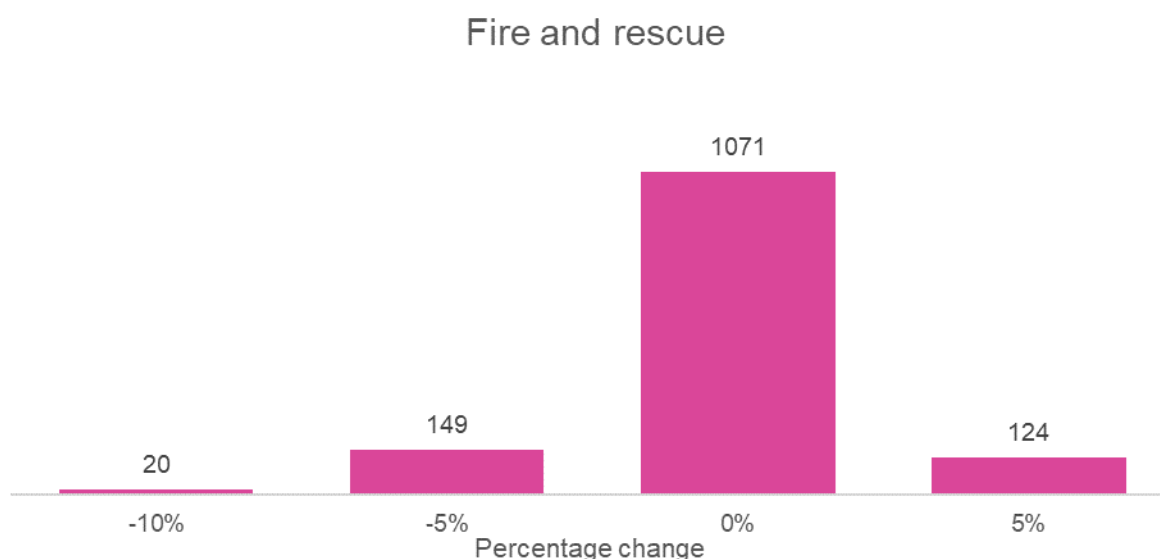
- our 365 Alive safety website
- a range of outreach activities including the footsteps pedestrian safety scheme and cycle training for children and adults
- we provide home fire safety visits for vulnerable adults and families (Safe and Well visits)

4.80 The fire and rescue group had just one slider.

- Around one in five respondents (21%) chose to move the slider to either increase or decrease funding in this area.
- Near equal proportions (around one in ten) of respondents increased the budget for fire and rescue (9%) as decreased it (12%).
- This service options saw a small negative average budget percentage change of -0.24%, ranked 6 of the 20 service items.
- The chart below shows how people responded for fire and rescue as presented in the simulator.



## Budget simulator choices for fire and rescue



### Written feedback

- 4.81 In all, 58 people gave written feedback on the 'fire and rescue' section of the simulator, which included 62 different comments. The two key themes emerging were polarised, do not reduce spending (20 mentions) and reduce spending (15 mentions). For those that felt spending could be reduced, some felt it could be reviewed for efficiencies and/or to identify waste spending

"Can't really cut back on fire safety".

"Needs more spent on it."

"Whilst Fire and Rescue seems like an essential service, there are certainly savings which could be made."

"basic provision only"

"cut their grossly inflated salaries and luxury work schedules"

"...retained fire(wo)men are inexpensive by comparison".

- 4.82 Other themes for written feedback regarding fire and rescue related to:
- Increase income (9 mentions)
  - Importance of service (7 mentions)
  - Service quality (6 mentions)

## Community safety

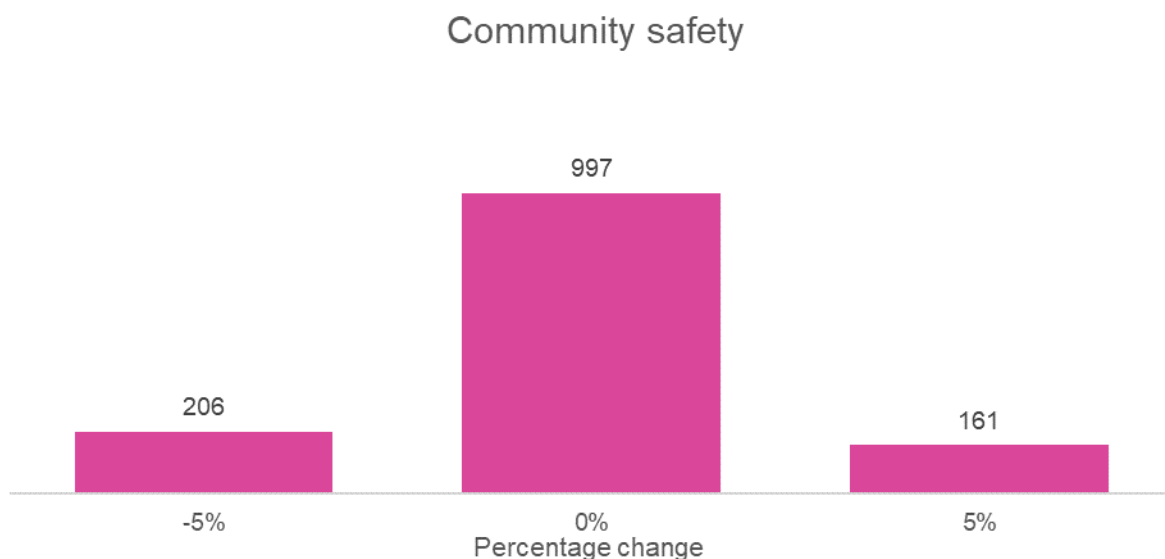
### Budget simulator description

- 4.83 We are part of the **Safer Oxfordshire Partnership**, a group that brings together community safety partners to work together to improve outcomes for local people under the Crime and Disorder Regulations 2007. Our **trading standards** services keep Oxfordshire's individuals, communities, businesses and livestock safe from harm. Our enforcement work protects the public, the environment, consumers and others. We help businesses and others to meet their legal obligations, including prosecution where appropriate, against those who flout the law or act irresponsibly.

We meet our legal duties for **emergency planning** (Civil Contingency Act 2004) by supporting organisational resilience and business continuity. We also provide business continuity advice to local businesses. Our **gypsy and traveller service** deals with unauthorised encampments and manages the six county council owned permanent gypsy and traveller sites, which generate income for the council. We also conduct consultation and negotiations between the gypsy and traveller communities and settled communities.

- 4.84 The community safety group had just one slider.
- Just over one in four respondents (27%) chose to move the slider to either increase or decrease funding in this area
  - Near equal proportions of respondents increased the budget for community safety (12%) and as decreased it (15%).
  - This service saw a small negative average budget percentage change of -0.16%, ranked 5 of the 20 service items
  - The chart below shows how people responded for community safety as presented in the simulator.

### Budget simulator choices for community safety



### **Written feedback**

- 4.85 In all, 58 people gave written feedback on the 'community safety' section of the simulator, which included 58 different comments. The key theme was 'reduce spending' (18 mentions), which can be further broken down into: 'make efficiencies across the council' (10 mentions), reduce services (6 comments), largely focussed on reducing/removing of the traveller services and early intervention to reduce future costs.

"Identify non critical services and cut them, remove process waste and non-value add activity".

"Reduction of traveller support specifically".

"Investing in proactive work reduces overall workload balancing the spend while lowering the crime".

- 4.86 Other themes for written feedback regarding community safety related to:
- misunderstanding of the OCC power/responsibilities (9 mentions)
  - do not reduce spending (8 mentions)
  - importance of service (5 mentions)
  - service quality (5 mentions)
  - council should not provide this service (3 mentions)
  - increase income (3 mentions)

## **Libraries, museums and history services**

### **Budget simulator descriptions**

- 4.87 By law (Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964) we must provide a 'comprehensive and efficient library service' for all persons who live, work and study in Oxfordshire. Our 44 libraries deliver a universal service for everyone in our communities, although we recognise that not everyone wants or needs a library. While many visitors use our library to borrow books and find useful information, they are also safe and welcoming places for people to gather, use free Wi-fi and public access computers and make social connections. We know some people cannot get to library buildings; so we also offer a libraries app, a range of online resources and a home library service for vulnerable adults.

We care for and preserve Oxfordshire's history and heritage through five cultural venues:

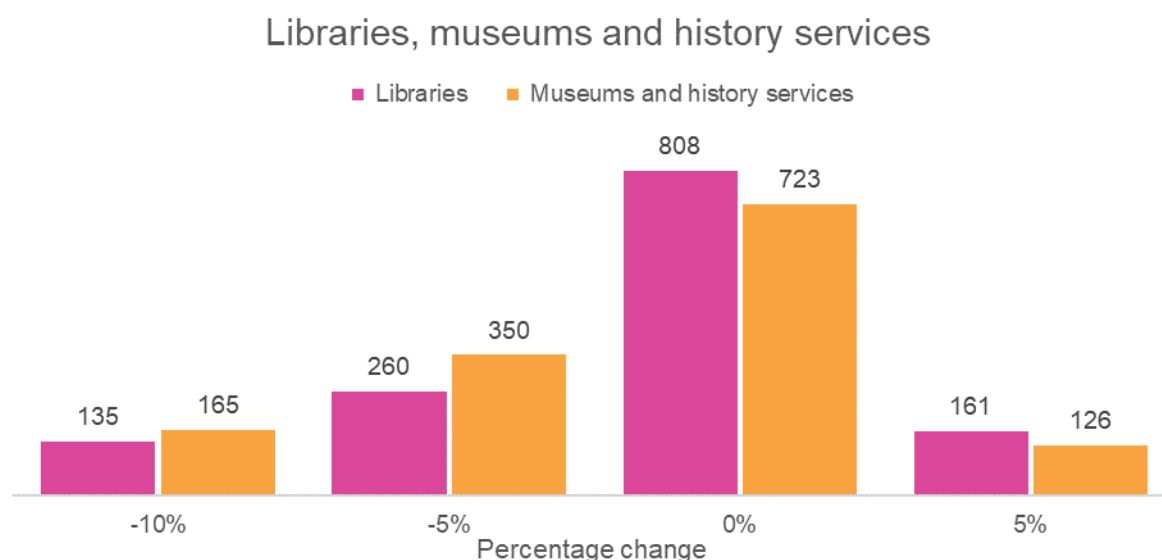
- Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock (housing our permanent collections, the exhibitions and activities programme)
- Museums Resource Centre in Standlake (housing our reserve collections, and the learning and access service)
- Swalcliffe Barn near Banbury (a Grade 1 listed medieval barn, housing large agricultural and trade vehicles)
- The remains of the Bishop's Palace in Witney
- Oxfordshire History Centre in Cowley (housing the county's public archives, records and core local history collection)

We deliver a universal service (with some statutory responsibilities) for everyone in the community, although we recognise not everyone wants or needs history and heritage services. As well as running our own cultural venues, we also support a wide range of organisations providing access to heritage across the county, such as the Victoria County History of Oxfordshire.

4.88 The libraries, museums and history services grouping contained two sliders: libraries, and museums and history services.

- Nearly half of the respondents chose to move one or more sliders in the libraries, museums and history services group to either increase or decrease funding in this area. 41% moved the slider for libraries and 47% moved the slider for museums and history services.
- Similar proportions of respondents (around one in ten) increased the budget for libraries (12%) as for museums and history services (9%).
- Sizeable numbers of respondents chose to decrease the budget service items in this grouping, with notably more for history services (38%) than for libraries (29%).
- Both service options saw sizeable negative average budget percentage changes: libraries (-1.35%, ranked 15 out of 20) and museums and history services (-2.03%, ranked 17 out of 20).
- The chart below shows how people responded for both items (sliders) presented in the simulator.

### Budget simulator choices for libraries, museums and history services



### Written feedback

4.89 In all, 111 people gave written feedback on the 'libraries, museums and history services' section of the simulator, which included 157 different comments. Note: for these service groups people had strong opinions about specific parts of the service (libraries, museums or the history service), but had different

opinions about other parts – eg people often felt one section of the service should be protected, whereas another part of the service could be reduced. This made analysis of this section quite tricky to report on.

4.90 From reviewing the comments, the key themes emerging were:

- Reduce spending (45 mentions)
- Importance of service (40 mentions)
- Increase income (34 mentions)
- Do not reduce spending (21 mentions)

4.91 The area that received the most comments overall, related to reducing spending (45). Of all comments, approximately half (24) indicated that services should be reviewed for efficiencies and/or to identify waste spending. Note: two thirds of these (18) seemed to be commenting about all parts of the service, and a third (6) referred to libraries only.

“I think there could either be options to combine some of these services (museums could also house libraries for example or vice versa)...”

“Reducing opening hours for library services and combining library space for other social services such as youth groups could save money and encourage reading.”

4.92 About a third (16) made comments which related to reducing services. Of these, three quarters (12) seemed to relate to all parts of the service, and a quarter (4) were just in relation to museums. A few people (3) made comments linked to reducing staffing, but these were all suggestions to recruit more volunteers to support the service, alongside volunteers already being used.

“I’d reduce these by much more: the world has changed since these services began: time for a rethink.”

“There are many Talented Volunteers who would be delighted to support libraries and museums in addition to the Already Committed Volunteers.”

4.93 The second highest area receiving comments related to how important the libraries, museums and history service is (40). Of all comments, just under two thirds (25 people) commented that the service was very important. Of these, 12 applied to all parts of the service, 10 comments referring to libraries, 2 to museums and 1 to the history service. Other comments showed that although people valued the services, it was felt they could be reduced, if necessary, unlike other kinds of services.

“Libraries and Museums don’t cost much, and yet provide many support services, such as WiFi or even someone to talk to at times. Effective way of providing self-adult social care”

“Important services but should not be exempt from modest cuts although all must be kept open...”

- 4.94 Just over a third (15 people) felt the service was not important, with most seeming to refer to the whole service, but about a third mainly referring just to libraries.

“Libraries are merely nostalgia in an age where everyone is permanent connected to the internet

“Libraries are essential, museums are not”.

- 4.95 Comments made in relation to increasing income (34) were split, with more than half (20) suggesting increasing costs to residents to use the service and just over a third (13) suggesting an additional source of income, with ideas including seeking voluntary support/more use of volunteers, getting support from the universities, getting commercial sponsorship for museums, finding ways to bring in more money from tourists, allowing private hire of spaces, closer collaboration with the private sector to partially fund services, reducing books and prioritising online services.

“These can be self funded through admission charges”

“seek voluntary support to offset gap”.

- 4.96 Of those who made a comment related to not reducing spending (21), just over half (11) wanted to protect the service, with current spending maintained and a similar number (10) felt service provision and/or spending should be increased.

“Libraries are a vital resource and should be funded. Please don’t cut these!”

“It’s very cheap to improve these services, but it can make a significant difference”.

- 4.97 Other themes for written feedback regarding libraries, museums and history services related to:
- Service quality (8 mentions)
  - Council should not provide this service (6 mentions)
  - Waste (1 mention)

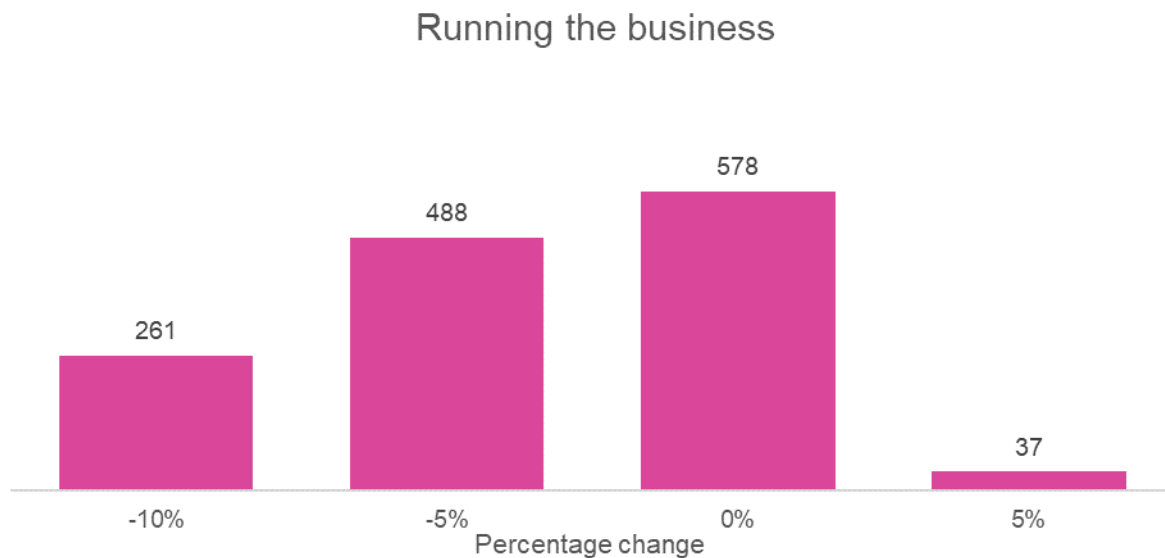
## **Running the business**

Budget simulator description

- 4.98 The county council needs services which support and enable us to deliver our wide range of services to Oxfordshire’s residents and communities and meet our statutory and legal responsibilities. These services include finance, human resources, information technology, law and governance, communications, customer services, policy and performance, procurement and property services.
- 4.99 The running the business group had just one slider.
- Nearly six in ten respondents (58%) chose to move the slider to either increase or decrease funding in this area
  - Over half of all respondents chose to decrease the budget for running the business (55%) and only 3 per cent increased it.

- This service option saw the largest negative average budget percentage change of -3.57%, ranked bottom (20) of the 20 service items
- The chart below shows how people responded for running the business as presented in the simulator.

### Budget simulator choices for running the business



### Written feedback

- 4.100 157 people gave written feedback on the 'running the business' section of the simulator, which included 179 different comments. Most comments coalesce around the theme of 'reduce spending' (147 mentions). When we look into this more closely we can see that there are two significant areas of comment. The most common with 83 comments were for the council to be more efficient such as by reducing bureaucracy, introducing automation/self-service and making better use of buildings.

'An efficiency drive seems appropriate. More automation and self-service.'

- 4.101 The other area of reducing spending had 55 comments related to reducing staffing/staff pay. Many of these comments included suggesting the top salaries should be reduced; and that reducing pensions could be a way to save money. There were comments that savings should not be at the detriment of staff who delivered services on the ground.

'Stop wasting our money on over inflated salaries and pensions. Enough'.

'Cut the numbers, salaries and benefits of senior staff rather than junior front line.'

- 4.102 Other themes for written feedback regarding running the business related to:
- Misunderstanding of OCC power/responsibilities (8 mentions)
  - Feedback on the budget simulator (6 mentions)

- Do not reduce spending (5 mentions)
- Increase income (4 mentions)
- Service quality (3 mentions)

## Council Tax

4.103 Budget simulator users were informed that in Oxfordshire, council tax bills are made up of several different amounts of money that go to different organisations and that Oxfordshire County Council's element of their council tax bill is made up of two parts:

- The 'core' or general council tax used for all county council services, including highway maintenance; children and adult social care; waste management and recycling; fire and rescue, and libraries.
- An adult social care 'precept', which is an additional charge on top of core council tax that can only be spent on adult social care services.

Budget simulator users were also informed that

- Councils are allowed to increase their core council tax rate each year to cover inflation and other costs (reflecting the expectations of government), to 2.99 per cent before needing a local referendum.
- In 2023/24 and for 2024/25, government also gave councils the flexibility to raise an adult social care precept of up to two per cent.
- Our medium-term financial strategy (and draft budget) is based on the maximum government-expected 4.99 per cent council tax.

4.104 The council tax slider had three options as follows:

- 0%: Our current medium term financial strategy includes the maximum government expected 4.99 per cent rise, (including 2 per cent ringfenced for adult social care). This is shown as 0 per cent in the simulator.
- 1%: Increasing this by one per cent is equal to an overall 5.99 per cent council tax rise, would give an additional £4.8m for services.
- 2%: Our current medium term financial strategy includes the maximum government expected 4.99 per cent rise, (including 2 per cent ringfenced for adult social care). Increasing this by one per cent is equal to an overall 6.99 per cent council tax rise, would give an additional £9.2m for services.





- Overall, 741 people chose to increase council tax on top of the 4.99% already proposed
- On average, the budget simulator shows that people were willing to increase by 0.84 per cent. To enact this, a referendum would be required.
- 343 people (25 per cent of respondents) chose to increase council tax by an additional one per cent (to 5.99%)
- 398 people (29 per cent of respondents) chose to increase council tax by an additional two per cent (to 6.99%)

#### **Written feedback**

- 4.105 203 people gave written feedback on the council tax section of the simulator, which included 236 different comments. The primary theme was around increasing income (194 mentions), including:
- Increase in council tax is acceptable (86)
  - Increase in council tax is not acceptable (38)
  - Review of council tax banding so that higher value properties pay more (34)
  - Reduction in council tax (27)
- 4.106 Of those comments which related to increasing income, 185 of these related directly to council tax. Whilst more people who commented acknowledged that raising the council tax was acceptable, many comments were with an element of reluctance, in order to allow services to continue or be improved.
- “If all the services are required, council tax should be increased but departments should be charged with making savings also.”
- 4.107 Many respondents did not find any increase in council tax acceptable, and felt that the council wasted money, should find efficiencies, cut staff and find other ways to finance services.

“It’s already too high and this feels like a sorry excuse to justify increasing it when the council has wasted millions on its foolish schemes to reduce speed limits across the county.”

“The council tax is already at an all time high and increasing it further will severely damage the capacity to own homes and ability to afford rental properties.”

- 4.108 A significant number of comments suggested that council tax bandings should be reviewed, particularly for higher value properties.

“A re-evaluation of housing bands for Council tax is long overdue.”

- 4.109 Whilst the budget simulator didn’t provide an option for reducing council tax, 27 people felt that council tax should be reduced and some commented that they were frustrated that this wasn’t an option in the simulator.

“Don’t seem to be able to reduce this - why not?”

“Should reduce council tax, the burden is too high, my council tax is more than all my other bills combined.”

- 4.110 Here is a high-level thematic summary of the other comments made for council tax:

- Reduce spending (22 mentions)
- Roads and transport (6 mentions)
- Climate action (3 mentions)
- Feedback on the budget simulator (3 mentions)
- Do not reduce spending (3 mentions)
- Waste (3 mentions)
- Misunderstanding of OCC power or responsibilities (2 mentions)

## **5. Budget proposals feedback form**

### **Introduction and methodology**

- 5.1 Between Wednesday 29 November 2023 and Wednesday 10 January 2024, the council invited comments on its draft proposed budget for 2024/25 as published as published for consideration by performance and corporate services overview and scrutiny committee on 8 December 2023. Residents and stakeholders were also signposted to the budget proposals and supporting papers and encouraged to engage with these detailed before sharing their feedback.
- 5.2 Feedback was primarily collated using an online feedback form on Let's talk Oxfordshire, with residents and stakeholders also able to submit comments by letter or email.
- 5.3 The feedback form was promoted alongside the budget simulator, to a wide range audiences, using a range of communications channels. This included organic and paid for social media advertising, eNewsletters, internal communications for council staff and councillors and targeted stakeholder communications. The social media posts stimulated many comments, largely negative in sentiment.
- 5.4 Out of 140 people who filled in our online feedback form, exactly 100 provided comments.
- most stated they were county residents (113 respondents).
  - 2 respondents said they were councillors, and one said they represented a business
  - 70 respondents identified as men and 43 as women
  - most were older adults aged over 45 years (100 respondents)
  - most identified themselves as white (102), with 7 respondents stating they identified as from another ethnic group
  - 25 respondents stated their day-to-day activities were limited because of a long-term illness, health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months.

### **Key findings**

- 5.5 While we expressly invited people to give feedback on our published budget proposals, nearly all respondents used this opportunity to give general feedback on council services, spending and budget matters with many sharing their views on a range of matters. It should be noted however, that nine per cent of comments criticised the poor presentation and inaccessibility of the council's budget papers
- 5.6 Highways and transport were the two primary themes, accounting for 69 per cent of all comments. Specifically for highways, people took the opportunity to feedback that they felt Oxfordshire roads were in poor conditions and to complain about the volume of potholes (16 comments). A smaller proportion

felt that street cleansing and footpath, cycle path and verge maintenance should be improved (9 comments).

- 5.7 In terms of transport schemes, active travel initiatives (22 comments), 20mph zones (14 comments), ZEZs (4 comments) and workplace parking levy (6 comments) all came under criticism, with most people who commented considering these to be 'a waste of money' and 'politically driven' projects.
- 5.8 Support for funding for proposed rail projects (Witney & Grove specifically) featured in four per cent of all responses (4 comments) and we also received two letters of support (of very similar content); one from Railfuture and the other from a member of the public.
- 5.9 Sixteen per cent of responses (16 comments) focussed on council tax. Specifically, respondents shared that they would be willing to support an increase in council tax to pay for services (8 comments) and/or that they feel there is a need to reform council tax bands (3 comments).
- 5.10 Two stakeholders and one member of the public wrote directly to the council, with detailed submissions. These have been summarised below, all were transport related.

#### **Rail specialist interest group (Railfuture, Thames Valley branch)**

While the group recognised the financial pressures the council is under, they considered it vital that bus and train services are maintained and enhanced across the county. They stated that a lack of public transport is forcing increased car use, going against the stated environmental objectives of the county, city and district councils and adding to congestion. They considered this problem has been exacerbated because so many new housing developments are located away from bus routes and railway stations. The group strongly supported the various rail schemes which have been developed in consultation with the county council and others which set out a number of vital investments at Cowley, Hanborough, Didcot and Wantage/Grove Parkway.

They considered these to be important schemes to enhance the rail network where continued budgetary provision from the council is necessary to support the business cases in order to obtain approval from DfT. They also suggested budgetary provision is vital to implement planned bus/rail interchanges at Banbury and Culham and the associated expansion of bus services linking to many more stations.

#### **Email submission from a member of the public:**

This response replicated that of the rail specialist interest group above.

**Transport specialist interest group (CoHSAT - Coalition for Healthy Streets and Active Travel)**

Whilst recognising the significant budgetary burden of adult and child social care services, they considered that the benefits of active travel could help reduce costs in this area through resultant improvements to physical and mental health.

They agreed with capital budget proposals to help reduce the chronic traffic congestion in Oxford city, towns and the county as a whole. They would like to see full implementation of traffic filters, ZEZs and the workplace parking levy as set out in the central Oxford travel plan in 2022.

They also supported funding for a feasibility study for the Eynsham – Salt Cross A40 Underpass/Bridge to avoid Salt Cross becoming another ‘severed development’ of the type that has become car-dependent in Didcot and around Oxford.

They proposed the Active Travel hub be provided with a small capital budget for small works (e.g. lining, barrier removal, dropped kerbs, benches, minor junction improvements) that can significantly improve walking, wheeling or cycling experiences. They suggested £200,000 to be appropriate.

## 6. “Let’s talk budget” – Sounding Boards

### Introduction and approach

- 6.1 On Friday 17 November and Friday 24 November 2024 we held two in-person sounding boards for secondary school aged children.
- 6.2 The aims of the sounding boards were to:
- engage young people in citizenship conversations and specifically how the council and local politics work, the role of the council, its services and priorities and how it is financed
  - help young people to understand more about personal money management, using a simulated exercise
  - seek feedback on their priorities for the council and its services
- 6.3 The Oxford budget sounding board was attended by 43 young people, from three schools in the central Oxford area and Banbury. The Didcot budget sounding board was attended by 45 young people from 4 schools in the surrounding area, including one school for young people with learning disabilities, one all boys school and one all girls school and a private school.
- 6.4 Both budget sounding boards followed a standard agenda:

Agenda	
9:30am	Arrive & register
10:00	Welcome: housekeeping and icebreaker
10:20	Session 1: How decisions are made and what the council does
10:50	Session 2: How Oxfordshire County Council manages the budget
11:05	Break and back to seats
11:25	Session 3: Budgeting skills Activity: Solve Sam’s budget
12:05	Feedback: What did we find out?
12:10	Lunch Back at 12:45
12:50	Quick Quiz
12:55	Session 5: What are your priorities?
13:40	Evaluation and talk by the county council future generations champion
13:55	Thank you and close

- 6.5 The sounding boards were hosted by one of the council's engagement specialists. Three cabinet members co-hosted different elements of the day to frame discussions and were also on hand to answer questions and listen at first-hand to what the young people had to say. All the discussions and activities were facilitated by council staff, with mixed groups across all schools to ensure each group had a variety of different views and experiences. Teachers moved around the room and supported students where/when they were needed.

## **Key findings**

- 6.6 The following paragraphs summarise the outputs of voting and discussions by young people across both sounding boards as relevant to the 2024/2025 budget. A full report of the entire sounding board is published on Let's talk Oxfordshire.

### **Budget management**

- 6.7 Sounding board participants were given an overview of the financial challenges that the council faces by a cabinet member attending and asked to feedback if they agreed or disagreed with each of a list of four possible approaches that the council could take to make savings (framed for the young people as 'reduce our costs' and a further four possible approaches the council could take to generate income (framed for the young people as bring in extra money). Each student was able to give one answer to each statement. However, some students didn't vote on all the statements, and some voted more than once.

### **Reduce our costs (make savings)**

- 6.8 Overall, there was support from a clear majority of young people at the two sounding boards for the council to reduce costs by using digital technology to deliver services (74 agreed) and by negotiating with organisation to make sure we get the best value for money from the contracts we have (64 young people agreed). These two options were also perceived as acceptable by a strong majority of adults in our 2023 residents' survey.
- 6.9 A majority of young people disagreed that the council should be spending less on staff (64 agreed) and opinion was more divided on the council spending less on 'nice' to have' services we choose to offer, but don't have to by law. 43 young people disagreed, 12 agreed and 19 could not express an opinion. 10 young people did not know. The views of young people diverged from adults in our 2023 residents' survey, in terms of the reducing spending on staffing with a majority supporting this option but like the young people, opinion was more divided on charging.

Statement	I agree	I don't have an opinion	I disagree	I don't know
By using digital technology to deliver services such as: online application forms, digital payments and self-service checkouts	74	8	3	3
By negotiating with organisations who provide services, to make sure we get the best value for money from the contracts we have.	64	2	5	2
By spending less on 'nice to have' services we choose to offer, but don't have to by law	12	19	43	10
Spending less on staff such as: redesigning services so we need fewer people to deliver them, not filling jobs when people leave, and using fewer agency staff to fill gaps	11	9	64	2

### **Bring in extra money (generate income)**

- 6.10 A majority of sounding board attendees did not think the council should use council savings or reserves to generate income (78 disagreed and only one young person was in favour). This was a clear view compared to adults in the 2023 residents' survey who were more divided in opinion, however the wording for the young people was more stark and clearly spelled out the consequences. Similar to adults in the 2023 residents' survey, most young people also disagreed with the council increasing council tax (71 disagreed and six young people were in favour)
- 6.11 Sounding board attendees were divided in opinion on whether the council should 'bring in extra money by charging more rent for council buildings and land, and/or by selling the buildings and land we no longer need' (35 young people agreed versus 43 young people who disagreed). It is important to note, that discussions at the table indicated that some young people thought this may include charging more in rent for council houses, which is not a county council responsibility.
- 6.12 More sounding board attendees disagreed (39 attendees) with the council 'bringing in extra money by charging more for services we are allowed (by law) to ask people to pay for, and by increasing fees/fines people have to pay if they break council rules', than were positive about this option (19 attendees); a reverse of the views of adults expressed in the 2023 residents survey. A high level of attendees did not have an opinion (21 attendees), unlike for the other propositions put forward.



Statement	I agree	I don't have an opinion	I disagree	I don't know
Charging more rent for council buildings and land, and/or by selling the buildings and land we no longer need	35	7	43	3
Charging more for services we are allowed (by law) to ask people to pay for, and by increasing fees/fines people have to pay if they break council rules	19	21	39	3
Increasing how much households have to pay in council tax	6	6	71	2
Using council savings (our financial reserves) ... but once our savings have gone, they've gone forever	1	4	78	1

### Service priorities

- 6.13 To help the young people to get into the mindset of making difficult decisions, a short exercise was run to explore their top four service priorities and the reasons why. For this task the young people were given a list of 20 county council services and were asked to identify 'which FOUR services are most important for local people? This was done in group format and there were fourteen tables of young people across both sounding boards.
- 6.14 The views expressed and views largely coalesced around three service areas:
- **secondary education (over 11 years):** voted by 10 tables. This was selected because of how important education is for the future and how it will impact lives later in life. Several comments also mentioned that primary education was just as important for basic reading and writing and that it was hard to separate the two levels of education.
  - **fire and rescue service – emergency response:** voted by 9 tables. This was selected because this service is too important to lose, it saves lives
  - **public health:** voted by 8 tables. This was selected because it is for everyone, that public health was a right so that people could keep healthy and improve the quality of their life
- 6.15 A further three service areas ranked in joint fourth place, voted for by seven of the fourteen tables.
- **Children's social care (protecting and supporting vulnerable children and families).** No supporting comments given.

- **Primary education (5 -11 years).** This was selected because: a good foundation in education can be built on and it sets you up for future learning and jobs.
  - **Support/care for vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities, and/or mental health problems, general frailty.** This was selected because: it is important to ensure essential services are provided to vulnerable people as they need more support to do the things others can do and for those who don't have people to help them.
- 6.16 To a much lesser extent, the following five services were prioritised a small number of sounding board attendees:
- Managing the road network (eg traffic lights, speed limits, traffic and transport information etc.) (voted by 2 tables)
  - Registration of births and deaths, and ceremonies including marriages and citizenship (voted by 2 tables)
  - Road and transport schemes (e.g. new or improved junctions, bus lanes, cycle lanes etc.) (voted by 2 tables)
  - Early years education (birth to 4 years) (voted by 1 table)
  - Support/care for older people (over 65) (voted by 1 table)
- 6.17 The following county council services were not selected at all in this exercise:
- Countryside services (eg rights of way)
  - Fire and rescue service - public safety and road safety advice and support
  - Household waste and recycling centres (tips)
  - Libraries
  - Maintenance of pavements
  - Maintenance of roads
  - Museums and history service (Oxfordshire Museum, local history service, Victoria County History etc.)
  - Parking (enforcement, controlled parking zones, on-street parking)
  - Trading standards (responsible for enforcing a range of consumer protection and/or public safety legislation)

### **Strategic priorities**

- 6.18 To help the young people gain a better understanding of the council's vision and strategic priorities, information was provided to young people both in presentative format and in writing to consider and discuss as a group.
- 6.19 For this task young people had to decide which of the 9 council strategic priorities were most important (select two) and the least important (select 2) strategic priorities, again adapting a question from the 2023 residents' survey. The table below presents the outcomes of the young people's deliberations. It should be noted however, that was a challenging exercise for the young people and some groups could not finalise their most and least important strategic priorities.

Strategic priority	Top 2 most important priorities	Top 2 least important priorities
Create opportunities for children and young people to reach their full potential	8	1
Prioritise the health and wellbeing of residents	7	0
Support carers and the social care system	3	1
Tackle inequalities in Oxfordshire	3	1
Work with local businesses and partners for environmental, economic and social benefit	2	4
Put action to address the climate emergency at the heart of our work	1	1
Invest in an inclusive, integrated and sustainable transport network.	0	8
Play our part in a vibrant and participatory local democracy	0	5
Preserve and improve access to nature and green spaces	0	4

### Top two strategic priorities

6.18 Two strategic priorities, where selected more frequently than any others by sounding board attendees in their top two priorities, there were:

- **Creating opportunities for children and young people to reach their full potential:** selected by 8 tables. The reasons for its selection included: education and opportunities for young people help them thrive and to consider their future from jobs to the environment.
- **Prioritise the health and wellbeing of residents:** selected by 7 tables. The reasons for its selection were: residents need to be healthy so they can live good lives and thrive in the community and work and help towards ill health and other needs.

The two priorities were also important to adults in the 2023 residents' survey.

6.19 The following county council strategic priorities were not selected by any of the tables of young people in their **top two most important priorities**:

- Invest in an inclusive, integrated and sustainable transport network
- Play our part in a vibrant and participatory local democracy
- Preserve and improve access to nature and green spaces

This differs from the views expressed by adults in the residents' survey, where a sizeable number of people prioritised Invest in an inclusive, integrated and sustainable transport network.

#### **Top two strategic priorities**

6.20 Invest in an inclusive, integrated and sustainable transport network was the most frequently selected strategic priority in sounding board attendees top two **least important priorities** (selected by 8 tables). This is a surprise finding as in previous focus group discussions with young people to help shape the 9 priorities, this was identified as being very important. Adults were more divided in their opinion in the 2023 residents' survey.

6.21 Invest in an inclusive, integrated and sustainable transport network was selected in tables **top two least important priorities** because: other issues are more important and that the elements of climate change within this priority was already addressed in the climate change strategic priority.

6.22 Other strategic priorities selected by at least four tables; top two least important priorities were:

- Play our part in a vibrant and participatory local democracy (selected by 5 tables). This was because: other strategic priorities were more important and that as they were young didn't have a vote.
- Preserve and improve access to nature and green spaces (selected by 4 tables). This was because: although nice to have especially for mental health, it wasn't as important as the other priorities.
- Work with local businesses and partners for environmental, economic and social benefit (selected by 4 tables). This was because: other issues were more important.

6.23 Prioritise the health and wellbeing of residents was not selected by any of the tables of young people in their **top two least important priorities**.

## 7. “Let’s talk budget” - Oxfordshire Conversations

### Introduction and approach

- 7.1 Between 4 December and 11 December 2023, we organised three Oxfordshire Conversations to ‘talk budget’. These sessions were designed to create an opportunity for residents to share their priorities for local services, their views on increasing council tax directly with cabinet representatives.
- 7.2 All the sessions took place online via MS Teams and were chaired by an independent facilitator from The Consultation Institute. They were widely promoted using the council’s digital channels (website, newsletters), stakeholder communications, media release and social media advertising.
- 7.3 Participants were asked to register to attend the meetings and information outlining the purpose and format of the meetings, as well as budget proposals and supporting information was shared in advance, thus providing participants with sufficient information to make informed comment.
- 7.4 In all, 32 residents participated across all three events, with 86 people registering their interest.

Date	Time	# Registered	# Participated
Monday 4 December	13:00 to 14:30	23	11
Wednesday 6 December	19:00 to 20:30	27	7
Monday 11 December	16:30 to 18:00	36	14

- 7.5 Each Oxfordshire conversation session used the following standard agenda.

Timing	Item	Who
5 minutes	Welcome and introductions	Leader
5 minutes	Housekeeping	Chair
15 minutes	Setting the scene (presentation)	Leader/cabinet member for finance
10 minutes	Immediate reactions from audience to presentation	Chair
50 minutes	Questions to panel and discussion, hosted by chair	Chair, panel comprising all attending cabinet members, supported by senior officers
5 minutes	Thank you, next steps and goodbye	Leader/ chair

- 7.6 To frame discussions, Cllr Liz Leffman, Leader of the Council, informed participants about the council's vision and responsibilities. Cllr Levy, Cabinet Member for Finance, explaining how the council is funded and what we spend on services. The £36 million financial pressures we are facing, how we are working to close that gap, and that a further £9.1 million needs to be found in order to set a legally balanced the budget for 2024/25.

### **Initial thoughts and comments**

- 7.7 Following the presentation, the chair invited participants to ask questions / comment on what they had heard in the presentation. This section summarises the main themes raised by participants during all three meetings.

- Pleased to hear that the council is seeking to rationalise its property portfolio to release capital, reduce costs and bring empty buildings and land back into use. The current economic climate and how buoyant the market is for selling buildings and converting them into residential dwellings was questioned. Although capital receipts can only be used for capital projects, it was seen as important in terms of cutting costs and utilising council assets effectively. (04.12.23, 06.12.23)
- Ensure better use of buildings, particularly given many staff are working from home or could work from home. Buildings could be better used or reduced. (06.12.23)
- Observation that only 11% of income comes from business rates (06.12.23)
- The link between new housing and income from council tax was noted, with a query raised about where population growth targets come from and resulting additional pressure a growing population puts on services. (06.12.23)
- Impressed by social care figures showing increased numbers of people who have been seen and helped. But concern about unmet need. (11.12.23)
- Feeling that people would see a value if they saw better infrastructure being maintained. Poor maintenance seen to impact people's lives eg flooding preventing people from getting to work (11.12.23)
- It was asked how the council is seeking to use more green energy. (06.12.23)
- Knowing more about the things that the council might need to stop doing to balance the budget and the rationale behind decisions would be beneficial. Expenditure on tree planting was highlighted as an example. (06.12.23)

## **Budget conversations - key findings**

- 7.8 Following the opportunity to ask questions on the presentation, the discussion moved to focus on exploring service and spending priorities. This section summarises the main themes raised by participants across all three meetings.

### **What services matter the most?**

#### **Health and social care**

- Social care was seen as an important priority area. Maintaining / increasing funding for community spaces that directly or indirectly support vulnerable people was also mentioned as being important and potentially overlooked. (04.12.23)
- Protecting adult social care services in general and supporting people in the community to live independently, in their own homes was identified as services that really matter. Supporting people when leaving hospital was highlighted. (06.12.23)
- NHS Health Checks (commissioned by Public Health) were praised as simple and effective service and seen to have a positive impact. (1.12.23)
- In terms of health and wellbeing, an early intervention, preventative approach that ultimately seeks to reduce the costs was supported. This approach was also advocated for dealing with potholes. (06.12.23)
- Concerns were raised about the low level of pay in the care sector and that working via an agency offered better pay. Increasing pay for this sector was thought to attract more people into key roles. (06.12.23)
- Developing community hubs and funding community and voluntary organisations who support vulnerable people was suggested as a way to minimise pressures on social care – something the council is looking to develop further by developing family centres, hubs, libraries and other community spaces. (04.12.23)
- How best the council and the community and voluntary sector can collectively pull together to meet the needs of people across the county – particularly health and social care. Collaborating with the community and voluntary sector to achieve better outcomes is important. (11.12.23)
- Grant funding for local community and voluntary organisations was identified as a priority, providing key services on behalf of the council. Community transport was given as an example. Working closely with and developing the community and voluntary sector was viewed as a great way to deliver services, support the voluntary sector and make savings. (04.12.23)

### **Highways and traffic management**

- Highway maintenance was highlighted as receiving a relatively small proportion of the budget and the state of the roads in the county being poor. A long-term solution to improving roads by carrying out long lasting resurfacing rather than patch repairs was preferred and believed to be most cost effective. Tackling potholes was seen as a priority for increased funding. Although dangerous road defects are prioritised, concerns were raised about damage to vehicles. (04.12.23, 06.12.23)
- Potholes were highlighted as being particularly dangerous for cyclists. In some areas segregated cycle lanes are not joined up and just end, posing a danger to cyclist and other road users. Cowley Road was given as an example. (11.12.23)
- Along with improving and maintaining road surfaces, maintenance of lining, particularly outside schools was suggested as a priority, yet lack of funding meant it had not been done and seemingly forgotten. (04.12.23)
- Important to hold utility companies to account for substandard repairs following work in the carriageway / footway. Ensure inspections take place and the importance of local people reporting issues. (11.12.23)
- Maintaining effective traffic flow and reducing congestion, especially around the Banbury / M40 interchange was highlighted as a problem area. Being able to comment on and contribute to area transport strategies would be welcomed. (04.12.23)
- Fix My Street was generally praised as an effective mechanism for reporting issues but it could be better and some weaknesses existed. The council needs to be more responsive in terms of communication via Fix My Street, particularly regarding when things will be addressed and if not, why not. (04.12.23)

### **Which services should be protected?**

- No one really wants cuts to services. People want to see the services they use protected. (04.12.23)
- The most vulnerable in society have to be protected first and foremost, whether it's children or people with disabilities. (11.12.23)
- Need to make sure that there is a universal level of service provision across the diverse county where high levels of need exist - balancing acute levels of need and building resilient, healthy communities. Early intervention and the wider determinants of health are important, as well as focusing on the sharp end of the most vulnerable. (11.12.23)



- Do not overlook the vital role that family and young carers play when other services are reduced. Young carers and adult carers, many of them very elderly, need a lot of help and should never be forgotten. (11.12.23)
- Although the responsibility of the city and district councils, providing affordable social housing was suggested as something that needed to be protected for the future. (06.12.23)

### **Which services should be reduced/cut /stopped?**

- Given everything has been cut to the bone 'hammered' it was deemed very difficult to identify services to cut or stop (06.12.23)
- Reducing costs where possible e.g. minimising expensive out of county placements (children's services) (04.12.23)
- Seek to reduce energy costs and the council's carbon footprint by dimming and turning off more streetlights. (11.12.23)
- Save money through use of technology e.g. digital communications and minimise duplication. (11.12.23)
- Reducing reliance on agency staff, particularly in social care, and instead seeking to directly employ people was seen as a simple way to reduce costs. Converting agency staff into permanent employees. Hope that increased salary and on costs associated with direct employment can be offset. Likewise minimising expenditure on external consultants and instead draw on and develop internal expertise. (04.12.23, 06.12.23)

### **Thoughts on increasing council tax and income generation**

- The proposed increase in general council tax and the social care precept was seen as the only way to generate additional income (04.12.23)
- Suggested that residents get good value in return for the council tax they pay and the feeling that Council Tax could definitely go up. (06.12.23)
- It's hard to see where savings can be made without services suffering more. Need more freedom to raise income. (11.12.23)
- Felt that it would be easy to put up fees and charges eg parking enforcement (06.12.23, 11.12.23)
- Consider a congestion charge in Oxford - in addition to traffic filters, zero emission zone and the workplace parking levy - with money raised being reinvested into transport related projects (06.12.23)

- Happy to pay a little bit more to prevent services being cut, however it was noted that amid rising inflation some people would really struggle. (06.12.23)
- Work more closely with parishes who have the freedom to set their element of council tax that can be spent on local priorities. (11.12.23)

### **Other comments**

- Difficult choices to be made, there is a need to collaborate and involve people and resource communities and community-based organisations, to help find the solutions to really difficult choices. (11.12.23)
- It was recognised that councils across the country are struggling financially and that efforts should continue to lobby government to properly fund local government (04.12.23, 11.12.23)
- Balancing the budget and deciding where savings need to be made was described as 'being between a rock and hard place' (04.12.23)
- Feeling that the council does a good job in 'virtually impossible circumstances.' (06.12.23)

### **Closing remarks**

- 7.9 Each Oxfordshire conversation was closed by Cllr Leffman thanking participant and outlining the next steps in the budget setting process. All participants were encouraged to also share their views using the online budget simulator.

## 8. “Let’s talk budget” - targeted in-person, adult focus groups

- 8.1 Between 12 December 2023 and 9 January 2024, we delivered five targeted in-person focus groups for seldom-heard adults, taking account of:
- groups with low socio-economic status (SES)
  - those who are digitally excluded
  - those protected by the Equality Act. (Protected characteristics: Age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.
  - military families
  - carers
- 8.2 The sessions were made as accessible as possible, and were designed to enable residents to ask questions, provide in-depth feedback about their priorities for local services, to ask their views on increasing council tax, and to support people to use the online budget simulator tool (using hired iPads), to submit a balanced budget and address digital exclusion.
- 8.3 Three groups were held in areas, identified through statistics as being in the 20 per cent most deprived communities nationally: Banbury (focusing on Ruscote, Neithrop, Grimsbury), Abingdon (focusing on Caldecotte) and Oxford City (focusing on Blackbird Leys, Northfield Brook). Our fourth group centred on military families (based at RAF Benson) and our fifth group focused on adults with learning disabilities – with members of My Life My Choice (MLMC).
- 8.4 Partnership working was crucial to the delivery of the focus groups, and we worked closely with community leads who took responsibility for recruiting people to join the sessions and provided support on the day – a flyer was created to support their efforts. We would like to recognise and thank the community leads for all their support.

Local lead	Role and organisation
Lorraine Squire	Community Development Manager, The Hill Sports and Community Facility
Georgina Hicks and Sam Frankum	Centre Manager, Abingdon Carousel Family Inspiring Minds Community Group
Meg Wickett	Community Development Officer, RAF Benson
Suzy Donald	Director of Community Development, Oxford Hub
Yazz Davies and Iarfhlaith O’Connell	Deputy Charity Coordinator, My Life My Choice Research and Easy Read Coordinator, My Life My Choice

- 8.5 All sessions were facilitated by a council officer. A payment was offered to all attendees as an incentive and thank you for their involvement and time at sessions. Refreshments, and snacks were also provided at all sessions. In total 38 residents participated.

Date	Time	Location	# Participated
12 December 2023	12:30 to 14:30	Banbury, The Hill Community Centre,	12
13 December 2023	10:30 to 12:30	Abingdon, Preston Road Community Centre	7
14 December 2023	10:30 to 12:30	RAF Benson	7
19 December 2023	10:00 to 12:00	Windale Community Hub, The Leys, Oxford	8
9 January 2024	10:30 to 13:00	Westgate Collaboration Space, Oxford	4

- 8.6 The first four sessions followed the same agenda (which included a short break), and involved a mix of group activities, presentations, group discussions and an opportunity to use the budget simulator.

Timing	Item	Who
5 minutes	Welcome, introductions and housekeeping	Facilitator
7 minutes	Introduction to the council and its services	Cllr Liz Leffman (video from Oxfordshire Conversations)
10 minutes	Activity A: 'Who does what?' (tiers of government)	Small groups
13 minutes	Where the money comes from, and goes, and our current financial position	Cllr Dan Levy (video from the Oxfordshire Conversations or officer presentation)
5 minutes	Immediate reactions from group to the finance presentation	Facilitator led
10 minutes	Activity B: 'Your service priorities'	Small groups

30 minutes	Let's talk budget! Group discussion	Facilitator led
30 minutes	Activity C: Budget simulator tool. Over to you!	Group

- 8.7 Video footage from the Oxfordshire Conversations was used to frame discussions. Cllr Liz Leffman, Leader of the Council, informed people about the council's vision and responsibilities.
- 8.8 We then showed a video clip of Cllr Levy, Cabinet Member for Finance, from the Oxfordshire Conversations events. In the film he explains how the council is funded and what we spend on services, the £36 million financial pressures we are facing and how we are working to close that gap, and that a further £9.1 million needs to be found in order to set a legally balanced the budget for 2024/25. For two of the four groups, the video was replaced by an officer presentation, to allow for questions and points of clarification to be given in the moment.
- 8.9 The approach for the fifth session (with members of My Life My Choice) was amended to meet participants' needs. Easy Read materials were used throughout the session. Before discussing council services and finances we facilitated an activity ('Spending money – what's important to me...') to support the group to understand the importance of budgeting, and how this can involve making difficult choices.
- 8.10 It was agreed with the local lead from MLMC that this session would not include using the budget simulator tool, as it was felt that this would not be accessible to the participants.

## **Initial thoughts and comments**

- 8.11 Residents were then invited to ask questions / comment on what they had heard in the session so far. This section of the report summarises the main themes raised by participants across all focus groups when invited to start talking budget. The bullets below are paraphrases, not verbatim comments.

### **Cost of living**

The cost of living in Oxfordshire was acutely felt by participants across all groups.

- Oxfordshire is a very expensive county, there are some very wealthy people here. Most people on the base are posted here not from here. Need to recognise the people on lower income thresholds, but who are not vulnerable. (14.12.23, RAF Benson)
- We rent, one of our wages goes instantly. (14.12.23, RAF Benson)
- People don't have the financial buffer they used to. (13.12.23, Abingdon)

## **Inequalities**

Inequalities, its causation, the perceived role of “those in authority” in perpetuating this, and the impact on individuals and communities was discussed by the Leys group.

- Our doctors voted as one of the worst 10 in the county. Why? (19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)
- Leys leisure centre. People can't afford to go to the gym in their own area (Fusion), it's too expensive. (19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)
- The council (councillors and those in higher authority) send deprived people to Blackbird Leys (19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)
- Blackbird Leys has a bad reputation, it's not in tandem with the development that has happened around us (19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)

## **Reduce our reliance on agency staff, particularly in social care**

Reliance on agency staff was mentioned in the first four groups, with a lengthier discussion in the Abingdon group. Pay differences (agency staff are perceived to be paid more and have many of the same benefits of directly employed staff) is a disincentive for people to move, alongside the flexibility that agency work gives to some people.

- Never going to resolve the problem between agency and permanent staff, agency pays a lot more. If you made staff permanent, wages should be aligned with the agency staff, shouldn't be so much less. (13.12.23, Abingdon)
- Agency workers, get paid better and better conditions. Until there is parity they are not going to go to change. (14.12.23, RAF Benson)
- You need to recognise that agency works suits people really well, it's flexible, but it's not a secure job. (13.12.23, Abingdon)
- Carers are not getting paid enough and on time. (19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)

## **Embrace technology where it improves productivity and connectivity**

Recognising and addressing digital exclusion was discussed in the Leys group, it was felt to be important as the council evolves, not to leave people behind.

- Technology is taking over and it's not good. We need to be more inclusive for those who do not like technology (19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)

## **Commercial contracts**

The value for money of the county council's highways contract was questioned at the RAF Benson group, based on experience.

## **Finance**

- Councillor allowances: How are councillors allowed to give themselves an extra 5%? (19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)
- “They” (the council) are separate from people on the ground (19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)
- It’s not fair that council tax is increasing (19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)
- The council tax referendum would cost money, and if it’s not positive it would be a waste of money. (13.12.23, Abingdon)

## **Organisation of local government in Oxfordshire**

- There are too many councils they should all be as one! (13.12.23, Abingdon)

## **Listening to people with learning disabilities**

- Often, as people with learning disabilities, it feels like when we feedback people don’t listen to us. Our feedback isn’t as important as other people’s and what we want doesn’t happen. (09.01.24, MLMC)
- Participants wanted to see a local group set up for people with learning disabilities to give feedback to the county council. (09.01.24, MLMC) (Explained that we work with existing local groups to facilitate this, such as working with MLMC to have this session).

## **Service priorities**

- 8.12 A short exercise was then run in all five sessions to explore the top four service priorities of participants, and the reasons why they chose them. This task was adapted from a question in the residents’ survey, and was designed to help residents get into the mindset of making difficult decisions.
- 8.13 The table below summarises the responses given across all five focus groups, which were split into 11 sub-groups. (There were three sub-groups in the Banbury session, and the other four sessions had two sub-groups each.) Of the 20 services presented, thirteen were selected once or more by the various groups. The fire and rescue emergency response service, along with people-focussed services (and specifically support for children and the most vulnerable adults), were the most frequently mentioned.

Service area	Frequency selected by 11 sub-groups	Reason for choice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children's social care (protecting and supporting vulnerable children and families)</li> </ul>	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children matter. (12.12.23, Banbury)</li> <li>• This needs improvement. Children are missed and it needs to be a priority. (12.12.23, Banbury)</li> <li>• Better early outcomes, less cost later. (13.12.23, Abingdon)</li> <li>• If children in need get better support, they might be less vulnerable as adults (13.12.23, Abingdon)</li> <li>• Children deserve the right start to their future to enable them to build their future. (14.12.23, RAF Benson)</li> <li>• Initial support can prevent further breakdown, prevention rather than reaction. (14.12.23, RAF Benson)</li> <li>• Lots of stuff going on in schools with bullying, and also teachers abusing children. This affects their future and carries on through life. It's important so they can talk to someone and get the help they need. (09.01.24, MLMC)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support/care for vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities, and/or mental health problems, general frailty</li> </ul>	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This supports a wide range of people. (12.12.23, Banbury)</li> <li>• Quality of life. (12.12.23, Banbury)</li> <li>• Not enough support for people with complex issues. Specialist! Ongoing cost prevention. Early support like preservation. (13.12.23, Abingdon)</li> <li>• Protect people in later life and people that can't help themselves (19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)</li> <li>• Encompasses all ages – not just focusing on the elderly (19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)</li> <li>• People with disabilities or mental health problems find life harder so they need extra support to be independent and happy. (09.01.24, MLMC)</li> <li>• So we are made to feel equal and treated like everyone else. It protects people with disabilities. We might look the same on the outside but aren't on the inside. (09.01.24, MLMC)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire and rescue - emergency response (999)</li> </ul>	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I do not want to die – life or death! (12.12.23, Banbury)</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Absolutely invaluable – they need every penny to be the superheroes they are. (12.12.23, Banbury)</li> <li>• Quicker responses mean more lives saved! More manned places to respond faster. (13.12.23, Abingdon)</li> <li>• Life saving for everyone. (14.12.23, RAF Benson)</li> <li>• Life saving/prevention. 1 fire – entire row of houses (19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)</li> <li>• Keeping people safe. Important to be in local area for quick response. (09.01.24, MLMC)</li> <li>• It saves lives! It stops people's dying. (09.01.24, MLMC)</li> </ul>
• Support/care for older people	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As a group this one impacts on us due to our age group. (12.12.23, Banbury)</li> <li>• Old people matter. (12.12.23, Banbury)</li> <li>• Because they look after you! Everyone gets old! (13.12.23, Abingdon)</li> <li>• As getting older I hope support will be there for my neighbours and friends. (14.12.23, RAF Benson)</li> <li>• Care costs are so expensive. If you have money, why should we pay so much for care? (14.12.23, RAF Benson)</li> </ul>
• Primary education (5 -11 years)	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is the age that is so important for the progress in the future. (12.12.23, Banbury)</li> <li>• I think if the system hasn't caught you yet, it would not ever. (13.12.23, Abingdon)</li> <li>• To give a good start for children's education. (14.12.23, RAF Benson)</li> <li>• Give best start in life (19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)</li> </ul>
• Public health (helping people to stay healthy and protecting them from health risks through services and interventions - eg tobacco control, health visiting etc).	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public health covers all aspects of the community. (12.12.23, Banbury)</li> <li>• Health is so important for everyone. Thinking of COVID-19. What you can do to keep healthy. (13.12.23, Abingdon)</li> <li>• Health for all at all ages and stages (19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)</li> <li>• Because it makes it easier for people to be healthy. Helps people through workshops like cooking healthily and making sure people have the information they need to keep healthy. (09.01.24, MLMC)</li> </ul>
• Household waste recycling centres (tips)	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste is to make sure the carbon footprint is helping environment. (12.12.23, Banbury)</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rats and vermin control if waste not dealt with. Effective reuse of materials (19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)</li> <li>• Then we know where the rubbish is going to. It's important to protect the environment and do this in an environmentally friendly way. So we live somewhere clean. Can make sure we re-use things. (09.01.24, MLMC)</li> </ul>
• Fire and rescue public safety and road safety advice and support	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire and Rescue covers all of general public. (12.12.23, Banbury)</li> <li>• Help with people getting into a dangerous situations, would help reduce the need for emergency services. (13.12.23, Abingdon)</li> </ul>
• Secondary education (11 -18 years)	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skills at an <u>opportune time</u> (19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)</li> </ul>
• Maintenance of roads	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost/repair. Improve roads as a safe roads help everyone get to and from point to and from point B. (14.12.23, RAF Benson)</li> </ul>
• Managing the road network	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Without good traffic infrastructure we won't be getting anywhere – includes parking, roads and pavements (19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)</li> </ul>
• Early education – birth to 4 years	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work to afford childcare. Get £100 relief each month, better not to work but then the child gets little benefits. If don't work mental health of parent affected. Not enough jobs with school hours. (14.12.23, RAF Benson)</li> </ul>
• Registration of births and deaths, and ceremonies including marriages and citizenship	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• So you can get married, and so you can do it legally. You need a birth certificate to register your child - so they can use the NHS, buy a house and get benefits etc. (09.01.24, MLMC)</li> </ul>

## Budget conversations – key findings

- 8.14 A key section of all of the five sessions was dedicated to whole-group discussion, focusing on council services and finances, based on the following four questions:
- Question 1: What services matter to you most?
  - Question 2: Which services do you think we should protect?
  - Question 3: Which services do you think we should spend less on/reduce?
  - Question 4: Should council tax be increased?
- 8.15 Questions one and two were largely discussed together by the groups, as the services that mattered most were also the ones they wanted to protect. This

section of the report summaries the themes from the main budget discussion across all five focus groups. The bullets below are paraphrases, not verbatim comments.

## **Questions 1 and 2: Which services matter most/should be protected?**

### **Children's services**

Children's services were spontaneously discussed in all five groups, but most extensively in Abingdon. The concept of early help (largely in terms of age) and support was a thread that ran through discussions on children's services, with prevention of future issues/crisis being a key driver.

- Anything to do with children. Give them a good start in life, without support at that early stage it starts a vicious circle. (14.12.23, RAF Benson)
- Left to 'rot' more if they are struggling (12.12.23, Banbury)
- Education, children's services (Banbury)

### **Early years support**

- Focus strongly on supporting children (and their families) in their early years, to prevent them from ending up in mental health crisis later. (13.12.23, Abingdon)
- Early intervention is really important. If the early intervention is there, there has to be a cost saving later on. (13.12.23, Abingdon)

### **Education**

- People will be more of a burden if not educated. Needs to be more practical skills/life skills in education. (14.12.23, RAF Benson)
- Lack of training for people. This should be included whilst people are in school eg life skills. Bring businesses to teach and train children in schools (19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)
- It's important for children to learn what they need for life. (09.01.24, MLMC)
- The social aspect is important, they can meet different people and make friends and be happy. (09.01.24, MLMC)
- Children should learn about learning disabilities in school, it's good for them to learn about different people. (09.01.24, MLMC)

### **SEND**

- Focus on SEND. Crisis with SEND support in school (assessments). Not that there is not a willingness from schools, but they don't have the budget for SEND support and early intervention too. That early intervention at primary age is important. Hopefully will not end up in mental health crisis later. (13.12.23, Abingdon)

## **Childrens services**

- Support for sexual health/domestic abuse, if you don't have support like the Hill, it's difficult for families. (12.12.23, Banbury)
- Foster care, no/not enough support. (12.12.23, Banbury)

## **Mental health**

- Children's mental health, when waiting for a diagnosis, we worry about support for education. (12.12.23, Banbury)
- Children's mental health, very long wait between appointments (7 years). If children are supported more during their time of need, won't get to crisis point later. (13.12.23, Abingdon)

## **Youth services**

- A lot of the youth services there used to be when I grew up aren't there anymore. Youth services can give support alongside CAMHS (13.12.23, Abingdon)

## **Voluntary and community-led provision**

- Job to be done here in terms of mapping services. There are services in the community that can help (not diagnosis) but a problem with awareness raising/community knowledge that they are there. (13.12.23, Abingdon)

## **Health and social care**

Health and social care services were also discussed in all five groups and in particular in Abingdon, Banbury, RAF Benson and My Life My Choice. The Leys group felt strongly that these should be protected but did not debate this topic in detail.

- These services should be protected: public health, mental health services, protecting the vulnerable people. (19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)
- Adult and health and wellbeing services (12.12.23, Banbury)
- Large range of people do not get support (12.12.23, Banbury)

## **Support for older people**

- No one has mentioned the elderly, it's one of the key things we should protect. They looked after you and they get old. (13.12.23, Abingdon)
- Support for older people over 65. More support should be given to older people. (14.12.23, RAF Benson)
- Older people want to live their own lives, support helps them keep some independence. (09.01.24, MLMC)

- People can get very lonely staying at home. Lockdown was especially hard and some people are still stuck at home. They need help to go out and see people or they need visitors. (09.01.24, MLMC)
- It helps to keep them safe. If they fell at home and lived alone then nobody would know and they need help. (09.01.24, MLMC)

### **Health and wellbeing**

- Everyone is happier if they are healthier. Children are far more at risk of smoking and unhealthy eating, which will impact them as adults. Behavioural change activities need to be more fun, need more in the community, more awareness. (13.12.23, Abingdon)
- Main one for me is the support for mental health. Matters most and shouldn't be reduced. (13.12.23, Abingdon)

### **Support for carers**

- There's little or no support for carers. Staff who are carers (employed) are not supported. Young carers need more support (12.12.23, Banbury)

### **Adult social care**

- Not all changes work. As cost savings in day services for older people we had to mix in with day services with learning disabilities and it didn't work. The older people disappeared because people don't want to go. (13.12.23, Abingdon)

### **Support/care for vulnerable groups**

- Supporting vulnerable people is really important. If I didn't have support I would be home all day all the time and would be really down. I think I would end up in hospital again. (09.01.24, MLMC)
- Without help I wouldn't have been able to get a job. (09.01.24, MLMC)

### **Highways**

Highways matters were discussed in length in the Leys group and at RAF Benson, in particular perceived inefficiencies and the human impact, with discontent expressed.

### **Highways maintenance**

- Maintenance of pavements, potholes, roads are atrocious in Oxford 19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)
- Companies are taking too long to repair roads. (19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)
- Roadworks and potholes. The work done is not good enough quality, not lasting and it's a perpetual cycle. (14.12.23, RAF Benson)

- Keeping the road verges long is ridiculous. I can't see round the corner, dangerous, I can't see round the corner and what is the point of encouraging wildlife near roads? (14.12.23, RAF Benson)

### **Street lighting**

- No streetlights in certain areas and not repaired as quickly (we need this to be safe, not good for people) (19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)

### **Parking**

- Parking is an issue; we need to have more parking spaces. Many shops that you can't go to now (East Oxford) as there is nowhere to park. If you don't have your car, you can't carry it home if it's a big shop. 19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)

### **Other council services**

Other council services considered to be important and/or protected by individual groups were:

#### **Fire and rescue service**

- Fire and rescue, 999 emergency response. It's very important. Do valuable work with little pay (14.12.23, RAF Benson)
- Fire service (12.12.23, Banbury)
- Fire and rescue service – public safety and road safety advice and support. It's very important. It saves people's lives if they don't have the fires in the first place. (09.01.24, MLMC)

#### **Libraries**

- Libraries: young people and older people use them. If done in the right way, they are social places. Needs to be supported, need to work with communities. (14.12.23, RAF Benson)
- Libraries are very important for people with learning disabilities. They are a safe and quiet space that you can go to during the day. There are people there that will help you if you need help and it's a free space for everyone. (09.01.24, MLMC)
- It is one of the few places you can go these days where you don't have to spend money (09.01.24, MLMC)

#### **Household waste recycling centres (HWRCs)**

- Household waste recycling centres, encourage people to take their waste to the tip. Should be an incentive to use the tips. People fly tip when HWRC sites are not open, you can see evidence of dumped materials on the approach to them. (14.12.23, RAF Benson)

- Give a financial incentive to recycle such as bottle deposit schemes. (14.12.23, RAF Benson)

### **Other services**

Although not specifically under the county council's remit, we do have a partnership role in these areas:

- Public transport: if train fees, bus fares were a reasonable rate and they ran at better times, aligned to working hours we would use them more. Would be better for climate change. (14.12.23, RAF Benson)
- Manage e-scooters, considered dangerous. (19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)
- Planning, build on brownfield not greenfield. (14.12.23, RAF Benson)
- NHS provision. (14.12.23, RAF Benson – general, 19.12.23, Leys, Oxford - GPs, 12.12.23, Banbury – ambulance services)
- Water, quality and sewage flooding. (19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)
- Local shops are no more. (19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)

### **Question 3: Which services do you think we should spend less on/reduce?**

#### **Museums and history services**

Museums and history services were mentioned spontaneously by the Abingdon and RAF Benson group. Neither group wanted the services to disappear, rather they wanted the council to focus on income generation or privatisation.

- Possibly museums. Would be sad, children may lose out. Instead of it being free for all, maybe should charge people a £1 to keep it going? (13.12.23, Abingdon)
- Lot more important things to protect than this. Could they charge a fee, privatise it. Someone else: still think they provide a service, its education. (14.12.23, RAF Benson)

#### **Highways**

Highways services were identified as an area by the Abingdon group, where spending could be reduced, but service delivery could be maintained or improved by getting others such as housing developers and utilities companies to do the work.

- Better coordination is needed when highways are repaired and when utilities dig it up. That's what causes the potholes. (13.12.23, Abingdon)
- If the telecoms companies come in and dig a section of road up, they should also fix the potholes next to it. It doesn't matter whose responsibility it is. Collaborate, join up. For example, if Thames Water is digging up the road and need to repair it, why can't they just resurface it at the same time? (13.12.23, Abingdon)

- The building companies building new housing, their heavy goods vehicles are damaging the road they should be paying to repair it. (13.12.23, Abingdon)

### **Countryside services**

The My Life My Choice group felt that countryside services could be reduced, compared to other services, as they were less important.

- I'm not in the countryside so it's not important to me. It doesn't affect most people because we live in towns and cities. (09.01.24, MLMC)
- It is less important that keeping people safe. (09.01.24, MLMC)

### **Parking**

The My Life My Choice group felt that parking services could also be reduced, which led to a wider discussion on travel and parking.

- Too much is spent on it and people don't follow the rules anyway. (09.01.24, MLMC)
- People should go on the bus more and park their cars less, it's better for the environment. (09.01.24, MLMC)
- Make it cheaper to park in Oxford and then more people will come and spend more time there and then you will make more money overall. (09.01.24, MLMC)
- The blue badge scheme is really important and should be kept, but it is important to make sure only people who really need them get them. (09.01.24, MLMC)

### **Doing things differently**

When posed with this question, the RAF Benson group started thinking creatively about how services could be maintained by doing things differently.

### **Street lighting**

- Why do the lights need to be on all the time. I grew up in the countryside, it was dark. Could they go off? If there was a sensor on the light, the light would come on when needed.

### **Parking enforcement**

- Parking, free zones are good it does encourage people to use the shops, but you don't need people to patrol parking. Instead use cameras, develop an app for citizens' self-reporting of illegal parking. (14.12.23, RAF Benson)



## **Registration services**

- Have to pay for registration services, should be able to go online and just get a piece of paper – go digital, automate. (14.12.23, RAF Benson)

## **Council management (general)**

The Leys group felt the council should look inwards and challenge our working practices.

- Reduce red tape and bureaucracy. (19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)
- Be more efficient and effective. (19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)
- Bring things back under council control and less subcontracting. Take learning from the private sector into your own workforce and then bring services back. (19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)
- Increasing council tax isn't necessarily what you need to do to bring in money, we need to pick up where inefficiencies are. (19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)
- In July, Birmingham City Council went broke, example of a council mismanaging its money. (19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)

## **Question 4: Thoughts on increasing council tax and income generation**

Overwhelmingly it was felt that council tax should not increase. However, some felt, that if people could afford it, they should pay. It was also suggested in two groups that council tax bands need to be reconsidered as they are out of date and unfair.

### **Against increasing council tax**

- Don't put it out of people's price range that they can't afford to pay it. People are retired and can't afford it with their pension. Young families are already struggling. (19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)
- No, people are hurting already. Very expensive. You increase it every year, we haven't seen the wage increase to cover it. (14.12.23, RAF Benson)
- Understand why it needs to happen, but the demographic here is wrong for the question. The little people are suffering, not seeing any benefit. (14.12.23, RAF Benson)
- They shouldn't increase it at the minute – not seeing anything extra for our money. Don't increase it at all. (13.12.23, Abingdon)
- No. If it goes up would we really see an improvement? I don't think so (09.01.24, MLMC)
- It's expensive as it is. With the cost of living crisis it's not easy to live and it's getting harder. Costs are going up everywhere, up and up and up. I appreciate that the council needs more money and it has to come from somewhere but we are struggling. People won't be able to afford to eat and they'll die. You should assess people individually, some can afford to pay more but some can't. (09.01.24, MLMC)

### **Possibly increase council tax**

- If people have a higher wage and can afford, they should pay more council tax and MPs shouldn't get an increase in salary (12.12.23, Banbury)
- If we feel it would go on something to help us, then maybe yes. (19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)
- Yes, slightly but need to be sensible about it, where they can afford it. (19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)
- Only if people on benefits don't have to pay more. We get a certain amount of benefits and that doesn't go up very much at all so it's like it's going down. It isn't very much and we can't afford to pay more. (09.01.24, MLMC)
- It depends how much it would go up. (09.01.24, MLMC)

### **In favour of increasing council tax**

- Yes, so that the council can spend more and not have to cut important services. (09.01.24, MLMC)

### **Greater transparency required**

- We don't know what they are doing with council tax, are they wasting it? (19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)

### **Rethink council tax bands, payment plans**

- No! The nationally set council tax bands need to be worked out correctly. Needs to come from higher (government), it's out of date. (13.12.23, Abingdon)
- Most people pay over 10 months, could you pay over 12 months to keep it a lower amount each month? Same total but spread more widely across the year. (13.12.23, Abingdon)
- You need more money but it should come from national government, not us. It's their fault not ours. (09.01.24, MLMC)

### **Other comments**

Although not specifically related to the council's revenue budget, the groups did want to share their views with the council on the following topics.

#### **Public transport**

- Cost for tickets are too expensive. Families can't afford it and would rather walk if they are not able to use a car. (12.12.23, Banbury)
- There are no buses on Sunday, we can't get to Oxford. (12.12.23, Banbury)
- Bus passes are hard to get if you have a disability. (12.12.23, Banbury)

## **Traffic management**

- We need to get rid of LTN's, traffic filters/new bus gates. (19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)
- Cycling is being prioritised too much, don't agree. Prioritising students (is it because they are bringing Oxford money), elders are now being pushed to cycle – I can't use a bike! (19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)
- Feel the road network is working against me. I'm supportive of sustainable transport, I do walk, but also need to drive. (19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)

## **Business rates**

- 58% of council budget is already covered from tax and small amount (11%) from business rates. Why can't businesses pay more? Sensible to increase business rates however businesses might not be able to afford this and then close. (19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)
- Comes a point when businesses can't afford to pay, then everyone loses (19.12.23, Leys, Oxford)
- Reduce rent for businesses/shops – having shops and services locally will encourage people to 'come in' and spend/use what is in town centres. (12.12.23, Banbury)

## **Budget simulator and next steps**

- 8.16 The final section of the first four focus groups was dedicated to explaining the budget simulator tool and supporting participants to use it. Hired iPads were provided. (This section was not included in the My Life My Choice session, as it had slightly different content, as planned with the local lead to meet the needs of participants.) Council officers and support staff were on-hand to support individuals if required. If time was short or participants needed to leave early signposting information to the online simulator was supplied.
- 8.17 After participants has trialled the budget simulator, they were invited to submit their claim form. (Payments for MLMC members attending the fifth session were organised separately.) As a final step for all groups, an explanation was given on next steps in the council's budget setting process.

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## Section 4.0

### Revenue Budget Strategy

1. Section 4 of the report sets out the revenue plans, strategies and policies that the Council is required to approve as part of the budget setting process. The content of this section is as follows:

Section		Title
4.1		Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2024/25 – 2026/27
4.2		Previously Agreed and New Budget Changes 2024/25 – 2025/26
	4.2.1	Changes to revenue funding and proposals since PCSOSC on 19 January 2024
	4.2.2	COVID-19 Pressures funded from Reserves in 2024/25 and 2025/26
4.3		Council Tax and Precepts 2024/25
4.4		Detailed Revenue Budget 2024/25
4.5		Financial Strategy 2024/25
	Annex 2	CIPFA Financial Resilience Index
	Annex 3	Financial Management Code of Practice – Summary Compliance Assessment 2023/24.
4.6		Earmarked Reserves & General Balances Policy Statement 2024/25
	4.6.1	Forecast Earmarked Reserves to 2026/27
4.7		Overarching Equalities Impact Assessment
4.8		Overarching Climate Impact Assessment

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**Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 - 2026/27**

**Net Operating Budget**

	2024/25			INDICATIVE BUDGET					
	Base Budget Rolled Forwards from 2023/24	Proposed Allocation	Proposed Budget	2025/26			2026/27		
				Proposed Rolled Forwards Base Budget	Proposed Allocation	Proposed Budget	Proposed Rolled Forwards Base Budget	Proposed Allocation	Proposed Budget
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Directorate Budgets</b>									
Adult Services	229,459	22,105	251,564	251,564	11,858	263,422	263,422	14,000	277,422
Children's Services	172,753	21,869	194,621	194,621	6,163	200,785	200,785	-6,029	194,756
Environment & Place	73,435	-413	73,022	73,022	3,519	76,541	76,541	750	77,291
Community Safety & Public Health	31,935	2,088	34,024	34,024	1,064	35,088	35,088	120	35,208
Resources	72,257	529	72,786	72,786	1,320	74,106	74,106	-572	73,534
Pay Inflation <sup>(1)</sup>				0	800	800	800	7,500	8,300
<b>Directorate Budgets</b>	<b>579,839</b>	<b>46,178</b>	<b>626,017</b>	<b>626,017</b>	<b>24,725</b>	<b>650,742</b>	<b>650,742</b>	<b>15,769</b>	<b>666,511</b>
<b>Strategic Measures</b>									
Capital Financing									
- Principal	13,399	1,534	14,933	14,933	1,484	16,417	16,417		16,417
- Interest	15,003	313	15,316	15,316	-161	15,155	15,155		15,155
Interest on Balances	-16,629	-3,566	-20,195	-20,195	4,134	-16,061	-16,061	3,100	-12,961
Un-Ringfenced Specific Grants	-42,896	-2,600	-45,496	-45,496	2,100	-43,396	-43,396		-43,396
Contingency & Inflation	3,399	3,918	7,317	7,317	100	7,417	7,417		7,417
Insurance Recharge	1,436	302	1,738	1,738		1,738	1,738		1,738
<b>Total Strategic Measures</b>	<b>-26,287</b>	<b>-99</b>	<b>-26,386</b>	<b>-26,386</b>	<b>7,657</b>	<b>-18,729</b>	<b>-18,729</b>	<b>3,100</b>	<b>-15,629</b>
<b>Contributions to/from Balances &amp; Reserves</b>									
General Balances	6,800	-6,800	0	0		0	0		0
Prudential Borrowing Costs	10,804	-594	10,210	10,210	-1,920	8,290	8,290		8,290
Budget Equalisation Reserve	4,286	-3,134	1,152	1,152	-1,152	0	0		0
Budget Priorities Reserve	1,823	-1,823	0	0		0	0		0
COVID - 19 Reserve	-7,380	3,624	-3,756	-3,756	1,438	-2,318	-2,318	2,318	0
Demographic Risk Reserve	4,000		4,000	4,000		4,000	4,000		4,000
<b>Total Contributions to (+)/from (-) reserves</b>	<b>20,333.0</b>	<b>-8,727</b>	<b>11,606</b>	<b>11,606.0</b>	<b>-1,634</b>	<b>9,972</b>	<b>9,972.0</b>	<b>2,318</b>	<b>12,290</b>
<b>Budget Shortfall</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-13,946</b>	<b>-13,946</b>	<b>-13,946</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>-13,882</b>
<b>Net Operating Budget</b>	<b>573,884</b>	<b>37,352</b>	<b>611,237</b>	<b>611,237</b>	<b>16,802</b>	<b>628,039</b>	<b>628,039</b>	<b>21,251</b>	<b>649,289</b>

(1) Adjustment for inflation and other items that have not yet been allocated by Directorate including demography, demand and priorities

# Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 - 2025/26

## Financing

	2024/25			INDICATIVE BUDGET					
				2025/26			2026/27		
	Base Budget Rolled Forwards from 2023/24 £000	Proposed Budget Change £000	Proposed Budget £000	Proposed Rolled Forwards Base Budget £000	Proposed Budget Change £000	Proposed Budget £000	Proposed Rolled Forwards Base Budget £000	Proposed Budget Change £000	Proposed Budget £000
Net Operating Budget	573,884	37,352	611,237	611,237	16,802	628,039	628,039	21,251	649,289
<b>Funded by:</b>									
<b>Government Grant</b>									
- Revenue Support Grant		-1,394	-1,394	-1,394	0	-1,394	-1,394		-1,394
- S31 Business Rate Reliefs	-14,427	-606	-15,033	-15,033		-15,033	-15,033		-15,033
- Business Rates Top-up	-42,662	-2,901	-45,563	-45,563	-905	-46,468	-46,468	-923	-47,391
<b>Total Government Grant</b>	-57,089	-4,901	-61,990	-61,990	-905	-62,895	-62,895	-923	-63,818
<b>Business Rates</b>									
- Business Rates local share	-36,045	-2,884	-38,929	-38,929	-779	-39,708	-39,708	-794	-40,502
- Collection Fund Surplus/Deficit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Business Rates</b>	-36,045	-2,884	-38,929	-38,929	-779	-39,708	-39,708	-794	-40,502
Council Tax Surpluses	-14,116	2,411	-11,705	-11,705	3,705	-8,000	-8,000		-8,000
Care Leavers Discount	21	0	21	21		21	21		21
<b>COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>466,655</b>	<b>31,978</b>	<b>498,633</b>	<b>498,633</b>	<b>18,823</b>	<b>517,456</b>	<b>517,456</b>	<b>19,534</b>	<b>536,990</b>
<b>Council Tax Calculation</b>									
Council Tax Base			273,890			278,683			283,560
Council Tax (Band D equivalent)			£1,820.56			£1,856.79			£1,893.74
<b>Increase in Council Tax (precept)</b>			6.9%			3.8%			3.8%
<b>Increase in Band D Council Tax</b>			4.99%			1.99%			1.99%



## New and Previously Agreed Budget Changes

Directorate	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	Total £000
<b>Previously Agreed Budget Increases</b>				
Adult Services	23,295	11,920	0	<b>35,215</b>
Children's Services	11,304	9,946	0	<b>21,250</b>
Environment & Place	3,919	3,924	0	<b>7,843</b>
Community Safety and Public Health	752	466	0	<b>1,218</b>
Resources & Law & Governance	46	1,789	0	<b>1,835</b>
Pay Inflation to allocate		800		<b>800</b>
<b>Total Previously Agreed Budget Increases</b>	<b>39,316</b>	<b>28,845</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>68,161</b>
<b>Previously Agreed Budget Reductions</b>				
Adult Services	-1,459	-562	0	<b>-2,021</b>
Children's Services	-159	110	0	<b>-49</b>
Environment & Place	-3,373	-300	0	<b>-3,673</b>
Community Safety and Public Health	-110	0	0	<b>-110</b>
Resources & Law & Governance	-430	0	0	<b>-430</b>
<b>Total Previously Agreed Budget Reductions</b>	<b>-5,531</b>	<b>-752</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-6,283</b>
<b>Previously Agreed Changes to COVID-19 Funded Pressures</b>				
Adult Services	-890	-325	0	<b>-1,215</b>
Children's Services	-1,900	-1,017	-1,644	<b>-4,561</b>
Environment & Place	-400	0	0	<b>-400</b>
Resources & Law & Governance	-434	-96	-675	<b>-1,205</b>
<b>Total Previously Agreed Changes to COVID-19 Funding</b>	<b>-3,624</b>	<b>-1,438</b>	<b>-2,319</b>	<b>-7,381</b>
<b>Total Existing Planned Changes</b>	<b>30,161</b>	<b>26,655</b>	<b>-2,319</b>	<b>54,497</b>
<b>Directorate</b>	<b>2024/25 £000</b>	<b>2025/26 £000</b>	<b>2026/27 £000</b>	<b>Total £000</b>
<b>New Budget Pressures</b>				
Adult Services	2,669	1,937	14,000	<b>18,606</b>
Children's Services	16,839	3,506	615	<b>20,960</b>
Environment & Place	4,213	176	-241	<b>4,148</b>
Public Health & Community Safety	2,008	522	120	<b>2,650</b>
Resources & Law & Governance	3,104	124	28	<b>3,256</b>
Pay inflation - new year			7,500	<b>7,500</b>
<b>Total New Budget Pressures</b>	<b>28,832</b>	<b>6,265</b>	<b>22,022</b>	<b>57,119</b>
<b>New Budget Savings</b>				
Adult Services	-1,510	-1,112	0	<b>-2,621</b>
Children's Services	-4,214	-6,382	-5,000	<b>-15,596</b>
Environment & Place	-4,772	-281	991	<b>-4,062</b>
Public Health & Community Safety	-562	76	0	<b>-486</b>
Resources & Law & Governance	-1,757	-497	75	<b>-2,179</b>
<b>Total New Budget Savings</b>	<b>-12,815</b>	<b>-8,195</b>	<b>-3,934</b>	<b>-24,944</b>
<b>Total Directorate Changes</b>	<b>46,178</b>	<b>24,725</b>	<b>15,769</b>	<b>86,672</b>

## New and Previously Agreed Budget Changes

Directorate	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	Total £000
<b>Combined Budget Increases</b>				
Adult Services	25,074	13,532	14,000	<b>52,606</b>
Children's Services	26,243	12,435	-1,029	<b>37,649</b>
Environment & Place	7,732	4,100	-241	<b>11,591</b>
Public Health & Community Safety	2,760	988	120	<b>3,868</b>
Resources & Law & Governance	2,715	1,817	-647	<b>3,885</b>
Pay inflation - new year		800	7,500	<b>8,300</b>
<b>Total Combined Budget Increases</b>	<b>64,524</b>	<b>33,672</b>	<b>19,703</b>	<b>117,899</b>

Directorate	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	Total £000
<b>Combined Budget Savings</b>				
Adult Services	-2,969	-1,674	0	<b>-4,642</b>
Children's Services	-4,374	-6,272	-5,000	<b>-15,646</b>
Environment & Place	-8,145	-581	991	<b>-7,735</b>
Public Health & Community Safety	-672	76	0	<b>-596</b>
Resources & Law & Governance	-2,187	-497	75	<b>-2,608</b>
<b>Total Combined Budget Savings</b>	<b>-18,346</b>	<b>-8,947</b>	<b>-3,934</b>	<b>-31,227</b>

Directorate	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	Total £000
<b>Combined Pressures and Savings</b>				
Adult Services	22,105	11,858	14,000	<b>47,964</b>
Children's Services	21,869	6,163	-6,029	<b>22,003</b>
Environment & Place	-413	3,519	750	<b>3,856</b>
Public Health & Community Safety	2,088	1,064	120	<b>3,272</b>
Resources & Law & Governance	529	1,320	-572	<b>1,277</b>
Pay inflation - new year		800	7,500	<b>8,300</b>
<b>Total Directorate Change</b>	<b>46,178</b>	<b>24,725</b>	<b>15,769</b>	<b>86,672</b>

## Previously Agreed and Proposed Budget Increases by Type

Demography	New Year		
	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000
Adult Services (Population Changes)	8,500	8,500	8,500
Children's Services (Population Changes)	7,326	6,794	
Environment & Place (Waste Tonnages)	430	430	400
<b>Total Previously Agreed Demographic Increases</b>	<b>16,256</b>	<b>15,724</b>	<b>8,900</b>

Inflation	New Year		
	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000
Adult Services	16,254	5,357	5,500
Children's Services	11,997	4,236	2,500
Environment & Place	4,056	3,125	0
Community Safety	1,316	466	0
Resources & Law & Governance	4,654	1,870	0
Pay Inflation to allocate		800	7,500
<b>Total Inflation Increases</b>	<b>38,277</b>	<b>15,854</b>	<b>15,500</b>

Demand and Other Pressures	New Year		
	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000
Adult Services	1,210	0	0
Children's Services	7,371	1,590	-4,237
Environment & Place	3,646	545	-641
Community Safety	1,444	522	120
Resources & Law & Governance	1,810	43	28
<b>Total Demand and Other Pressures</b>	<b>15,481</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>-4,730</b>

Investments	New Year		
	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000
Children's Services	1,449	832	708
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>1,449</b>	<b>832</b>	<b>708</b>

<b>COVID-19 Changes</b>	<b>2024/25 £000</b>	<b>2025/26 £000</b>	<b>2026/27 £000</b>
<b>Extend COVID-19 Funding that falls out in 2026/27</b>			
Children's Services	0	0	1,644
<b>Previously Agreed changes to Pressures funded by the COVID-19 Reserve on a one - off basis</b>			
Adult Services	-890	-325	0
Children's Services	-1,900	-1,017	-1,644
Environment & Place	-400	0	0
Resources & Law & Governance	-434	-96	-675
<b>Total</b>	<b>-3,624</b>	<b>-1,438</b>	<b>-675</b>

<b>Removal of Funding for Investments in 2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25 £000</b>	<b>2025/26 £000</b>	<b>2026/27 £000</b>
Resources (Councillor Priority Fund and Cost of Living Measures)	-3,315	0	0
<b>Total Remove Previously Agreed Funding for Investments in 2023/24</b>	<b>-3,315</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>Total Previously Agreed and Proposed Budget Increases</b>	<b>64,524</b>	<b>33,672</b>	<b>19,703</b>
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<b>Previously Agreed and Proposed Budget Changes</b>	<b>2024/25 £000</b>	<b>2025/26 £000</b>	<b>2026/27 £000</b>
Demographic Changes	16,256	15,724	8,900
Inflation	38,277	15,854	15,500
Demand and Other Pressures	15,481	2,700	-3,086
Investments	1,449	832	708
Removal of one - off funding for Investments in 2023/24	-3,315	0	0
Remove pressures funded from the COVID-19 reserve	-3,624	-1,438	-2,319
Savings	-18,346	-8,947	-3,934
<b>Total Previously Agreed and Proposed Budget Changes</b>	<b>46,178</b>	<b>24,725</b>	<b>15,769</b>

## Adult Services

Ref	Description	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
		£000	£000	£000	£000
	<b>Previously Agreed Budget Increases</b>				
	<b>Demographic Growth</b>				
	Funding for demographic growth (increases related to population changes)	8,500	8,500		17,000
	<b>Subtotal Demographic Growth</b>	<b>8,500</b>	<b>8,500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17,000</b>
	<b>Inflation</b>				
	Pay Inflation (2.5%)	808	826		1,634
	Pay Inflation (on-going effect of increase to 4.5% in 2023/24)	525			525
	Contract Inflation	887	920		1,807
	Income Inflation (2.0%)	-747	-796		-1,543
24AD1	Changes to the cost of care packages funded by the council	12,282	2,470		14,752
	<b>Subtotal Inflation</b>	<b>13,755</b>	<b>3,420</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17,175</b>
	<b>Demand and Other Pressures</b>				
23AS2	Long term COVID-19 Infection Control Requirements. Pressure was initially met from COVID-19 reserve in 2022/23 and 2023/24. Council funding added to replace the COVID-19 funding (see COVID12 below).	890			890
23AS5	Employment & Wellbeing - Community Carers / Connectors - support clients with a learning disability, to enable them to take part in their communities more independently. Provide support to find volunteering roles, and/or leisure activities, according to their interests until they feel confident to continue on their own.	150			150
23CS2	Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) Commissioning and Brokerage Team - additional dedicated commissioning capacity for SEND placement spend planned to fall out from 2024/25.	-100			-100
24AD2	Additional brokerage staffing capacity is needed as a result of increasing demand arising from hospital discharges and the need to reduce costs in Special Educational Needs & High Needs Block placements.	100			100
	<b>Subtotal Demand and Other Pressures</b>	<b>1,040</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,040</b>
	<b>Total Previously Agreed Budget Increases</b>	<b>23,295</b>	<b>11,920</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>35,215</b>
	<b>New Budget Pressures</b>				
2025ASC680	Pressure related to retaining additional capacity in Social Care Finance provided to support improvements in debt recovery, financial assessment and payment timeliness. See also 2025F&P972 additional funding for capacity in the Income Team in Finance.	170	0	0	170
2025ASC597	Changes to the cost of care packages funded by the council	1,500	1,937	0	3,437
	<b>Pay Inflation</b>				
2024PAYINF	Pay Inflation (5.0%)	999			999
	<b>New Demography and Inflation (add new year to MTFS)</b>				
2025ASC590	Demand increases resulting from population growth	0	0	8,500	8,500
2025ASC601	Increases to the cost of care packages funded by the council.	0	0	5,500	5,500
	<b>Total New Budget Pressures</b>	<b>2,669</b>	<b>1,937</b>	<b>14,000</b>	<b>18,606</b>
	<b>Total Pressures, Investments, Budget Increases</b>	<b>25,964</b>	<b>13,857</b>	<b>14,000</b>	<b>53,821</b>

## Adult Services

Ref	Description	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
		£000	£000	£000	£000
	<b>Previously Agreed Budget Savings</b>				
23AS13	Out of Area Placements - Bring people back to Oxfordshire to improve outcomes and increase the utilisation of supported accommodation.	-350			-350
24AD3	Due to a national shortage of qualified social workers and occupational therapists, recruitment into operational social work teams can take time. Adult Services launched a refreshed approach to recruitment in 2023/24, including investment in new professional leadership and development roles specifically the Principal Social Worker and Principal Occupational Therapist. As this approach was embedded there was expected to be a one-off saving in 2023/24 whilst vacancies were filled. This falls out from 2024/25 so the budget will be reinstated.	1,000			1,000
24AD4	The council is committed to supporting people to live independent healthy lives in their own homes. The council's programme of reviewing care packages will ensure that residents are supported to maximise all the opportunities that are available to them in the community to achieve better outcomes.	-670	-385		-1,055
24AD5	Population changes: the impact of the "Oxfordshire Way" on improved outcomes for people means there is a further anticipated reduction in demand for services in 2024/25.	-500			-500
24AD6	Maximise the use of supported living accommodation within Oxfordshire so that people are able to remain close to home.	-65			-65
24AD7	Shared Lives - increase the number of people who can find a home through the shared lives scheme. Build further on the success of the service to provide options for respite for a wider range of individuals.		-74		-74
24AD12	Continue to work with residents, the voluntary sector, health partners, and community groups to deliver The Oxfordshire Way. This means that people will be enabled to live healthy lives in their own homes for as long as possible. We will ensure that people do not enter into residential care when there is a better outcome that they could achieve by accessing equipment, technology, or Extra Care Housing.	-350	-175		-525
24AD13	The Oxfordshire health and social care system is dedicated to supporting people to return home to continue their recovery after a period of hospital based care. The Council will work with system partners to ensure that where people do require a period of bed based recovery in a nursing home or community hospital, they are supported to return home as quickly as possible by accessing the full range of statutory and voluntary services that can support people to remain independent and healthy in their own homes.	-495			-495
24AD15	Reduction in the cost of social care assessments contribution due to public health (drug and alcohol provider) providing a more efficient, integrated, and holistic assessment falls out in 2025/26.		72		72
24AD16	Eligible adult social care expenditure was funded from the Public Health Reserve on a one-off basis in 2023/24. This funding falls out in 2024/25.	500			500
24CC13	Share of £2.5m staffing savings reallocated to directorates	-529			-529
<b>Total Previously Agreed Budget Savings</b>		<b>-1,459</b>	<b>-562</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-2,021</b>

## Adult Services

Ref	Description	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
		£000	£000	£000	£000
	<b>New Budget Savings</b>				
2025ASC613	Efficiencies within Health, Education and Social Care Commissioning Budgets	-99	0	0	-99
2025ASC682	Reviews of care packages for service users with mental health needs linked to health funding.	0	-900	0	-900
2025ASC684	Build on 2023/24 saving through continued increase in recruitment of Shared Lives Carers	-74	0	0	-74
2025ASC762	Additional capacity means funding relating to Community Connectors can be released (23AS5).	-150	0	0	-150
2024CONT	Share of contract/commercial savings	-869			-869
2024DTFT	Delivering the Future Together staffing saving - reduce and delayer staffing structures and costs	-317	-212		-529
	<b>Total New Budget Savings</b>	<b>-1,510</b>	<b>-1,112</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-2,621</b>
	<b>Total Budget Savings</b>	<b>-2,969</b>	<b>-1,674</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-4,642</b>
	<b>Previously Agreed Changes to Pressures funded by the COVID-19 Reserve on a one - off basis</b>				
24COVID5	Previously agreed funding for additional commissioning and contract activity for social care arising as a result of the on-going impact of COVID-19 falls out in 2025/26.		-325		-325
COVID12	Long term COVID-19 Infection Control Requirements - based on increased staffing recruitment and retention, cost of PPE as free issue is withdrawn and on-going testing requirements. Funding of £1.780m in 2022/23 reduced to £0.890m in 2023/24 and will be removed from 2024/25. One - off funding from the reserve will be replaced by base buget funding (see 23AS2).	-890			-890
	<b>Total Previously Agreed Changes to Pressures funded by the COVID-19 Reserve</b>	<b>-890</b>	<b>-325</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-1,215</b>
	<b>Total Adult Services</b>	<b>22,105</b>	<b>11,858</b>	<b>14,000</b>	<b>47,964</b>

## Children's Services

Ref	Description	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
		£000	£000	£000	£000
	<b>Previously Agreed Budget Increases</b>				
	<b>Demographic Growth</b>				
	Demographic Growth	5,726	5,494		11,220
23CS5	Children's Placement Demography and Price Inflation - increase to existing planned demography of £4.0m. COVID-19 has had an impact in this area due to more children being in placements than expected, for longer periods of time, along with an unusually large increase in the unit price for a placement. The demographic increases link to delays in courts and changes in individual circumstances resulting in children spending longer in care than they may have done.	100	100		200
24CS32	Home to School Transport: There is a significant increase in the number of students needing an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). 33% of students with an EHCP require transport and the student increases are estimated at 11% in 2024/25 and 9% in 2025/26.	1,500	1,200		2,700
	<b>Subtotal Demographic Growth</b>	<b>7,326</b>	<b>6,794</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14,120</b>
	<b>Inflation</b>				
	Pay Inflation (2.5%)	1,430	1,463		2,893
	Pay Inflation (on-going effect of increase to 4.5% in 2023/24)	930			930
	Contract Inflation	252	255		507
24CS6	Inflation: funding for estimated inflationary increases to the cost of care.	3,200	1,600		4,800
24CS30	On-going impact of increases in the cost of mainstream bus tenders over the medium term as cohorts of contracts are tendered.	213	213		426
24CS31	Inflation: funding for estimated inflationary increases to the cost of care for children with SEND.	305	305		610
	<b>Subtotal Inflation</b>	<b>6,330</b>	<b>3,836</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,166</b>
	<b>Demand and Other Pressures</b>				
21CS21	Family safeguarding model - this was an invest to save project which introduced a new model in children's social care. An initial investment of £2.2m was made in 2020/21 and has gradually reduced since then. The remaining £0.945m budget falls out in 2024/25.	-945			-945
23CS1	Special Educational Needs (SEN) Casework Team - an increase in demand for Education Health & Care Plans (EHCPs) and the number of approved EHCPs which require an annual review has created a pressure across the SEN service including case workers, educational psychologists, quality and advocacy support. Additional capacity is needed to ensure quality and timeliness are in line with expected standards.	343	281		624
24CS1	Continuation of £0.970m funding for adult facing services within family safeguarding (family solutions plus), relating to contracts supporting domestic abuse, adult mental health & substance misuse. The increases are after taking account of the Supporting Families grant of £0.485m in 2024/25 plus funding from the Public Health reserve of £0.200m in 2024/25.	100	685		785
24CS3	Short term growth built into the 2023/24 budget to fund the difference in cost of agency and permanent social workers, until the Recruitment and Retention measures and investment take full effect falls out in 2024/25 and 2025/26.	-650	-450		-1,100
24CS5	Strengthen the application of thresholds and develop new working practices to safely reduce the number of children the council cares for so activity is more consistent with similar authorities (offsets previous pressures added to the budget)	-1,200	-1,200		-2,400
	<b>Subtotal Demand and Other Pressures</b>	<b>-2,352</b>	<b>-684</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-3,036</b>
	<b>Total Previously Agreed Budget Increases</b>	<b>11,304</b>	<b>9,946</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21,250</b>



## Children's Services

Ref	Description	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
		£000	£000	£000	£000
	<b>New Budget Pressures</b>				
	<b>Education</b>				
2025CS701	Investment in additional capacity in the SEND service	1,000			1,000
2025CS711	School improvement - additional capacity and replacement of grant funding	400	0	0	400
2025CS700	Funding to support implementation of Education Commission recommendations	100		0	100
	<b>Total Education</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,500</b>
	<b>Home to School Transport</b>				
2025CS-HN712	On-going impact of increases in the number of Education Health & Care Plans (EHCPs) and post - 16 travel & price increases following on from 2023/24.	3,300	0	0	3,300
2025CS-HN713	Future increases in the number of EHCPs and Post 16 travel and price increase impacting on demand and cost of transport.	600	400	2,500	3,500
	<b>Total Home to School Transport</b>	<b>3,900</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>6,800</b>
	<b>Social Care</b>				
2025CS787	Demand and inflation pressures continuing from 2023/24 (full year effect)	8,223	2,274	-4,237	6,260
	<b>Subtotal Demand and Inflation</b>	<b>8,223</b>	<b>2,274</b>	<b>-4,237</b>	<b>6,260</b>
	<b>New Service Investments (supporting the Financial Strategy)</b>				
2025CS790/1/3	Recruitment & Retention Strategy	949	832	708	2,489
2025CS792	Funding for technological improvements enabling data analysis and insight to help manage demand	500	0	0	500
	<b>Subtotal New Service Investments</b>	<b>1,449</b>	<b>832</b>	<b>708</b>	<b>2,989</b>
	<b>Extend COVID-19 Funding that falls out in 2026/27</b>				
2026COVID	The modelling approach to COVID-19 within Oxfordshire across all services has been to compare expected, annual growth patterns to growth seen through the pandemic. The excess growth is deemed to be as a result of the pandemic. Using this method there were an extra 74 plans issued, and applying costs based on the normal pattern of provisions, this results in an additional cost to High Needs. Funding removed from 2026/27			1,200	<b>1,200</b>
2026COVID	Family Safeguarding Partnership Team Savings - higher demand due to the COVID-19 pandemic means that it isn't possible to reduce teams in line with the original plan without a significant impact on caseloads.			444	<b>444</b>
	<b>Pay Inflation</b>				
2024PAYINF	Pay Inflation (5.0%)	1,767			<b>1,767</b>
	<b>Total New Budget Pressures</b>	<b>16,839</b>	<b>3,506</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>20,960</b>
	<b>Total Pressures, Investments, Budget Increases</b>	<b>28,143</b>	<b>13,452</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>42,210</b>

## Children's Services

Ref	Description	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
		£000	£000	£000	£000
	<b>Previously Agreed Budget Reductions</b>				
24CS7	One-off funding held in reserves was used to support expenditure in 2023/24. This falls out in 2024/25.	60			60
24CS9	The academy and new school budgets are expected to underspend in 2023/24 due to fewer schools converting to academies. Increased activity is expected in 2024/25	100			100
24CS17	Adopt Thames Valley (regional adoption service) - one - off reduced contribution in 2023/24 based on placing more children with our own adopters falls out in 2024/25.	40			40
24CS20	The Supporting Families grant will continue for a further two years. Total budgeted grant expected to fall out in 2025/26		110		110
24CS26	Supporting Families Grant - one-off funding was used to offset overall pressures in 2023/24. This falls out in 2024/25.	200			200
24CS27	Funding held in the Early Intervention reserve was used on a one-off basis in 2023/24 so this falls out in 2024/25.	200			200
24CS28	Funding from the Youth Funding pump-priming reserve was used to support the 2023/24 on a one - off basis. This one - off contribution falls out in 2024/25.	500			500
24CS29	Saving expected to be achieved through service reviews of non-statutory / non-case holding areas	-480			-480
24CC13	Share of £2.5m staffing savings reallocated to directorates	-779			-779
	<b>Total Previously Agreed Budget Reductions</b>	<b>-159</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-49</b>
	<b>New Budget Savings</b>				
	<b>Education</b>				
2025CS-HN707	Adjust growth funding already in budget	-343	-281	0	-624
	<b>Total Education</b>	<b>-343</b>	<b>-281</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-624</b>
	<b>Social Care</b>				
2025CS721	Agency Staff In Social Care - replacement with permanent Staff	-1,200	-1,600	-1,200	-4,000
2025CS723	Manage Demand for Children We Care For (CWCF) - Maintain CWCF at the current number	-2,700	-3,400	-700	-6,800
2025CS724	Bring Children We Care For (CWCF) currently placed out of the county back into Oxfordshire	-1,100	-1,300	-300	-2,700
2025CS725	High Cost Placements - Obtain better value care for children living in high-cost residential placements	-200	-600	0	-800
2025CS726	Exits from Care - Ensuring children cease to be Children We Care For (CWCF) in line with their plan in a timely way	-2,200	-2,500	-2,800	-7,500
2025CS728	NHS Joint Funding - Maximise access to all health joint funding for Children We Care For (CWCF)	-2,900		0	-2,900
2025CS1064	Risk adjustment (40% of savings)	4,120			4,120
2025CS1063	Offset savings with re-instatement of previous savings or replace COVID-19 funding that drops out of Medium Term Financial Strategy with base budget.	3,181	3,611		6,792
	<b>Total Social Care</b>	<b>-2,999</b>	<b>-5,789</b>	<b>-5,000</b>	<b>-13,788</b>
2024CONT	Share of contract/commercial savings	-405			-405
2024DTFT	Delivering the Future Together staffing saving - reduce and delay staffing structures and costs	-468	-312		-779
	<b>Total New Budget Savings</b>	<b>-4,214</b>	<b>-6,382</b>	<b>-5,000</b>	<b>-15,596</b>
	<b>Total Budget Savings</b>	<b>-4,374</b>	<b>-6,272</b>	<b>-5,000</b>	<b>-15,646</b>

## Children's Services

Ref	Description	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
		£000	£000	£000	£000
	<b>Previously Agreed Changes to Pressures funded by the COVID-19 Reserve on a one - off basis</b>				
	<u>Education</u>				0
COVID1	Special Educational Needs (SEN) Casework Team - An annual 10-12% increase in demand for Education Health & Care Plans (EHCPs) and the number of approved EHCPs which require an annual review has created a pressure across the SEN service including case workers, educational psychologists, quality and advocacy support. Additional capacity is needed to ensure quality and timeliness are in line with expected standards. One - off funding of £0.134m from the COVID-19 reserve falls out in 2024/25.	-134			-134
COVID2	Existing saving (22CS19 relating to a reduction in management by combining Early Years Teams across Education. ) was not expected to be achievable until 2024/25 as a result of COVID-19 pressures. Funding from the COVID-19 reserve falls out in 2024/25.	-140			-140
COVID5	Agency Staff - the proportion of permanent posts held by an agency social workers increased during 2021/22 because of COVID-19 demand and other factors impacting on the availability of experienced social workers. Funding from the COVID-19 reserve falls out in 2024/25.	-375			-375
COVID6	Family Safeguarding Partnership Team Savings - higher demand due to the COVID-19 pandemic means that it was not possible to reduce teams in line with the original plan without a significant impact on caseloads (links to 21CS21). Temporary funding from the COVID-19 reserve was added but falls out in 2025/26.		-446		-446
COVID7	Family Safeguarding Associated Savings The reduction in activity as a result of Family Safeguarding was expected to reduce activity in other services, such as Children we Care For Teams and the QA services. The impact of these savings being delayed was met from the COVID-19 reserve but the funding falls out in 2024/25 and 2025/26.	-140	-246		-386
	<u>COVID-19 - Additional Demand Pressures</u>				0
COVID8	Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub - funding of £0.624m in 2022/23 for additional activity linked to COVID-19 demand falls out in 2023/24 and 2024/25.	-312			-312
COVID9	Family Safeguarding Partnership Teams - funding of £0.350m for additional activity linked to COVID-19 demand falls out in 2023/24 and 2024/25.	-175			-175
COVID10	Fostering Project Savings - reprofile of existing saving 21CS26. Recruitment of foster carers has been challenging nationally since the start of the pandemic for both local authorities and fostering agencies. £0.588m fundin in 2022/23 will increase to £0.637m in 2023/24 then fall out in 2024/25 and 2025/26.	-312	-325		-637
24COVID1	Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub. One - off funding of £0.624m agreed for 2022/23 for additional activity linked to COVID-19 demand was originally expected to fall out in 2023/24 and 2024/25 (see COVID8 in Annex 1a). Demand remains high so the funding was extended into 2023/24 but falls out in 2024/25.	-312			-312
COVID11	The modelling approach to COVID-19 within Oxfordshire across all services has been to compare expected, annual growth patterns to growth seen through the pandemic. The excess growth is deemed to be as a result of the pandemic. Using this method there were an extra 74 plans issued, and applying costs based on the normal pattern of provisions, this results in an additional cost to High Needs. Funding removed from 2026/27			-1,200	-1,200
COVID6	Family Safeguarding Partership Team Savings - higher demand due to the COVID-19 pandemic means that it isn't possible to reduce teams in line with the original plan without a significant impact on caseloads. At present it is estimated there will be a two year delay, but this will be reviewed as demand changes. (links to 21CS21)			-444	-444
	<b>Total Previously Agreed Changes to Pressures funded by the COVID-19 Reserve</b>	<b>-1,900</b>	<b>-1,017</b>	<b>-1,644</b>	<b>-4,561</b>
	<b>Total Children's Services</b>	<b>21,869</b>	<b>6,163</b>	<b>-6,029</b>	<b>22,003</b>

## Environment &amp; Place

Ref	Description	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
		£000	£000	£000	£000
	<b>Previously Agreed Budget Increases</b>				
	<b>Demographic Growth</b>				
	Demographic Growth (growth in waste tonnages)	430	430		860
	<b>Subtotal Demographic Growth</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>860</b>
	<b>Inflation</b>				
	Pay Inflation (2.5%)	534	546		1,080
	Pay Inflation (on-going effect of increase to 4.5% in 2023/24)	347			347
	Contract Inflation	2,280	2,353		4,633
	Income Inflation (2.0%)	-131	-140		-271
	Business Rates Inflation	16	16		32
24EP4	Home to School transport - increase in the cost of school transport (directly provided and contracted) due to increases in fuel and other costs.	350	350		700
	<b>Subtotal Inflation</b>	<b>3,396</b>	<b>3,125</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,521</b>
	<b>Demand and Other Pressures</b>				
23EP3	Reprofiling of the LED replacement streetlighting programme due to unavoidable supply chain disruption as a result of COVID-19 meant the last year of the saving was moved to 2024/25.	-600			-600
23EP4	Recycling and Gully treatment project savings at the Drayton Highways Depot are being removed as they are not now achievable (links to 22EP26)	250			250
23EP5	Increased contribution to the Regional Flood Co-ordination Committee Levy	22	22		44
23EP10	Environmental and Community bids - additional funding supporting the expansion in capacity to prepare for the Environment Bill, develop the Nature Recovery Strategy and greater support for Community Action Groups falls out in 2024/25.	-50			-50
23EP11	£0.066m funding to increase capacity to develop pipeline and contract delivery of projects to support the Zero Carbon Infrastructure was added to the budget in 2022/23. This reduced to £0.064m in 2023/24 and falls out in 2025/26.		-64		-64
23EP12	Delivery of Pathways to a Zero Carbon Oxfordshire - one - off capacity to develop roadmap and support partnership working. Removal of one - off funding in 2024/25.	-20			-20
23EP14	Funding for short term capacity to ensure Oxfordshire is "Grid ready", developing Energy System planning and flexibility trials falls out by 2025/26.	-9	-64		-73
24EP3	Additional temporary resources and expertise to support the exploration and delivery of a new highways maintenance contract from the end of March 2025. Funding expected to fall out in 2025/26 after the contract is agreed.	100	-250		-150
24EP8	Household Waste Recycling Centres - anticipated increase in the cost of new contracts from 2025/26.		625		625
24EP9	An anticipated change in the law means the council will need to stop charging for DIY waste leading to a reduction in income.	400			400
24EP10	Impact of implementation of Controlled Waste Regulation		100		100
	<b>Subtotal Demand and Other Pressures</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>462</b>
	<b>Total Previously Agreed Budget Increases</b>	<b>3,919</b>	<b>3,924</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,843</b>

## Environment &amp; Place

Ref	Description	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
		£000	£000	£000	£000
	<b>New Budget Pressures</b>				
	<b>Highways &amp; Operations</b>				
2025EP583	Home to School Transport Digital Contract Management System - Previously Agreed Savings Not Achievable	650	150	0	800
2025EP588	Increased Parking Service operational and maintenance costs	295	380	200	875
2025EP598	Increased drawdown from Parking Reserve to support increased maintenance and operational costs	-295	-380	-200	-875
2025EP622	Increased highway maintenance activity (additional funding for potholes)	650	100	50	800
	<b>Total Highways &amp; Operations</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>1,600</b>
	<b>Planning, Environment &amp; Climate Change</b>				
2025EP641	Persistent Organic Pollutants - a change in the law means the council has to fund the cost of shredding, transporting and incinerating domestic soft seating as landfill disposal is no longer permitted.	200	0	0	200
2025EP647	Resource to write circular economy strategy	30	-30	0	0
2025EP692	Various pressures associated with service areas within Environment & Circular Economy (offset by saving EP693)	495	-115	-123	257
2025EP694	Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC): unsorted waste and essential site repair pressures (offset by saving EP695)	623	-114	0	509
2025EP645	Take action in 2024/25 to reduce the future cost of closed landfill site monitoring	10	-20	0	-10
2025EPDG	Add new year of demographic growth for Waste Management			400	400
	<b>Total Planning, Environment &amp; Climate Change</b>	<b>1,358</b>	<b>-279</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>1,356</b>
	<b>Transport &amp; Infrastructure</b>				
2025EP654	Create Sustainable Travel to School strategy	200	-200	0	0
2025EP744	Pressures associated with policy development for area travel plans, HGV studies and Multi Modal transport model (offset by saving EP745)	695	405	-568	532
	<b>Total Transport &amp; Infrastructure</b>	<b>895</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>-568</b>	<b>532</b>
	<b>Pay Inflation</b>				
2024PAYINF	Pay Inflation (5.0%)	660			660
	<b>Total New Budget Pressures</b>	<b>4,213</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>-241</b>	<b>4,148</b>
	<b>Total Budget Pressures</b>	<b>8,132</b>	<b>4,100</b>	<b>-241</b>	<b>11,991</b>

## Environment &amp; Place

Ref	Description	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
		£000	£000	£000	£000
	<b>Previously Agreed Budget Reductions</b>				
22EP06	Improved recycling facilities at Drayton Highways Depot for tar bound materials and gully waste will reduce disposal costs	-250			-250
22EP10	Fleet management – Reduced costs and effort by consolidating contracts and managing collectively across directorate	-100			-100
22EP11	Home to School contract management - Use of technology and improvements and automation of processes to reduce costs and effort required.	-50	-150		-200
22EP18	Additional anticipated income from charges to developers. Appropriate charges for services undertaken for developers that attract a relevant external fee (road agreements).	-278			-278
23EP18	Moving Traffic New income introducing Part 6 powers relating to Civil Traffic Enforcement.	-250			-250
23EP25	Supported Transport budget - rebasing of service operation and staffing costs	-100			-100
24EP14	Lane rental - introduce charges for all works on the busiest roads at the busiest times to minimise disruption.	-2,150			-2,150
24EP15	Anticipated increases in on street parking income.	-150	-150		-300
24EP17	One - off drawdown from accumulated funding held in the Parking Account reserve will be removed in 2024/25	250			250
24EP18	One - off reduction in operational budgets in 2023/24 is reinstated from 2024/25	50			50
24EP19	One - off reduction in operational budgets in 2023/24 is reinstated from 2024/25	40			40
24EP20	Prevention of unsorted waste at Household Waste Recycling Centres means recycling can be increased by reducing the amount of waste that is sent to the Energy Recovery Facility at Ardley.	-200			-200
24EP23	One - off reduction in operational budgets in 2023/24 is reinstated from 2024/25	30			30
24EP24	One - off reduction in operational budgets in 2023/24 is reinstated from 2024/25	40			40
24CC13	Share of £2.5m staffing savings reallocated to directorates	-255			-255
	<b>Total Previously Agreed Budget Reductions</b>	<b>-3,373</b>	<b>-300</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-3,673</b>
	<b>New Budget Savings</b>				
	<b>Highways &amp; Operations</b>				
2025EP620	Increase the use of commuted sums held in reserves to maintain new infrastructure as a result of new developments and changes to the highway	-700	-100	-100	-900
2025EP TBC	Increase charges for parking and Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ)	-200			-200
	<b>Total Highways &amp; Operations</b>	<b>-900</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-1,100</b>
	<b>Planning, Environment &amp; Climate Change</b>				
2025EP634	Climate Action: one - off income relating to greenhouse gas reporting	-12	12	0	0
2025EP638	Reduction in bespoke Lead Local Flood Authority planning consultations	-40	0	0	-40
2025EP646	Reduced gate fee for garden waste diverted to open window composting	-60	0	0	-60
2025EP693	Various pressures associated with service areas within Environment & Circular Economy - to be managed within the existing budget allocation (offsets pressure EP692)	-495	115	123	-257
2025EP695	Manage Household Waste Recycling Centre pressure through reduction in waste costs (offsets pressure EP694)	-623	114	0	-509
2025EP672	Use of reserves and other planning related fees to fund staffing posts	-50	0	0	-50
2025EP673	Capitalisation of staff costs to be funded through capital reserves when delivering infrastructure projects	-250	0	0	-250
	<b>Total Planning, Environment &amp; Climate Change</b>	<b>-1,530</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>-1,166</b>

## Environment &amp; Place

Ref	Description	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
		£000	£000	£000	£000
	<b>Transport &amp; Infrastructure</b>				
2025EP656	Saving through recharging staff time to Oxfordshire Bus Enhanced Partnership	-50	0	0	-50
2025EP745	Manage various pressures associated with policy development under existing budget allocation (offsets pressure EP744)	-695	-405	568	-532
2025EP655	Park & Ride upgrades improve user offer and increase patronage	-25	0	0	-25
2025EP657	Recharge of policy staff time to major projects	-50	0	0	-50
2025EP658	One - off capitalisation of staff time through recharging costs associated with School Streets project	-25	25	0	0
2025EP659	Consolidated savings for: - Introduction of standing advice for Transport Development Management - Combining Highways agreement and Engineering and assurance teams - Increase income from Planning Performance Agreement charges - Optimising the commissioning of modelling - Use of Section 106 funding held to develop schemes or the interest pot	-100	-180	0	-280
2025EP772	Release uncommitted element of on-going investment 24EP27 Countywide Community Transport Initiatives agreed in February 2023 on one - off basis in 2024/25	-260	260		0
2025EP773	Release part of the on-going £0.5m investment 24EP28 agreed in February 2023 not needed to support the cost of park and ride joint ticketing	-35			-35
2025EP774	Utilise Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) to support spend in 2024/25 and 2025/26	-400		400	0
	<b>Total Transport &amp; Infrastructure</b>	<b>-1,640</b>	<b>-300</b>	<b>968</b>	<b>-972</b>
	<b>Directorate Support</b>				
2025EP633	Increased recharging of staff time for projects	-5	-20	0	-25
	<b>Total Directorate Support</b>	<b>-5</b>	<b>-20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-25</b>
2024CONT	Share of contract/commercial savings	-544			-544
2024DTFT	Delivering the Future Together staffing saving - reduce and delayer staffing structures and costs	-153	-102		-255
	<b>Total New Budget Savings</b>	<b>-4,772</b>	<b>-281</b>	<b>991</b>	<b>-4,062</b>
	<b>Total Budget Savings</b>	<b>-8,145</b>	<b>-581</b>	<b>991</b>	<b>-7,735</b>
	<b>Previously Agreed Changes to Pressures funded by the COVID-19 Reserve on a one - off basis</b>				
COVID14	£0.800m funding in 2022/23 supporting an estimated reduction in the use of the Pay and Display (COVID-19) and reduction in level of drawdown from Parking Account as a result of reduction in income reduced to £0.400m in 2023/24 and falls out in 2024/25.	-400			-400
	<b>Total Previously Agreed Changes to Pressures funded by the COVID-19 Reserve</b>	<b>-400</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-400</b>
	<b>Total Environment &amp; Place</b>	<b>-413</b>	<b>3,519</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>3,856</b>

## Public Health &amp; Community Safety

Ref	Description	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
		£000	£000	£000	£000
	<b>Previously Agreed Budget Increases</b>				
	<b>Community Safety</b>				
	Pay Inflation (2.5%)	456	466		922
	Pay Inflation (on-going effect of increase to 4.5% in 2023/24)	296			296
	<b>Total Previously Agreed Budget Increases</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,218</b>
	<b>New Budget Pressures</b>				
	<b>Community Safety</b>				
2025CSafety670	Vehicle Renewals - increase revenue contribution for replacement of Fire	0	572	120	692
2025CSafety754	Cultural Development Work	50	-50	0	0
2024CSafetyFP	Funding for Fire Pensions - remove ringfenced grant funding (funding change announced in Provisional Local Government Settlement - existing ringfenced funding will be received as Revenue Support Grant in 2024/25.	1,394	0	0	1,394
	<b>Pay Inflation</b>				
2024PAYINF	Pay Inflation (5.0%)	564			564
	<b>Total Community Safety</b>	<b>2,008</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>2,650</b>
	<b>Public Health</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Total New Budget Pressures</b>	<b>2,008</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>2,650</b>
	<b>Total Budget Increases</b>	<b>2,760</b>	<b>988</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>3,868</b>
	<b>Previously Agreed Budget Reductions</b>				
	<b>Public Health</b>				
24PHCS1	Additional external grant funding for services supporting victims of Domestic Abuse expected in 2023/24 meant council funded budget could be released on a one-off basis. The budget is reinstated from 2024/25.	200	0		200
	<b>Community Safety and Public Health</b>				
24CC13	Share of £2.5m staffing savings reallocated to directorates	-310			-310
	<b>Total Previously Agreed Budget Reductions</b>	<b>-110</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-110</b>
	<b>New Budget Savings</b>				
	<b>Community Safety</b>				
2025CSafety665	New Ways of Working - Fire Engine Standby moves when incidents occur - adjust funding to reflect current activity.	-75	0	0	-75
2025CSafety666	Review of wholetime support functions	-75	0	0	-75
	<b>Total Community Safety</b>	<b>-150</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-150</b>
	<b>Public Health</b>				
2025PH555	Utilisation of government grant to fund domestic abuse services means £0.200m of council funding can be released on a one - off basis in 2024/25.	-200	200	0	0
	<b>Total Public Health</b>	<b>-200</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Community Safety and Public Health</b>				
2024CONT	Share of contract/commercial savings	-26			-26
2024DTFT	Delivering the Future Together staffing saving - reduce and delayer staffing structures and costs	-186	-124		-310
	<b>Total New Budget Savings</b>	<b>-562</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-486</b>
	<b>Total Budget Savings</b>	<b>-672</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-596</b>
	<b>Total Public Health &amp; Community Safety</b>	<b>2,088</b>	<b>1,064</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>3,272</b>



## Resources and Law &amp; Governance

Ref		2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
	Description	£000	£000	£000	£000
	<b>Previously Agreed Budget Increases</b>				
	<b>Inflation</b>				
	Pay Inflation (2.5%)	1,173	1,200		2,373
	Pay Inflation (on-going effect of increase to 4.5% in 2023/24)	763			763
	Contract Inflation (RPIX - 4.2%; RPI - 4.1%; CPI - 2.5%)	135	139		274
	Income Inflation (2.0%)	-44	-47		-91
	Business Rates Inflation	52	53		105
24CCCS1	Increases in utility costs for the council's buildings	350	55		405
24CCCS31	Property Facilities Management - additional contract inflation based on the OBR inflation forecast set out in the Autumn Statement 2022.	100	50		150
24CCCS33	Property Catering - additional food and utilities inflation resulting in an increase cost for school meal which can't be recovered due to restriction on price increase on school meal. This follows the increased inflation forecast set out by the OBR in the Autumn Statement 2022.	100	50		150
24CCCS34	Landlord & Tenant - additional contract inflation of 10% in 2024/25 and 2025/25 based on the OBR inflation projection in the Autumn Statement 2022.	370	370		740
	<b>Subtotal Inflation</b>	<b>2,999</b>	<b>1,870</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,869</b>
	<b>Demand and Other Pressures</b>				
23CODR9	Increase to the cost of maintaining Performance Management Business Systems	19	19		38
24CCCS3	Decarbonisation Manager - 50% of the cost of this post is assumed to be met from specific schemes in the capital programme from 2024/25.	-36			-36
24CCCS4	Adjustments to staffing budgets reflecting current service needs and anticipated future reductions to the number of council buildings.	-59			-59
24CCCS5	Staff shortages mean there is increased dependency on agency staff which has increased costs of cleaning the council's buildings. Action is being taken to reduce these costs in 2024/25 and 2025/26.	-100	-100		-200
24CCCS7	Programme Director - Partnership & Delivery. On-going capacity to support partnership activity and delivery including support for Oxfordshire's response to the Homes for Ukraine scheme and for households through the cost of living crisis.	130			130
24CCCS9	Legal Services - increase in establishment to respond to increased demand.	207			207
24CCCS10	Staffing pressures related to the loss of grant funding for data analysis, income from Cherwell District Council and investment in resources to undertake consultative activities and an inhouse digital design and graphics services.	161			161
24CCCS11	Library Service: Reduce historic income target due to decreased demand for services and changes in consumer behaviour.	40			40
	<b>Subtotal Demand and Other Pressures</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>-81</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>281</b>
	<b>Remove One - Off Funding for Investments in 2023/24</b>				
24CCCS37	One - off funding for the Councillor Priority Fund agreed in February 2023 (£15,000 per councillor to be used over two years) and two year administration cost falls out in 2024/25.	-1,015			-1015
24CCCS38	One - off funding for Council Tax Support Schemes/Cost of Living Measures agreed in 2023/24 falls out in 2024/25.	-2,300			-2300
	<b>Subtotal Remove One - Off Funding for Investments</b>	<b>-3,315</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-3,315</b>
	<b>Total Previously Agreed Budget Increases</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>1,789</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,835</b>
	<b>New Budget Pressures</b>				
	<b>Corporate Services</b>				
2025Corp973	Revised structure and pay scales for the council's Strategic Leadership Team (pending approval by Council on 7 November 2023). Additional contributions will be sought from existing council budgets so that the pressure is reduced as far as possible.	209	28	28	265
	<b>Total Corporate Services</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>265</b>
	<b>Communications, Strategy &amp; Insight</b>				
2025CSI531	Recruitment for a new Head of Business Change post	94	0	0	94
2025CSI532	Reorganise existing structure to fund two new posts for forward planning and business support for the council's leadership meetings	93	0	0	93

## Resources and Law &amp; Governance

Ref		2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
	Description	£000	£000	£000	£000
2025CSI533	Reorganise existing structure to fund two new posts in the Digital Content team to lead and support the redevelopment of the council's website	145	0	0	145
	<b>Total Communications, Strategy &amp; Insight</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>332</b>
	<b>Culture &amp; Customer Experience</b>				
2025C&CE529	Appointment of an Area Coroner in accordance with a recommendation from the UK Chief Coroner	140	96	0	236
	<b>Total Culture &amp; Customer Experience</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>236</b>
	<b>Finance &amp; Procurement</b>				
2025F&P698	Notified increase in external audit costs	135	0	0	135
2025F&P717	Additional Finance capacity needed to support the organisation to transform and to ensure that the S151 officer is able to lead and direct a finance function that is resourced to be fit for purpose.	450	0	0	450
2025F&P972	Additional capacity for Adult Services debt recovery	60	0	0	60
	<b>Total Finance &amp; Procurement</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>645</b>
	<b>Human Resources &amp; Organisational Development</b>				
2025HROD677	Funding for lone working safety software & app	52	0	0	52
2025HROD796	Applicant Tracking System service and system costs	70	0	0	70
	<b>Total Human Resources &amp; Organisational Development</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>122</b>
	<b>Property, Investment &amp; Facilities Management</b>				
2025PI&FM549	Schools Catering Service within Facilities Management Team - reduction in anticipated deficit on the account.	206	0	0	206
2025PI&FMTBC	Continued one off contribution to Children's Centre rents	113	-113		0
2025PI&FMTBC	Fund one-off Children's Centre rents from the Budgets Priorities reserve	-113	113		0
	<b>Total Property, Investment &amp; Facilities Management</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>206</b>
	<b>Pay Inflation</b>				
2024PAYINF	Pay Inflation (5.0%)	1,450			1,450
	<b>Total New Budget Pressures</b>	<b>3,104</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>3,256</b>
	<b>Total Pressures, Investments, Budget Increases</b>	<b>3,149</b>	<b>1,913</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>5,090</b>
	<b>Previously Agreed Budget Reductions</b>				
23CODR15	Temporary reduction in operational budget of the Performance & Insight team falls out in 2024/25	10			10
23CODR24	Temporary savings in supplies & contracts falls out from 2024/25.	239			239
24CCCS15	Temporary recruitment freeze for posts in Estates, Strategy and Major Projects falls out from 2024/25.	79			79
24CCCS18	Hard Facilities Management: reduction in maintenance of corporate buildings due to lower utilisation.	-30			-30
24CCCS26	Cultural Services (Libraries) - reduction in supplies & services expenditure, plus vacancy management.	-153			-153
24CCCS27	Cultural Services (Leadership team) - saving from temporary recruitment freeze in 2023/24 falls out from 2024/25.	80			80
24CC10	Replace public library PCs to improve energy efficiency	-28			-28
24CC13	Reduction in the need for agency staff across the council as a result of the Resourcing Strategy. Held here pending anticipated allocation to directorates.	-2,500			-2500
24CC13	£2.5m staffing savings reallocated to directorates	2,500			2500
24CC13	Share of £2.5m staffing savings reallocated to directorates	-627			-627
	<b>Total Previously Agreed Budget Reductions</b>	<b>-430</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-430</b>

## Resources and Law &amp; Governance

Ref		2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
	Description	£000	£000	£000	£000
	<b>New Budget Savings</b>				
	<b>Communications, Strategy &amp; Insight</b>				
2025CSI526	Reallocate existing funding to meet cost of new posts (see proposal 2025CSI532 and 2025CSI533)	-239	0	0	-239
	<b>Total Communications, Strategy &amp; Insight</b>	<b>-239</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-239</b>
	<b>Culture &amp; Customer Experience</b>				
2025C&CE567	Inflationary increase for the provision of Ceremonies within the Registration Service The proposed budget changes will be £30,000 overall increase in income. As the ceremony fees were set 2 years in advance, the increased fees have already been taken for customers that have booked for 2024/25. The increased were agreed in 2022/23. Ceremony fees will increase by 5 - 7% for registration office ceremonies and 3 - 7.5% for approved venue ceremonies for 2024/25, depending on the day of the week and type of ceremony.	-30	0	0	-30
	<b>Total Culture &amp; Customer Experience</b>	<b>-30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-30</b>
	<b>IT, Innovation and Digital</b>				
2025ITI&D TBC	Innovation Service (iHub): use contribution from reserve in 2024/25 and move to being self funding from 2025/26	-300	-321	0	-621
	<b>Total IT, Innovation &amp; Digital</b>	<b>-300</b>	<b>-321</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-621</b>
	<b>Human Resources &amp; Organisational Development</b>				
2025HROD868	National Insurance Contributions savings arising from the Salary Sacrifice Scheme (AVC Pension)	-65	0	0	-65
	<b>Total Human Resources &amp; Organisational Development</b>	<b>-65</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-65</b>
	<b>Law &amp; Governance</b>				
2025L&G487	Release unutilised funding for pension costs for members	-54	0	0	-54
	<b>Total Law &amp; Governance</b>	<b>-54</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-54</b>
	<b>Property, Investment &amp; Facilities Management</b>				
2025PI&FM524	Restructure of two staffing roles due to reduced hours required in the Commercial Team	-15	0	0	-15
2025PI&FM545	Savings identified from operational activity within the Estates Team (release of funding for utility inflation and council buildings).	-372	0	0	-372
2025PI&FM691	Delay in the occupation of a new library facility in the Banbury to 2025/26	-150	75	75	0
	<b>Total Property, Investment &amp; Facilities Management</b>	<b>-537</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>-387</b>
2024CONT	Share of contract/commercial savings	-156			-156
2024DTFT	Delivering the Future Together staffing saving - reduce and delayer staffing structures and costs	-376	-251		-627
	<b>Total New Budget Savings</b>	<b>-1,757</b>	<b>-497</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>-2,179</b>
	<b>Total Budget Savings</b>	<b>-2,187</b>	<b>-497</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>-2,608</b>

**Resources and Law & Governance**

Ref		2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
	Description	£000	£000	£000	£000
	<b>Previously Agreed changes to Pressures funded by the COVID-19 Reserve on a one - off basis</b>				
24COVID2	Programme Director - Partnership & Delivery. One off funding in 2023/24 falls out in 2024/25. On-going funding from 2024/25 included in 24CCCS7	-130			-130
24COVID3	Coroners - funding for additional activity in 2023/24 and 2024/25 falls out in 2025/26		-96		-96
COVID16	One off funding for COVID-19 Compliance Pressures in 2023/24 falls out in 2024/25	-25			-25
COVID17	One - off funding for additional Childcare Solicitor Provision in 2023/24 falls out in 2024/25	-279			-279
24COVID4	Additional resource for the Social & Health Care Team in the council's Customer Service Centre from 2023/24 to 2025/26			-175	-175
COVID18	Local Council Tax Support Scheme: anticipation of future emergency welfare demand in 2022/23 falls out in 2025/26			-500	-500
	<b>Total Previously Agreed Changes to Pressures funded by the COVID-19</b>	<b>-434</b>	<b>-96</b>	<b>-675</b>	<b>-1,205</b>
	<b>Total Resources and Law &amp; Governance</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>1,320</b>	<b>-572</b>	<b>1,277</b>

**Proposed Changes to Pressures Since 1 January PCSOSC**

Reference		2024/25
		£'000
	<b>Budget Deficit as per Performance &amp; Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 19 January 2024</b>	<b>930</b>
	<b>Changes to Proposed New Savings</b>	
	<b>Environment &amp; Place</b>	
2025EP TBC	Increase charges for parking and Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) (see Annex A Review of Charges for updated charges for Environment & Place highlighted in bold.	-200
	<b>Resources</b>	
2025ITI&D TBC	Innovation Service (iHub): use contribution from reserve to support the cost of the service in 2024/25 and move to being self funding from 2025/26.	-300
	<b>Changes to Budgets held Centrally</b>	
	Reduce contribution to contingency	-82
	<b>Total Changes to Net Operating Budget</b>	<b>-582</b>
	<b>Funding Change</b>	
	Increase in council tax surpluses notified by the district councils in January 2024	-348
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>

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**Previously Agreed Budgeted use of COVID-19 Reserve**

Reference	Description	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	<b>Adult Services</b>						
COVID12	Long term COVID-19 Infection Control Requirements after grant funding assumed to finish in 2021/22 - based on increased staffing recruitment and retention, cost of PPE as free issue is withdrawn and new testing requirements.	1,780	-890	-890			0
24COVID5	Funding for additional commissioning and contract activity for social care arising as a result of the on-going impact of COVID-19.		325		-325		0
	<b>Subtotal Adult Services</b>	<b>1,780</b>	<b>-565</b>	<b>-890</b>	<b>-325</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Children's Services</b>						
	<u>Education</u>						
COVID1	Special Educational Needs (SEN) Casework Team - An annual 10-12% increase in demand for Education Health & Care Plans (EHCPs) and the number of approved EHCPs which require an annual review has created a pressure across the SEN service including case workers, educational psychologists, quality and advocacy support. Additional capacity is needed to ensure quality and timeliness are in line with expected standards. Efficiencies of £0.100m per annum are planned for 2023/24 and 2024/25 and included within these pressures. Some of the pressure will be funded by the COVID-19 reserve in 2022/23 and 2023/24.	267	-134	-134			0
COVID2	Reduction in management by combining Early Years Teams across Education. Existing saving (22CS19) not achievable until 2024/25 as a result of COVID-19 pressures.	140		-140			0
	<u>COVID-19 Demand Pressures</u>						
COVID3	Elective Home Education - An increase in numbers of families choosing to home educate has required an short-term investment in this service to support this.	84	-84				0
COVID4	Additional capacity to track children missing education reflecting increased demand for services	21	-21				0
	<u>Social Care</u>						
COVID5	Agency Staff - the proportion of permanent posts held by an agency social worker has increased during 2021/22 because of COVID-19 demand and other factors impacting on the availability of experienced social workers.	750	-375	-375			0
COVID6	Family Safeguarding Partnership Team Savings - higher demand due to the COVID-19 pandemic means that it isn't possible to reduce teams in line with the original plan without a significant impact on caseloads. At present it is estimated there will be a two year delay, but this will be reviewed as demand changes. (links to 21CS21)	446	444		-446	-444	0
COVID7	Family Safeguarding Associated Savings The reduction in activity as a result of Family Safeguarding was expected to reduce activity in other services, such as Children we Care For Teams and the QA services. These will now be delayed.	140	246	-140	-246		0
	<u>COVID-19 - Additional Demand Pressures</u>						
COVID8	Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub - additional activity linked to COVID-19 demand.	624	-312	-312			0
24COVID1	Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub. One - off funding of £0.624m agreed for 2022/23 for additional activity linked to COVID-19 demand was originally expected to fall out in 2023/24 and 2024/25 (see COVID8). Demand remains high so continue funding in 2023/24		312	-312			0
COVID9	Family Safeguarding Partnership Teams - additional activity linked to COVID-19 demand.	350	-175	-175			0
COVID10	Fostering Project Savings - reprofile of existing saving 21CS26. Recruitment of foster carers has been challenging nationally since the start of the pandemic for both local authorities and fostering agencies.	588	49	-312	-325		0
	<u>High Needs DSG</u>						
COVID11	The modelling approach to COVID-19 within Oxfordshire across all services has been to compare expected, annual growth patterns to growth seen through the pandemic. The excess growth is deemed to be as a result of the pandemic. Using this method there were an extra 74 plans issued, and applying costs based on the normal pattern of provisions, this results in an additional cost to High Needs.	1,200				-1,200	0
	<b>Subtotal Children's Services</b>	<b>4,610</b>	<b>-50</b>	<b>-1,900</b>	<b>-1,017</b>	<b>-1,644</b>	<b>0</b>

**Previously Agreed Budgeted use of COVID-19 Reserve**

Reference	Description	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	<b>Environment &amp; Place</b>						
COVID13	Supported Transport digital contract management project (22EP11) has been delayed due to resources being diverted to support Home to School contract changes through the Pandemic.	350	-350				0
COVID14	On-going reduction in the use of the Pay and Display (COVID-19) and reduction in level of drawdown from the Parking Account as a result of reduction in income.	800	-400	-400			0
	<b>Subtotal Environment &amp; Place</b>	<b>1,150</b>	<b>-750</b>	<b>-400</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Resources and Law &amp; Governance</b>						
	<b>Legal Services</b>						
COVID16	COVID-19 Compliance Pressures	25		-25			0
COVID17	Childcare Solicitor Provision	279		-279			0
	<b>Finance</b>						
COVID15	Capacity pressures as a result of the on-going response to COVID-19	91	-91				0
	<b>Partnerships and Delivery</b>						
24COVID2	Programme Director - Partnership & Delivery. One off funding in 2023/24. On-going funding from 2024/25 included in 24CCCS7		130	-130			0
	<b>Coroners</b>						
24COVID3	Coroners - fund additional activity in 2023/24 and 2024/25		96		-96		0
	<b>Customer Service Centre</b>						
24COVID4	Additional resource for the Social & Health Care Team in the council's Customer Service Centre from 2023/24 to 2025/26		175			-175	0
	<b>Local Council Tax Support Scheme</b>						
COVID18	Anticipation of future emergency welfare demand – proposals to follow.	500				-500	0
	<b>Subtotal Resources and Law &amp; Governance</b>	<b>895</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>-434</b>	<b>-96</b>	<b>-675</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Total Previously Agreed Planned Changes to Budgets</b>	<b>8,435</b>	<b>-1,055</b>	<b>-3,624</b>	<b>-1,438</b>	<b>-2,319</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Use of Reserve in each year as per MTFS (Section 4.1)</b>	<b>8,435</b>	<b>7,381</b>	<b>3,756</b>	<b>2,319</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21,891</b>

Use of Reserve built into MTFS	2024/25	2025/26
	£000	£000
Adult Services	325	0
Children's Services	2,661	1,644
Environment & Place	0	0
Resources	271	175
Cost of Living Measures	500	500
<b>TOTAL USE OF RESERVE</b>	<b>3,757</b>	<b>2,319</b>



## Draft Council Tax and Precepts 2024/25

### Council Tax Data

1. In order to set its budget for 2024/25, the council needs to calculate its council tax requirement. This is the amount that the council needs to raise from council tax to meet its expenditure after taking account of the income it will accrue from the following
  - (a) the amount to be received from specific grants.
  - (b) the amount to be received from Revenue Support Grant and the Business Rates Top Up under the Business Rates Retention Scheme.
  - (c) the amount to be received for the County Council's share of Non-Domestic Rating Income.
  - (d) any surpluses/shortfalls on the Council Tax Collection Funds and Business Rates Collection Funds for earlier years and the estimated position for the current year.
  - (e) the amount expected to be received from fees, charges and contributions.
2. In order to set its council tax for the forthcoming year, the council needs to calculate its council tax requirement and have available the council tax base, expressed in terms of Band D equivalent properties.
3. Based on the final information on funding and assuming a council tax requirement of **£498,633,415.07** as shown in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (Section 4.1) the calculation of the Band D Council Tax for 2024/25 is as follows:

### Council Tax Calculation 2024/25

	£m
County Council net expenditure after specific grants, fees and charges	611.236
Less: Revenue Support Grant	1.394
Business Rates Top Up Grant	45.563
S31 Business Rates Reliefs – Indexation & Other Reliefs	15.033
Non-Domestic Rates Income from Districts	38.929
Council Tax Collection Fund Adjustments	11.684
Business Rates Collection Fund Adjustments	0.000
<b>Council Tax Requirement (R)</b>	<b>498.633</b>

Council Tax Base (assuming losses on collection) (T)	273,890.13
<b>Band D Council Tax (R/T)</b>	<b>£1,820.56</b>

The calculation of the council tax for the other bands is shown below in Table 1. Table 2 analyses the tax base over each district council area and allocates the estimated County Council precept to each area relative to their tax base.

## Council Tax by Property Band for Oxfordshire County Council

Assuming a Band D council tax of £1,820.56, the council tax for other bands is as follows:

Property Band	Property Values	Band D Proportion	2024/25 £ p
A	Up to £40,000	6/9	1,213.71
B	Over £40,000 and up to £52,000	7/9	1,415.99
C	Over £52,000 and up to £68,000	8/9	1,618.28
D	Over £68,000 and up to £88,000	9/9	1,820.56
E	Over £88,000 and up to £120,000	11/9	2,225.13
F	Over £120,000 and up to £160,000	13/9	2,629.70
G	Over £160,000 and up to £320,000	15/9	3,034.27
H	Over £320,000	18/9	3,641.12

**Table 2**

## Allocation of Precept to Districts

The County Council precept (£498,633,415.07) is the sum of the council tax income required to fund the Council's budget.

District Council	Tax Base Number	Assumed Precept Due £ p
Cherwell	59,027.20	107,462,559.23
Oxford City	46,234.90	84,173,409.54
South Oxfordshire	62,683.20	114,118,526.59
Vale of White Horse	58,103.80	105,781,454.13
West Oxfordshire	47,841.03	87,097,465.58
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>273,890.13</b>	<b>498,633,415.07</b>

Formal approval is required under the council tax legislation for:

- The County Council's precept, allocated to district councils pro rata to their share of the council tax base for the County Council;
- The council tax figures for the County Council for a Band D equivalent property and a calculation of the equivalent council tax figure for all other bands.

The information must be given to district councils by 1 March 2024.

# Revenue Budget 2024/25 Summary

		Budget 2023/24	Previously Agreed Budget Changes	New Pressures & Savings	Function and Funding Changes	Budget 2024/25
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Adult Services</b>	Expenditure	260,826	21,193	5,983	0	288,002
	Recharge Income	-8,161	500	-69	0	-7,730
	Grant income	-17,572	0	-4,602	0	-22,174
	Income	-5,634	-747	-153	0	-6,534
		<b>229,459</b>	<b>20,946</b>	<b>1,159</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>251,564</b>
<b>Children's Services</b>	Expenditure	484,669	9,144	15,525	0	509,338
	Recharge Income	-8,966	100	0	0	-8,866
	DSG income	-134,151	0	0	0	-134,151
	Grant income	-154,764	0	0	0	-154,764
	Income	-14,037	0	-2,900	0	-16,937
		<b>172,753</b>	<b>9,244</b>	<b>12,625</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>194,621</b>
<b>Public Health &amp; Community Safety</b>	Expenditure	69,699	642	85	1,233	71,659
	Recharge Income	-227	0	0	0	-227
	Grant income	-35,336	0	1,361	-1,233	-35,208
	Income	-2,200	0	0	0	-2,200
		<b>31,935</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>1,446</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>34,024</b>
<b>Enviroment &amp; Place</b>	Expenditure	146,329	5,208	4,428	0	155,965
	Recharge Income	-45,988	-1,713	-3,975	0	-51,676
	Grant income	-606	0	0	0	-606
	Income	-26,300	-3,349	-1,012	0	-30,661
		<b>73,435</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>-559</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>73,022</b>
<b>Resources</b>	Expenditure	94,700	-818	2,076	0	95,958
	Recharge Income	-9,665	0	-716	0	-10,381
	Grant income	-1,715	0	0	0	-1,715

# Revenue Budget 2024/25 Summary

		Budget 2023/24  £000	Previously Agreed Budget Changes  £000	New Pressures & Savings  £000	Function and Funding Changes  £000	Budget 2024/25  £000
	Income	-11,062	0	-13	0	-11,075
		<b>72,257</b>	<b>-818</b>	<b>1,347</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>72,786</b>
<b>Total Directorate Budgets</b>		<b>579,839</b>	<b>30,161</b>	<b>16,017</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>626,017</b>
<b>Strategic Measures and Contributions to/from Reserves</b>	Expenditure	61,632	-7,900	-1,823	540	52,449
	Recharge Income	-8,302	734	0	0	-7,568
	Grant income	-42,896	-3,300	0	700	-45,496
	Income	-9,009	3,623	0	-1,400	-6,786
		<b>1,426</b>	<b>-6,843</b>	<b>-1,823</b>	<b>-160</b>	<b>-7,400</b>
<b>OxLEP (to be confirmed)</b>	Expenditure	1,217	0	0	0	1,217
	Recharge Income	-314	0	0	0	-314
	Grant income	-820	0	0	0	-820
	Income	-83	0	0	0	-83
		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Operating Budget</b>		<b>581,264</b>	<b>23,318</b>	<b>14,194</b>	<b>-160</b>	<b>618,616</b>
<b>General Government Grants</b>	Grant income	<b>-57,089</b>	<b>-853</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-5,511</b>	<b>-63,453</b>
<b>Business Rates from District Councils</b>	Other Income	<b>-36,045</b>	<b>-721</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-700</b>	<b>-37,466</b>
<b>Council Tax Collection Fund Surpluses</b>	Other Income	<b>-14,116</b>	<b>10,116</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-7,705</b>	<b>-11,705</b>
<b>Council Tax - Funding for Care Leavers Discount</b>	Other Income	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT</b>		<b>474,035</b>	<b>31,860</b>	<b>14,194</b>	<b>-14,076</b>	<b>506,013</b>

# Revenue Budget 2024/25 Summary

		Budget 2023/24	Previously Agreed Budget Changes	New Pressures & Savings	Function and Funding Changes	Budget 2024/25
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	Expenditure	1,119,073	27,470	26,272	1,773	1,174,589
	Recharge Income	-81,624	-379	-4,760	0	-86,762
	DSG income	-134,151	0	0	0	-134,151
	Grant income	-310,798	-4,153	-3,241	-6,044	-324,236
	Income	-68,326	-473	-4,078	-1,400	-74,277
	Other Income	-50,141	9,395	0	-8,405	-49,150
<b>COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT</b>		<b>474,035</b>	<b>31,860</b>	<b>14,194</b>	<b>-14,076</b>	<b>506,013</b>

## (\*) Notes

1. DSG = Dedicated Schools Grant.

Revenue Budget 2024/25  
Adult Services

Ref. 2024/25	Ref. 2023/24	Service Area		Budget 2023/24 £000	Previously Agreed Budget Changes £000	New Pressures & Savings £000	Function and Funding Changes £000	Proposed Virements £000	Budget 2024/25 £000
<b>SCS1</b>	<b>SCS1</b>	<b><u>ADULT SOCIAL CARE</u></b>							
SCS1-1		Social Care Management & Practice	Expenditure	1,708	471	-747			1,432
			Recharge Income	0	0	0			0
			Grant income	0	0	0			0
			Income	0	0	0			0
		<b>Subtotal Social Care Management</b>		<b>1,708</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>-747</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,432</b>
SCS1-2	SCS1-2	Safeguarding & Mental Health	Expenditure	4,647	0	0			4,647
			Recharge Income	0	0	0			0
			Grant income	0	0	0			0
			Income	-30	0	0			-30
		<b>Subtotal Adult Protection &amp; Mental Capacity</b>		<b>4,617</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,617</b>
SCS1-3	SCS1-3	Support Services	Expenditure	4,010	0	600			4,610
			Recharge Income	-135	0	0			-135
			Grant income	0	0	0			0
			Income	-806	0	0			-806
		<b>Subtotal Provider &amp; Support Services</b>		<b>3,069</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,669</b>
SCS1-4	SCS1-4	Community Teams	Expenditure	14,489	0	0			14,489
			Recharge Income	-144	0	0			-144
			Grant income	0	0	0			0
			Income	-168	0	0			-168
		<b>Subtotal Domestic Violence &amp; Abuse</b>		<b>14,177</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14,177</b>
SCS1-5	SCS1-5	Provider Services	Expenditure	10,219	0	69			10,288
			Recharge Income	-6,959	0	-69			-7,028

Revenue Budget 2024/25  
Adult Services

Ref. 2024/25	Ref. 2023/24	Service Area		Budget 2023/24 £000	Previously Agreed Budget Changes £000	New Pressures & Savings £000	Function and Funding Changes £000	Proposed Virements £000	Budget 2024/25 £000
			Income	-1,258	0	0			-1,258
		<b>Subtotal Housing Related Support</b>		<b>2,002</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,002</b>
SCS1-8		Grants & Funding	Expenditure	150	150	-150			150
			Recharge Income	0	0	0			0
			Income	0	0	0			0
		<b>Subtotal Adult Social Care Recharges</b>		<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>-150</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>150</b>
		<b>TOTAL ADULT SOCIAL CARE</b>		<b>25,723</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>-297</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26,047</b>
SCS2-1	SCS2	Health Ed. & Social Care Commissioning	Expenditure	6,234	0	-99			6,135
			Recharge Income	-150	0	0			-150
			Grant income	0	0	0			0
			Income	-764	0	0			-764
		<b>TOTAL Health Ed. &amp; Social Care Commissioning</b>		<b>5,320</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-99</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,221</b>
SCS3-1	*	Housing & Social Care Commissioning	Expenditure	4,259	0	0			4,259
			Recharge Income	-273	0	0			-273
			Grant income	0	0	0			0
			Income	-2,608	0	0			-2,608
		<b>TOTAL Housing &amp; Social Care Commissioning</b>		<b>1,378</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,378</b>
SCS4-1	*	Business Support Service	Expenditure	1,141	0	0			1,141
			Recharge Income	0	0	0			0
			Grant income	0	0	0			0
			Income	0	0	0			0
		<b>TOTAL Business Support Service</b>		<b>1,141</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,141</b>
SCS5-1		<u>Pooled Contribution</u>							
SCS5-1A	SCS1-1A	Live Well Pool Contribution	Expenditure	130,519	-1,585	3,170			132,104
			Recharge Income	0	0	0			0

Revenue Budget 2024/25  
Adult Services

Ref. 2024/25	Ref. 2023/24	Service Area		Budget 2023/24 £000	Previously Agreed Budget Changes £000	New Pressures & Savings £000	Function and Funding Changes £000	Proposed Virements £000	Budget 2024/25 £000
SCS5-1B	SCS1-1B	Age Well Pool Contribution	Grant income	0	0	0			0
			Income	0	0	0			0
				130,519	-1,585	3,170	0	0	132,104
			Expenditure	82,112	-845	4,097			85,364
			Recharge Income	0	0	0			0
			Grant income	-17,572	0	0			-17,572
			Income	0	0	0			0
				64,540	-845	4,097	0	0	67,792
			Expenditure	907	21,669	-1,955			20,621
			Recharge Income	-500	500	0			0
SCS5-1C	SCS1-1C	Pool Funding to Allocate	Grant income	0	0	-4,602			-4,602
			Income	0	-747	-153			-900
				407	21,422	-6,710	0	0	15,119
		<b>Subtotal Pooled Budget Contributions</b>		<b>195,466</b>	<b>18,992</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>215,015</b>
		<b>TOTAL COMMISSIONING</b>		<b>229,028</b>	<b>19,613</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>248,802</b>
		2.5% Previously Agreed Pay Inflation available to be allocated to service areas	Expenditure	431	1,333	999			2,762
	*	New services areas in 2024/25							
			Expenditure	260,826	21,193	5,983	0	0	288,002
			Recharge Income	-8,161	500	-69	0	0	-7,730
			Grant income	-17,572	0	-4,602	0	0	-22,174
			Income	-5,634	-747	-153	0	0	-6,534
		<b>BUDGET CONTROLLABLE BY ADULT SERVICES</b>		<b>229,459</b>	<b>20,946</b>	<b>1,159</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>251,564</b>



**Revenue Budget 2024/25**  
**Children's Services**

Ref. 2024/25	Ref. 2023/24	Service Area		Budget 2023/24  £000	Previously Agreed Budget Changes  £000	New Pressures & Savings  £000	Function and Funding Changes  £000	Proposed Virements  £000	Budget 2024/25  £000
<b>CEF1</b>	<b>CEF1</b>	<b><u>EDUCATION &amp; LEARNING</u></b>							
CEF1-1	CEF1-1	Management & Central Costs (including administration)	Expenditure	-1	-140	0	0	0	-141
			Recharge Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			DSG Grant Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Grant Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
				-1	-140	0	0	0	-141
CEF1-2	CEF1-2	SEND Service	Expenditure	87,451	409	100	0	0	87,960
			Recharge Income	-444	0	0	0	0	-444
			DSG Grant Income	-74,944	0	0	0	0	-74,944
			Grant Income	-3,383	0	0	0	0	-3,383
			Income	-1,083	0	0	0	0	-1,083
				7,597	409	100	0	0	8,106
CEF1-3	CEF1-3	Learning & School Improvement	Expenditure	6,316	52	400	0	0	6,768
			Recharge Income	-1,692	0	0	0	0	-1,692
			DSG Grant Income	-1,408	0	0	0	0	-1,408
			Grant Income	-1,738	0	0	0	0	-1,738
			Income	-143	0	0	0	0	-143
				1,337	52	400	0	0	1,789
CEF1-4	CEF1-4	Access to Learning (Including Home to School Transport Recharge)	Expenditure	34,428	1,713	3,900	0	0	40,041
			Recharge Income	-351	100	0	0	0	-251
			DSG Grant Income	-3,691	0	0	0	0	-3,691
			Grant Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Income	-8	0	0	0	0	-8
				30,378	1,813	3,900	0	0	36,091

**Revenue Budget 2024/25**  
**Children's Services**

Ref. 2024/25	Ref. 2023/24	Service Area		Budget 2023/24	Previously Agreed Budget Changes	New Pressures & Savings	Function and Funding Changes	Proposed Virements	Budget 2024/25
				£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
CEF1-5	CEF1-5	Learner Engagement Service	Expenditure	2,705	60	0	0	0	2,765
			Recharge Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			DSG Grant Income	-2,142	0	0	0	0	-2,142
			Grant Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Income	-276	0	0	0	0	-276
				287	60	0	0	0	347
		<b>SUBTOTAL EDUCATION &amp; LEARNING</b>		<b>39,597</b>	<b>2,194</b>	<b>4,400</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>46,191</b>
<b>CEF2</b>	<b>CEF2</b>	<b><u>CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE</u></b>							
CEF2-1	CEF2-1	Family Help	Expenditure	9,735	800	0	0	0	10,535
			Recharge Income	-230	0	0	0	0	-230
			DSG Grant Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Grant Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
				9,505	800	0	0	0	10,305
CEF2-2	CEF2-2	Front Door	Expenditure	4,833	0	0	0	0	4,833
			Recharge Income	-138	0	0	0	0	-138
			DSG Grant Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Grant Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
				4,695	0	0	0	0	4,695
CEF2-3	*	Childrens Social Care	Expenditure	66,091	-63	0	0	0	66,028
			Recharge Income	-2,150	0	0	0	0	-2,150
			DSG Grant Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Grant Income	-4,748	0	0	0	0	-4,748
			Income	-268	0	0	0	0	-268
				58,925	-63	0	0	0	58,862

Revenue Budget 2024/25  
Children's Services

Ref. 2024/25	Ref. 2023/24	Service Area		Budget 2023/24 £000	Previously Agreed Budget Changes £000	New Pressures & Savings £000	Function and Funding Changes £000	Proposed Virements £000	Budget 2024/25 £000
CEF2-9	*	Change	Expenditure	1,413	0	0	0	0	1,413
			Recharge Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			DSG Grant Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Grant Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
				1,413	0	0	0	0	1,413
		<b>SUBTOTAL CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE</b>		<b>74,538</b>	<b>737</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>75,275</b>
CEF3	CEF3	<b><u>CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE</u></b>							
CEF3-1	CEF3-1	<b><u>COUNTYWIDE SERVICES</u></b>							
		Provider Services	Expenditure	46,935	91	0	0	0	47,026
			Recharge Income	-1,589	0	0	0	0	-1,589
			DSG Grant Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Grant Income	-1,029	0	0	0	0	-1,029
			Income	-1,690	0	0	0	0	-1,690
				42,627	91	0	0	0	42,718
CEF3-2	CEF3-2	QA Safeguarding + Recruit & Retention	Expenditure	3,661	0	1,000	0	0	4,661
			Recharge Income	-86	0	0	0	0	-86
			DSG Grant Income	-68	0	0	0	0	-68
			Grant Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Income	-177	0	0	0	0	-177
				3,331	0	1,000	0	0	4,331
		<b>SUBTOTAL CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE</b>		<b>45,957</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>47,048</b>
CEF4	CEF4	<b><u>SCHOOLS</u></b>							

**Revenue Budget 2024/25**  
**Children's Services**

Ref. 2024/25	Ref. 2023/24	Service Area		Budget 2023/24	Previously Agreed Budget Changes	New Pressures & Savings	Function and Funding Changes	Proposed Virements	Budget 2024/25
				£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
CEF4-1	CEF4-1	Maintained Schools Budgets	Expenditure	158,661	0	0	0	0	158,661
			Recharge Income	-822	0	0	0	0	-822
			DSG Grant Income	-6,305	0	0	0	0	-6,305
			Grant Income	-142,178	0	0	0	0	-142,178
			Income	-9,356	0	0	0	0	-9,356
				0	0	0	0	0	0
CEF4-2	CEF4-2	Nursery Education Funding (EY)	Expenditure	39,965	0	0	0	0	39,965
			Recharge Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			DSG Grant Income	-39,965	0	0	0	0	-39,965
			Grant Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
				0	0	0	0	0	0
CEF4-3	CEF4-3	Non-Delegated Schools Costs	Expenditure	1,073	0	0	0	0	1,073
			Recharge Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			DSG Grant Income	-780	0	0	0	0	-780
			Grant Income	-77	0	0	0	0	-77
			Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
				216	0	0	0	0	216
CEF4-4	CEF4-4	Schools Support Service Recharges	Expenditure	1,982	0	0	0	0	1,982
			Recharge Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			DSG Grant Income	-1,982	0	0	0	0	-1,982
			Grant Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
				0	0	0	0	0	0
CEF4-5	CEF4-5	Capitalised Repairs & Maintenance	Expenditure	1,567	0	0	0	0	1,567
			Recharge Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			DSG Grant Income	-1,567	0	0	0	0	-1,567
			Grant Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Income	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Revenue Budget 2024/25**  
**Children's Services**

Ref. 2024/25	Ref. 2023/24	Service Area		Budget 2023/24	Previously Agreed Budget Changes	New Pressures & Savings	Function and Funding Changes	Proposed Virements	Budget 2024/25
				£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
				0	0	0	0	0	0
		<b>SUBTOTAL SCHOOLS</b>		<b>216</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>216</b>
<b>CEF5</b>	<b>CEF5</b>	<b><u>CHILDREN'S SERVICES' CENTRAL COSTS</u></b>							
CEF5-1	CEF5-1	Management, Admin & Central Support	Expenditure	10,324	3,863	8,358	0	0	22,544
			Recharge Income	-357	0	0	0	0	-357
			DSG Grant Income	-1,299	0	0	0	0	-1,299
			Grant Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Income	0	0	-2,900	0	0	-2,900
				8,668	3,863	5,458	0	0	17,988
CEF5-2	CEF5-2	Premature Retirement Compensation	Expenditure	3,211	0	0	0	0	3,211
			Recharge Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			DSG Grant Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Grant Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
				3,211	0	0	0	0	3,211
		<b>SUBTOTAL CENTRAL COSTS</b>		<b>11,879</b>	<b>3,863</b>	<b>5,458</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21,199</b>

Revenue Budget 2024/25  
Children's Services

Ref. 2024/25	Ref. 2023/24	Service Area		Budget 2023/24  £000	Previously Agreed Budget Changes  £000	New Pressures & Savings  £000	Function and Funding Changes  £000	Proposed Virements  £000	Budget 2024/25  £000
	*	New services areas in 2024/25  2.5% Previously Agreed Pay Inflation available to be allocated to service areas following the agreement of 2024/25 pay award.	Expenditure	563	2,360	1,767			4,690
			Expenditure	484,669	9,144	15,525	0	0	509,338
			Recharge Income	-8,966	100	0	0	0	-8,866
			DSG Grant Income	-134,151	0	0	0	0	-134,151
			Grant Income	-154,764	0	0	0	0	-154,764
			Income	-14,037	0	-2,900	0	0	-16,937
		<b>BUDGET CONTROLLABLE BY CHILDREN'S SERVICES</b>		<b>172,753</b>	<b>9,244</b>	<b>12,625</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>194,621</b>

**Revenue Budget 2024/25**  
**Customers, Culture & Corporate Services**

Ref. 2024/25	Ref. 2023/24	Service Area		Budget 2023/24	Previously Agreed Budget Changes	New Pressures & Savings	Function and Funding Changes	Proposed Virements	Budget 2024/25
				£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
COD1	COD1	Corporate Services	Expenditure	3,195	-886	209	0	0	2,518
			Recharge Income	-337	0	0	0	0	-337
			Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
				2,859	-886	209	0	0	2,182
COD2	COD2	Human Resources & Organisational Development	Expenditure	3,996	-46	30	0	0	3,980
			Recharge Income	-578	0	0	0	0	-578
			Income	-93	0	0	0	0	-93
				3,326	-46	30	0	0	3,310
COD3	COD3	Communications, Strategy & Insight	Expenditure	4,297	19	68	0	0	4,385
			Recharge Income	-962	0	0	0	0	-962
			Income	-83	0	0	0	0	-83
				3,253	19	68	0	0	3,340
COD4	COD4	IT, Innovation & Digital	Expenditure	14,143	144	-357	0	0	13,930
			Recharge Income	-919	0	0	0	0	-919
			Grant Income	-871	0	0	0	0	-871
			Income	-1,535	0	0	0	0	-1,535
				10,818	144	-357	0	0	10,605
COD5	COD5	Culture & Customer Experience	Expenditure	18,561	-203	38	0	0	18,396
			Recharge Income	-269	0	0	0	0	-269
			Grant Income	-844	0	0	0	0	-844
			Income	-4,832	0	-30	0	0	-4,862
				12,617	-203	8	0	0	12,421
COD6	COD6	Finance & Procurement	Expenditure	11,660	66	442	0	0	12,168
			Recharge Income	-908	0	0	0	0	-908
			Income	-1,788	0	0	0	0	-1,788
				8,964	66	442	0	0	9,472
COD7	CDA1	Property, Investment & FM	Expenditure	26,088	628	297	0	0	27,012
			Recharge Income	-5,184	0	-716	0	0	-5,900
			Income	-1,889	0	17	0	0	-1,872
				19,015	628	-402	0	0	19,240

Revenue Budget 2024/25  
Customers, Culture & Corporate Services

Ref. 2024/25	Ref. 2023/24	Service Area		Budget 2023/24 £000	Previously Agreed Budget Changes £000	New Pressures & Savings £000	Function and Funding Changes £000	Proposed Virements £000	Budget 2024/25 £000
COD8	CDA2	Law & Governance	Expenditure	9,228	-176	-101	0	0	8,952
			Recharge Income	-509	0	0	0	0	-509
			Income	-843	0	0	0	0	-843
				7,877	-176	-101	0	0	7,600
COD9	COD9	Delivery & Partnership	Expenditure	2,963	-2,300	0	0	0	663
			Recharge Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
				2,963	-2,300	0	0	0	663
				<b>44,798</b>	<b>-3,205</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>41,993</b>
		2.5% Previously Agreed Pay Inflation available to be allocated to service areas following the agreement of 2024/25 pay award.	Expenditure	568	1,936	1,450			<b>3,953</b>
			Expenditure	94,700	-818	2,076	0	0	<b>95,958</b>
			Recharge Income	-9,665	0	-716	0	0	<b>-10,381</b>
			Grant Income	-1,715	0	0	0	0	<b>-1,715</b>
			Income	-11,062	0	-13	0	0	<b>-11,075</b>
		<b>BUDGET CONTROLLABLE BY CUSTOMERS, CULTURE &amp; CORPORATE SERVICES</b>		<b>72,257</b>	<b>-818</b>	<b>1,347</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>72,786</b>



Revenue Budget 2024/25  
Environment & Place

Ref. 2024/25	Ref. 2023/24	Service Area		Budget 2023/24	Previously Agreed Budget Changes	New Pressures & Savings	Function and Funding Changes	Proposed Virements	Budget 2024/25
				£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
EP1	**	<b>Transport &amp; Infastructure</b>							
EP1-1		<b>Transport Policy</b>	Expenditure	13,267	303	-85	0	0	13,484
			Recharge Income	0	0	-75	0	0	-75
			Grant Income	-309	0	0	0	0	-309
			Income	-178	0	-50	0	0	-228
				12,780	303	-210	0	0	12,872
EP1-2		<b>Place Making</b>	Expenditure	7,289	0	-50	0	0	7,239
			Recharge Income	-1,593	0	0	0	0	-1,593
			Grant Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Income	-7,512	-238	-50	0	0	-7,800
				-1,816	-238	-100	0	0	-2,154
EP1-3		<b>Infrastructure Delivery</b>	Expenditure	9,528	0	0	0	0	9,528
			Recharge Income	-8,215	0	0	0	0	-8,215
			Grant Income	-70	0	0	0	0	-70
			Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
				1,243	0	0	0	0	1,243
EP1-4		<b>Senior Management Team</b>	Expenditure	625	0	0	0	0	625
			Recharge Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Grant Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
				625	0	0	0	0	625
		<b>Subtotal Transport &amp; Infastructure</b>		<b>12,832</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>-310</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12,587</b>

Revenue Budget 2024/25  
Environment & Place

Ref. 2024/25	Ref. 2023/24	Service Area		Budget 2023/24  £000	Previously Agreed Budget Changes  £000	New Pressures & Savings  £000	Function and Funding Changes  £000	Proposed Virements  £000	Budget 2024/25  £000
EP2	**	<b>Planning, Environment &amp; Climate Change</b>							
EP2-1		<b>Strategic Planning</b>	Expenditure	1,699	0	-300	0	0	1,399
			Recharge Income	-36	0	0	0	0	-36
			Grant Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Income	-655	-7	0	0	0	-662
				1,008	-7	-300	0	0	701
EP2-2		<b>Climate Change</b>	Expenditure	1,227	-29	0	0	0	1,198
			Recharge Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Grant Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Income	-30	30	-12	0	0	-12
				1,197	1	-12	0	0	1,186
EP2-3		<b>Environment &amp; Circular Economy</b>	Expenditure	36,462	1,527	140	0	0	38,130
			Recharge Income	-137	0	0	0	0	-137
			Grant Income	-227	0	0	0	0	-227
			Income	-1,047	-1	0	0	0	-1,048
				35,052	1,526	140	0	0	36,718
EP2-4		<b>Service Management Team</b>	Expenditure	499	0	0	0	0	499
			Recharge Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Grant Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
				499	0	0	0	0	499
		<b>Subtotal Planning, Environment &amp; Climate Change</b>		<b>37,755</b>	<b>1,520</b>	<b>-172</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>39,104</b>

Revenue Budget 2024/25  
Environment & Place

Ref. 2024/25	Ref. 2023/24	Service Area		Budget 2023/24  £000	Previously Agreed Budget Changes  £000	New Pressures & Savings  £000	Function and Funding Changes  £000	Proposed Virements  £000	Budget 2024/25  £000
EP3	**	<u>Highways Operations</u>							
EP3-1		Highway Maintenance	Expenditure	24,014	-60	650	0	0	24,605
			Recharge Income	-2,618	0	0	0	0	-2,618
			Grant Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Income	-1,517	0	-700	0	0	-2,217
				19,879	-60	-50	0	0	19,769
EP3-2		Network Management	Expenditure	10,611	174	-35	0	0	10,749
			Recharge Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Grant Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Income	-14,297	-3,164	-200	0	0	-17,661
				-3,687	-2,991	-235	0	0	-6,912
EP3-3		Supported Transport	Expenditure	37,023	2,417	4,150	0	0	43,590
			Recharge Income	-33,289	-1,713	-3,900	0	0	-38,902
			Grant Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Income	-772	-6	0	0	0	-778
				2,961	698	250	0	0	3,910
EP3-4		Senior Management Team	Expenditure	844	250	0	0	0	1,094
			Recharge Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Grant Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
				844	250	0	0	0	1,094
EP3		Subtotal Highways Operations		19,998	-2,102	-35	0	0	17,861

Revenue Budget    2024/25  
Environment & Place

Ref. 2024/25	Ref. 2023/24	Service Area		Budget 2023/24	Previously Agreed Budget Changes	New Pressures & Savings	Function and Funding Changes	Proposed Virements	Budget 2024/25
				£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
EP4	**	Directorate Support							
EP4-1		Data Intelligence & Business Support	Expenditure	2,295	-255	-697	0	0	1,343
			Recharge Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Grant Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Income	-293	37	0	0	0	-256
				2,002	-218	-697	0	0	1,087
EP4-2		Business Performance & Service Imp	Expenditure	601	0	-5	0	0	596
			Recharge Income	-100	0	0	0	0	-100
			Grant Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
				501	0	-5	0	0	496
EP4-3		Directorate Other	Expenditure	61	0	0	0	0	61
			Recharge Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Grant Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
				61	0	0	0	0	61
		Subtotal Directorate Support		2,564	-218	-702	0	0	1,644

Revenue Budget    2024/25  
Environment & Place

Ref. 2024/25	Ref. 2023/24	Service Area		Budget 2023/24  £000	Previously Agreed Budget Changes  £000	New Pressures & Savings  £000	Function and Funding Changes  £000	Proposed Virements  £000	Budget 2024/25  £000
	**	The Directorate restructured during 2023/24  2.5% Previously Agreed Pay Inflation available to be allocated to service areas following the agreement of 2024/25 pay award.	Expenditure	286	881	660			1,827
			Expenditure	146,329	5,208	4,428	0	0	155,965
			Recharge Income	-45,988	-1,713	-3,975	0	0	-51,676
			Grant Income	-606	0	0	0	0	-606
			Income	-26,300	-3,349	-1,012	0	0	-30,661
		<b>BUDGET CONTROLLABLE BY COMMUNITIES</b>		<b>73,435</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>-559</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>73,022</b>

Revenue Budget 2024/25  
Public Health & Community Safety

Ref. 2024/25	Ref. 2023/24	Service Area		Budget 2023/24 £000	Previously Agreed Budget Changes £000	New Pressures & Savings £000	Function and Funding Changes £000	Proposed Virements £000	Budget 2024/25 £000
PH1 & 2	PH1 & 2	Public Health Functions							
PH1	PH1	PH - Mandatory Funcs	Expenditure	16,240	0	0	0	0	16,240
			Recharge Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Grant Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
				<b>16,240</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16,240</b>
PH2	PH2	PH - Non-Mandatory F	Expenditure	21,553	200	-200	443	0	21,996
			Recharge Income	-217	0	0	0	0	-217
			Grant Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Income	-445	0	0	0	0	-445
				<b>20,891</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>-200</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21,334</b>
PH3	PH3	Public H Recharges	Expenditure	576	0	0	0	0	576
			Recharge Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Grant Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
				<b>576</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>576</b>
PH4	PH4	Grant Income	Expenditure	0	0	0	790	0	790
			Recharge Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Grant Income	-33,632	0	0	-1,233	0	-34,865
			Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
		<b>SUBTOTAL GRANT INCOME</b>		<b>-33,632</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-443</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-34,075</b>
		<b>TOTAL PUBLIC HEALTH</b>		<b>4,075</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>-200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,075</b>

Revenue Budget 2024/25  
Public Health & Community Safety

Ref. 2024/25	Ref. 2023/24	Service Area		Budget 2023/24 £000	Previously Agreed Budget Changes £000	New Pressures & Savings £000	Function and Funding Changes £000	Proposed Virements £000	Budget 2024/25 £000
Ref. 2024/25	Ref. 2023/24	Service Area		Budget 2023/24 £000	Previously Agreed Budget Changes £000	New Pressures & Savings £000	Function and Funding Changes £000	Proposed Virements £000	Budget 2024/25 £000
<b>EE4</b>		<b>FIRE &amp; RESCUE SERVICE &amp; COMMUNITY SAFETY</b>							
COM4-2	COM4-2	Fire & Rescue	Expenditure	28,135	-310	-279	0	0	27,546
			Recharge Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Grant Income	-1,704	0	1,361	0	0	-343
			Income	-887	0	0	0	0	-887
				25,544	-310	1,082	0	0	26,316
COM4-3	COM4-3	Emergency Planning	Expenditure	337	0	0	0	0	337
			Recharge Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Income	-28	0	0	0	0	-28
				309	0	0	0	0	309
COM4-4	COM4-4	Gypsy & Traveller Services	Expenditure	398	0	0	0	0	398
			Recharge Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Income	-465	0	0	0	0	-465
				-67	0	0	0	0	-67
COM4-5	COM4-5	Trading Standards	Expenditure	1,767	0	0	0	0	1,767
			Recharge Income	-10	0	0	0	0	-10
			Income	-376	0	0	0	0	-376
				1,380	0	0	0	0	1,380

Revenue Budget    2024/25  
Public Health & Community Safety

Ref. 2024/25	Ref. 2023/24	Service Area		Budget 2023/24  £000	Previously Agreed Budget Changes  £000	New Pressures & Savings  £000	Function and Funding Changes  £000	Proposed Virements  £000	Budget 2024/25  £000
		2.5% Previously Agreed Pay Inflation available to be allocated to service areas following the agreement of 2024/25 pay award.	Expenditure	694	752	564			2,010
		<b>FIRE &amp; RESCUE SERVICE &amp; COMMUNITY SAFETY</b>		<b>27,166</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>1,082</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29,949</b>
			Expenditure	69,699	642	85	1,233	0	71,659
			Recharge Income	-227	0	0	0	0	-227
			Grant Income	-35,336	0	1,361	-1,233	0	-35,208
			Income	-2,200	0	0	0	0	-2,200
		<b>BUDGET CONTROLLABLE BY PUBLIC HEALTH &amp; COMMUNITY SAFETY</b>		<b>31,935</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>1,446</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>34,024</b>



Revenue Budget 2024/25  
Strategic Measures

		Budget 2023/24	Previously Agreed Budget Changes	New Pressures & Savings	Function and Funding Changes	Other Virements	Budget 2024/25
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b><u>CAPITAL FINANCING</u></b>							
Principal	Expenditure	13,399	2,314		-780		14,933
Interest	Expenditure	15,003	313		0		15,316
Net Interest on Balances (split income and expenditure)	Expenditure	682			-2,900		-2,218
	Recharge Income	-8,302	734				-7,568
	Income	-9,009			-1,400		-10,409
		-16,629	734	0	-4,300	0	-20,195
<b>SUBTOTAL CAPITAL FINANCING</b>		<b>11,773</b>	<b>3,361</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-5,080</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,054</b>
<b>Contingency</b>	Expenditure	3,399			3,918		7,317
<b>Insurance</b>	Expenditure	1,436			302		1,738
<b><u>CONTRIBUTIONS TO/FROM GENERAL BALANCES</u></b>							
General Balances	Expenditure	6,800	-6,800				0
<b>SUBTOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO/FROM BALANCES</b>		<b>6,800</b>	<b>-6,800</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-6,800</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Revenue Budget 2024/25  
Strategic Measures

		Budget 2023/24	Previously Agreed Budget Changes	New Pressures & Savings	Function and Funding Changes	Other Virements	Budget 2024/25
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS TO/FROM RESERVES</b>							
Reserves	Expenditure	10,109	-3,133	-1,823			5,153
	Income	0	3,623				3,623
		10,109	490	-1,823	0	0	8,776
Prudential Borrowing costs	Expenditure	10,804	-594				10,210
<b>SUB-TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO/FROM RESERVES</b>		<b>20,913</b>	<b>-104</b>	<b>-1,823</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18,986</b>
<b>UNRINGFENCED SPECIFIC GRANT INCOME</b>							
	Grant income	-42,896	-3,300		700		-45,496
<b>TOTAL UNRINGFENCED SPECIFIC GRANT INCOME</b>		<b>-42,896</b>	<b>-3,300</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-45,496</b>
Strategic Measures	Expenditure	61,632	-7,900	-1,823	540	0	52,449
	Recharge Income	-8,302	734	0	0	0	-7,568
	Grant Income	-42,896	-3,300	0	700	0	-45,496
	Income	-9,009	3,623	0	-1,400	0	-6,786
<b>STRATEGIC MEASURES TOTAL</b>		<b>1,426</b>	<b>-6,843</b>	<b>-1,823</b>	<b>-160</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-7,400</b>
<b>OxLEP</b> (expenditure and offsetting income to be confirmed)	Expenditure	1,217	0	0	0	0	1,217
	Recharge Income	-314	0	0	0	0	-314
	Grant Income	-820	0	0	0	0	-820
	Income	-83	0	0	0	0	-83
<b>OxLEP TOTAL</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Revenue Budget 2024/25**  
**Strategic Measures**

		Budget 2023/24 £000	Previously Agreed Budget Changes £000	New Pressures & Savings £000	Function and Funding Changes £000	Other Virements £000	Budget 2024/25 £000
<b><u>COUNCIL TAX COLLECTION FUND SURPLUSES/DEFICITS</u></b>	Other income	-14,116	10,116		-7,705		-11,705
<b>TOTAL COLLECTION FUND SURPLUSES/DEFICITS</b>		<b>-14,116</b>	<b>10,116</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-7,705</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-11,705</b>
<b><u>CARE LEAVERS DISCOUNT</u></b>	Expenditure	21	0				21
<b>TOTAL CARE LEAVERS DISCOUNT</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>
<b><u>BUSINESS RATES FROM DISTRICT COUNCILS</u></b>	Other income	-36,045	-721		-700	0	-37,466
<b><u>BUSINESS RATES COLLECTION FUND SURPLUSES/DEFICITS (+)</u></b>	Other income					0	0
<b>TOTAL BUSINESS RATES FROM DISTRICT COUNCILS</b>		<b>-36,045</b>	<b>-721</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-700</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-37,466</b>
<b><u>GENERAL GOVERNMENT GRANT INCOME</u></b>							
Revenue Support Grant	Grant income	0			-1,394		-1,394
Section 31 Business Rates Reliefs Grants	Grant income	-14,427			-606		-15,033
Business Rates Top-Up	Grant income	-42,662	-853		-3,511		-47,026
<b>TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT GRANT INCOME</b>		<b>-57,089</b>	<b>-853</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-5,511</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-63,453</b>

## Government Grants 2023/24 - 2026/27

Ringfenced	Directorate	Issued by	Estimate 2023/24	In year Adjustments / New Allocations reported previously reported	In year Adjustments/ New Allocations reported this time	Actual 2023/24	Estimate 2024/25	Estimate 2025/26	Estimate 2026/27
			£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	<b>Strategic Measures</b>								
U	Lead Local Flood Authority	DEFRA	45	123	0	168	45	45	45
U	Extended Rights to Free Travel	DfE	278	531	0	809	278	278	278
U	Firelink	DLUHC	213	-83	0	130	213	213	213
U	Key Stage 2 Moderation & Phonics	DLUHC	0	21	0	21	0	0	0
U	Supporting Families - previously Troubled Families	DLUHC	1,048	204	0	1,252	1,048	1,048	1,048
U	New Homes Bonus	DLUHC	1,700	0	0	1,700	1,700	0	0
U	Local Reform & Community Voices Grant	DfE	515	0	0	515	515	515	515
U	Social Care Support Grant (including Independent Living Fund)	DLUHC	32,669	0	0	32,669	37,669	37,669	37,669
U	Services Grant	DfE	2,800	0	0	2,800	400	0	0
U	Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment & Recovery Grant	OHID	0	635	0	635	635	635	635
U	Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment & Recovery Housing	OHID	0	622	0	622	622	622	622
U	Supplementary Substance Misuse Inpatient Detox & Rehabilitation	OHID	0	0	0	0	80	80	80
U	Domestic Abuse Duty Grant	DLUHC	1,141	26	0	1,167	1,151	1,151	1,151
U	Rough Sleeping Drugs & Alcohol Grant	DLUHC	0	1,220	0	1,220	1,140	1,140	1,140
U	Dual Running & Client Level Data	DHSC	0	20	0	20	0	0	0
	<b>Subtotal Strategic Measures</b>		<b>40,409</b>	<b>3,319</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>43,728</b>	<b>45,496</b>	<b>43,396</b>	<b>43,396</b>
	<b>Business Rates</b>								
U	Section 31 Grant for Business Rate Compensation	DLUHC	14,427		0	14,427	15,033	15,033	15,033
U	Business Rates S31 Grant Top-Up	DLUHC	42,662		0	42,662	45,563	46,468	47,391
U	Revenue Support Grant	DLUHC	0			0	1,394	1,394	1,394
	<b>Subtotal Business Rates</b>		<b>57,089</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>57,089</b>	<b>61,990</b>	<b>62,895</b>	<b>63,818</b>

## Financial Strategy 2024/25

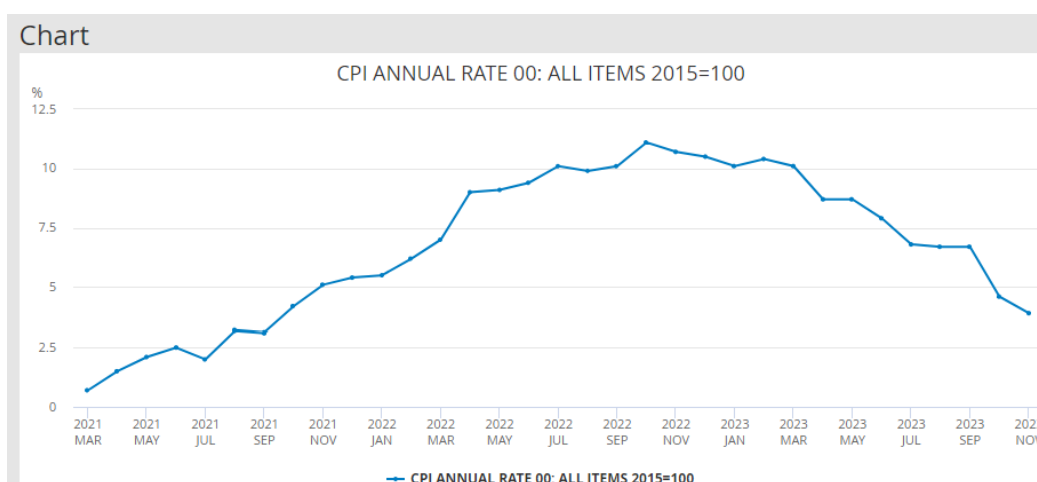
### Overview

1. The Financial Strategy sets out the approach the Council will take to ensure it is financially sustainable over the medium and long term. It supports the delivery of other corporate strategies, such as the Strategic Plan and the Capital & Investment Strategy as well as the more detailed objectives of service strategies and plans such as the Property Strategy. Integrated and aligned strategies and plans are imperative to financial resilience and stability as the impact of actions or decisions on one or more of these strategies will have an impact on the others.
2. Financial resilience is the ability, from a financial perspective, to respond to changes in delivery or demand without placing the organisation at risk of financial failure. The budget is underpinned by a financial strategy to ensure the financial sustainability of the Council, deliver essential services to residents and achieve our vision making Oxfordshire a greener, fairer and healthier county, within a limited amount of resource.
3. Financial sustainability and resilience requires successful and sustained focus on the delivery of four critical elements and financial planning principles for the revenue budget and medium term financial strategy:
  - Transforming the council to become employer, partner and place shaper of choice.
  - Managing the impact of rising need through demand management.
  - Delivering agreed savings and planned outcomes from investments.
  - Ensuring the level of earmarked reserves and general balances is adequate based on the level of risk and financial uncertainty and only using one-off resources for temporary purposes.

### Short Term Funding Context (2024/25)

4. Whilst a two-year policy statement for 2023/24 and 2024/25 was published in December 2022 setting out the government's intentions for the local government finance settlement for those two years, only a single year Local Government Finance Settlement for 2023/24 was provided. A further policy statement for 2024/25 was published on 5 December 2023, followed by a single year Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2024/25 on 18 December 2023.
5. The Government uses Core Spending Power as a way of measuring the resources available to local authorities through the local government finance settlement. However, this includes both Council Tax increases and some ring-fenced grants, so it is not a clear measure of how much government funding has been provided for general services or by how much the funding has increased. The increase in Core Spending Power for 2024/25 for the Council is 6.9%, or £42.2m.

- £31.8m of the increase (75%) relates to the assumption that the maximum Council Tax increase of 4.99% is taken along with forecast taxbase growth.
  - £7.2m of the increase (17%) relates to increases in Social Care grants announced as part of the Policy Statement in 2022 and already included in the draft MTFS agreed by Council in February 2023.
  - £5.6m of the increase (13%) relates to the increase in the Settlement Funding Assessment which is increased annually by the CPI rate in the September preceding the start of the year, i.e., September 2023
  - A £2.4m reduction (-6%) as a result of a reduction on the total funding available through the general Services Grant.
6. Whilst the increase in funding will go a significant way to meeting inflationary and demand pressures, there is still a requirement to make considerable savings and the need to increase council tax by the maximum allowable of 4.99% in order to deliver a balanced budget.
7. Increases in funding need to be seen in the context of inflation and its cumulative impact in the 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years. The graph below shows the path of the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) since March 2021. CPI reached a peak of 11.1% in October 2022 and has slowly decreased to 3.9% in November 2023. The CPI time series shows that there has been a total increase of 22.3% over this period.



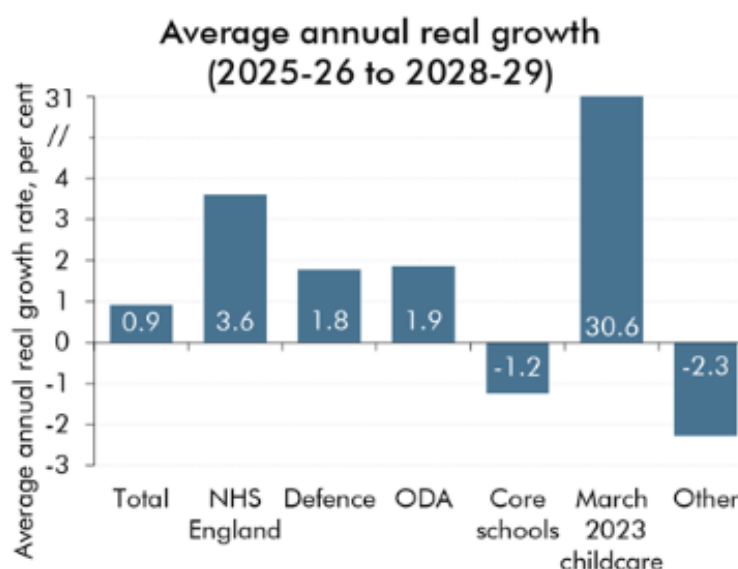
8. Taxbase growth has remained strong in 2023/24 and 2024/25 at 1.99% and 1.77% respectively. Future growth is assumed in the proposed MTFS at 1.75% per year which provides additional annual increases in funding of c£7.5m. An increase of 1.99% in Band D council tax is assumed in each of 2025/26 and 2026/27 as no information about future increases or the continuation of the Adult Social Care Precept is currently available beyond 2024/25.
9. The current MTFS included a contingency budget of £8.3m in 2023/24. Some of this has been used on a permanent basis to meet the cost of the pay award which was higher than expected when the budget was set. The contingency has been re-established as part of the budget proposals for 2024/25 providing some necessary

cover to meet any further inflationary or demand pressures given the current volatility. The Earmarked Reserves & General Balances Policy Statement 2023/24 (Section 4.6) sets out both the risk assessment for the level of General Balances taking into account the current financial uncertainty and the continuing higher levels of financial risk.

### **Medium Funding Context (2025/26 to 2026/27)**

10. There remains a lack of certainty in key aspects of Local Government funding. The policy statements published in both 2022 and 2023 state that the government recognises that providing councils with greater certainty on key aspects of their funding is important for the budget setting process and the ability to plan for the future. However, alongside this, the Policy Statement issued in December 2023 continued to refer to the position in relation to the local government funding reforms stating ‘the government remains committed to improving the local government finance landscape in the next Parliament. At the 2023 to 2024 Settlement, we heard calls from the sector for stability. Now is not the time for fundamental reform, for instance implementing the Review of Relative Needs and Resources or a reset of accumulated business rates growth. This continues to be the government’s position.’
11. The medium-term funding context is not only uncertain due to delays in the implementation of the government’s long planned reforms to fair funding, business rates but also as a result of the following factors:
  - Reductions in general funding for local government from 2010 and the increase in the proportion of the council’s spend on social care needs, means the ability to deliver further savings is reduced.
  - Continued pressures on demand for social care and the sufficiency of market provision, particularly for Children’s Social Care.
  - The broader economic environment, including the availability of workforce, high interest rates and the cumulative impact of inflation.
  - Continuing significant cost of living pressures on communities and residents.
  - Delays and uncertainty regarding the implementation of adult social care charging reforms.
  - On-going uncertainty about the future arrangements for the management of past and future overspends relating to High Needs Dedicated Schools Grant, where the accumulated deficit built is expected to be £68.0m by the end of 2024/25.
12. The current financial risks in the public sector are also set out in the Office for Budget Responsibility publication from July 2023 titled Fiscal Risks and Sustainability. This states, the ‘2020s are turning out to be a very risky era for the public finances. In just three years, they have been hit by the Covid pandemic in early 2020, the energy and cost-of-living crisis from mid-2021, and the sudden interest rate rises in 2022, whose consequences continue to unfold. This rapid succession of shocks has delivered the deepest recession in three centuries, the sharpest rise in energy prices since the 1970s, and the steepest sustained rise in borrowing costs since the 1990s.’

13. The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) forecasts for spending projections arising from Autumn Statement 2022 for the period 2025/26 to 2027/28 set out a 0.7% real terms annual cut in funding for 'other services' which includes Local Government. The projections arising from the Autumn Statement 2023 for 'other services' show spending needing to fall by 2.3% a year in real terms from 2025/26 (see table below). However, if defence and Official Development Assistance (ODA) spending are increased in line with the Government's ambitions rather than current GDP share, this would lead to unprotected spending needing to fall by an average of 4.1% a year. This means there is the likelihood that in the medium term there will be very significant financial challenges for local authorities. It is therefore imperative to plan ahead to ensure a balanced budget is set each year as well as responding to emerging needs and priorities.
14. Furthermore, the OBR report states that 'delivering a 2.3% a year real terms fall in day-to-day spending would present challenges. Performance indicators for public services continue to show signs of strain, for example eleven 'Section 114' notices have been issued by local authorities since 2018, compared to two in the preceding 18 years. The Institute for Government's recent report found that performance in eight out of nine major public services has declined since 2010, with schools the exception'.



15. To ensure that the council is sustainable in the medium term and be the best we can for our residents, there is an imperative to fundamentally change how we do things. Over the next two years, our vision for a successful and sustainable Council of the future is one where we:
- are smaller; operating from fewer buildings making sure those we keep are used to their full capacity;
  - embrace technology where it improves productivity and connectivity to the people we serve, helping us become more efficient;
  - collaborate more closely with partners in the voluntary and community sector so we're no longer the main provider for every service; and
  - exploit commercial opportunities where they deliver value for our residents.



16. This vision will be delivered through the Council's Delivering the Future Together transformation programme. The programme will accelerate delivery of financial and non financial benefits achieving our operating principles and supporting the Council's financial sustainability.

#### Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Unusable Reserve

17. As set out in the Earmarked Reserves and General Balances Policy Statement (Section 4.6) it is expected that the deficit on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Unusable Reserve will increase over the medium term and could reach a deficit balance of £144.3m by the end of the MTFS period based on the deficits set out in Annex B. This unsustainable position confronts most authorities with responsibility for schools. The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2020 stipulate that a deficit on the DSG must be carried forward to be funded from future DSG income unless permission is sought from the Secretary of State for Education to fund the deficit from general resources.
18. Regulations require the negative balance to be held in an unusable reserve. The DSG 'statutory override' has been extended for a one-off period of three years (up to March 2026). The SEND and alternative provision improvement plan issued by the DfE in March 2023 stated 'it is critical that, during this extension, local authorities continue to work with all parts of the SEND system to put themselves in the best position so that when the 'statutory override' comes to an end, local authorities are able to demonstrate their ability to deal with remaining DSG deficits.' The document does not however contain any plan to bring levels of funding for High Needs provision up to sustainable levels. Irrespective of this, it is imperative that the council continues to develop and implement its reforms for High Needs to bring expenditure more in line with grant allocations.
19. Demand for High Needs continues to outstrip the growth in the grant funding and as set out in the Business Management & Monitoring Report to Cabinet in January 2024 the forecast deficit compared to Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding for High Needs is £21.3m in 2024/25. Oxfordshire participated in Phase 1 of the DfE's Delivering Better Value scheme. This national programme, providing £1m of grant funding to help manage High Needs deficits. Despite this investment and the outcome of the programme, continued increases in demand mean that annual deficits against the grant funding are expected to grow in future years.
20. Beyond the period of the statutory override, the expectation is that the balance on the DSG Unusable Reserve will transfer back to the Council's total Earmarked Reserves. If this happens, it materially impacts on the overall level of reserves and by 1 April 2026, the total earmarked reserves held by the Council would only be £47.6m putting the financial standing of the council at risk. In this scenario, the council would need to take action to address the position. The risk associated with this is considered significant, however given the extension of the regulations, this does not need to be addressed until the 2026/27 financial year. Therefore, the position does not currently impact on decisions in the short term but consideration does need to be given in the medium term on how this might be addressed.

## Long Term Funding Context (to 2033/34)

21. The financial risks in the public sector over the longer term are also set out in the OBR report on Fiscal Risks and Sustainability. The context of the longer-term position needs to be seen following on from the challenging position in the short and medium term. This makes it more important to ensure that the Council is fit for purpose and transforms to remain sustainable over the long term.
22. The report states ‘governments face growing costs from an ageing society, a warming planet, and rising geopolitical tensions – challenges that no longer loom in the distance in our 50-year projections but pose significant fiscal risks in this decade:
  - as the ‘baby boom’ cohorts enter retirement and high inflation ratchets up the cost of the triple lock, state pension spending is expected to be £23 billion in today’s terms (0.8% of GDP) higher in 2027/28 than at the start of the decade;
  - as global temperatures rise and the 2050 deadline for reaching net zero draws closer, rising take-up of electric vehicles is expected to cost £13 billion a year in forgone fuel duty by 2030, while the public investments needed to support the decarbonisation of power, buildings, and industry could reach £17 billion a year by that date; and
  - in response to growing security threats in Europe and Asia, the Government has said it aspires to increase defence spending – for the first time in seven decades – from 2.0 to 2.5% of GDP, at a potential cost of £13 billion a year in today’s terms.’
23. At a local level, the county is facing significant demographic pressures. Economic prosperity and the quality of the environment make Oxfordshire an attractive place in which to live and work., The February 2022 update of the Oxfordshire County Council housing-led forecasts predict a total population in Oxfordshire of 853,500 by 2030, a growth of 157,600 (+20%). Over the same period, the number of people aged 65 and over is projected to grow by almost 25%. Over the next twenty years the number of people aged over 85 is expected to double with one in four requiring intensive support from the social and health care system. It is expected that there will be an increase in the number of clients with learning disabilities as well as an increase in this client group’s life expectancy. In addition, the 0-17 population is expected to rise by 16% leading to an increase in the number of children requiring school places. This will result in an erosion of existing and forecast spare capacity in many primary schools and in time, secondary schools.
24. Long term planning is particularly challenging in the current environment. However, in planning for the long term, it remains important to understand both the context of Oxfordshire as well as the main drivers of change. In this context, we need to ensure that the most fundamental issues facing the organisation which have been identified are responded to.
25. The longer-term trajectory for housing led forecasts indicate that the level of tax base growth is expected to continue to increase broadly at its current rate of c1.75% to 2.00% per year. Assuming interventions over the medium term have an impact on managing demand; that inflation levels are assumed to return to within the Bank of England target of 2% and that council tax increases remain in line with inflation, then

the prospect for the Council of meeting its increasing demographic pressures is likely to be achievable.

26. However, this does not take into account significant funding reductions which may arise over the medium term and any potential impact of the High Needs DSG deficit returning to the Council's Balance sheet. These scenarios will need to be modelled as well for alternative possible future economic and political environments.
27. The Capital & Investment Strategy at Section 5.1 sets out the long-term context in which capital expenditure and investment decisions are made and articulates how the Council's capital investment will help achieve the Council's vision and priorities as well as respond to demographic changes. The Council has a capital investment requirement over the ten-year period to 2033/34 of £363m. The Council will need to consider different mechanisms for financing over the longer term to deliver this level of investment. A Commercial Strategy is currently in development which will help to address the issue.

### Measuring Financial Performance

28. Measuring the Council's financial health through a set of targeted measures is a key way of measuring our financial health and resilience in supporting the Council's plans and priorities. The key indicators upon which we will measure ourselves are set out in Annex 1 below.
29. There are two key data sets which are used to measure financial health and resilience: CIPFA's Financial Resilience Index<sup>1</sup> and the Office for Local Government (OFLOG) data explorer. Both are designed to support and improve discussions surrounding local authority financial resilience. They show a council's performance against a range of measures associated with financial risk, including the level of earmarked reserves and general balances. The data sets are a comparative tool to be used to support good financial management and generate a common understanding of the financial position within authorities.
30. The information from the two datasets for Oxfordshire compared to similar authorities is set out in Annex 2. Whilst there are a range of indicators, the themes generally relate to the three areas below.
- Levels of Debt – Oxfordshire is well placed in these metrics. The levels of debt to income are in the lower quartile and in respect of level of debt compared to core spending, Oxfordshire is well below the median range. Debt servicing as a percentage of core spending is also at the low end of the median range. In the resilience index, the gross external debt metric is low risk.
  - Levels of Non Ringfenced Reserves (General Balances) – As a percentage of both service spend and net revenue expenditure, Oxfordshire is within the median range (lower end).
  - Levels of Reserves (Ringfenced and General Balances) - In the resilience index, Oxfordshire is in the middle compared to others, and the change in level

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<sup>1</sup> The December 2023 Index uses figures from the 2022/23 DLUHC revenue and expenditure Outturn data return (RO)

of reserves is lower than other comparators. The reserves sustainability measures, measuring the change in reserves in each of the last three years, Oxfordshire is lower risk compared to others.

- Social Care spend – Oxfordshire is within the median range (lower end) suggesting that the risk is comparatively less than others. In the financial resilience index, the Social Care ratio, at 78% of spend compared to net revenue expenditure is lower risk than comparators.

31. The one indicator where Oxfordshire scores comparatively higher risk than other County Councils is in relation to Business Rates - growth above baseline. This indicator is calculated as the difference between the baseline funding level and retained rates income, over the baseline funding level. This is perceived as a risk because compared with many other counties, Oxfordshire's income from business rates growth is high. However, given the implementation of funding reforms and a business rates reset will now not occur before 2025/26, there is no risk in the short-term. Furthermore, any business rates loss is expected to be phased reducing the impact in anyone year. The potential impact on the MTFS in 2025/26 and 2026/27 will be reviewed next year when further information may be available.

### **Financial Management**

32. Financial indicators alone do not give a complete picture of financial health and sustainability; strengths of financial management and governance are also an essential foundation of any successful organisation.

33. The Code of Practice for Financial Management (the FM Code) was introduced by CIPFA in November 2019. on behalf of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in the context of increasing concerns about the financial resilience and sustainability of local authorities. The FM code is not statutory but compliance with the code is obligatory. It brings together elements that are already part of existing statutory guidance:

- Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government (S151 Officer)
- Prudential Code for Capital Finance
- Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom

34. The FM Code, which includes 19 standards, clarifies how Chief Finance Officers should satisfy their statutory responsibility for good financial administration as required in section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972. Importantly it emphasises the collective financial responsibility of the leadership team, including the relevant elected members, of which the Chief Finance Officer is one member.

35. The first full year of compliance with the FM Code was 2021/22. It is for the individual authority to determine whether it meets the standards and to make any changes that may be required to ensure compliance. Authorities should be able to provide evidence that they have reviewed their financial management arrangements against the standards and that they have taken such action as may be necessary to comply with them.

36. An assessment has been made of the Council's current compliance with the FM Code. The assessment has identified that the Council is well placed to evidence compliance from 1 April 2024. 17 of the 19 Standards have been assessed as Green and 2 assessed as Amber meaning that compliance can be evidenced. Where relevant, proposed further actions that can be taken to enhance compliance have been included in the assessment. The assessment will also be used to help inform the Council's Annual Governance Statement (AGS) which will be published alongside the Statement of Accounts. The Summary Assessment is included at Annex 3.

Key Performance Indicators

The Financial Strategy enables the Authority to undertake Budget Planning for the short, medium and longer term, and to make sound decisions on the commitment of financial resources whilst ensuring strong financial resilience. As such the Financial Strategy supports the Strategic Plan, and a budget planning process that can ensure finances are allocated to support the delivery of all the council’s key priorities.

The Financial Strategy directly supports the council’s priorities. There are two key strategic indicators (SI) that demonstrate the effectiveness of the Financial Strategy:

- 1. The Council is financially resilient
- 2. The Council has good financial management and governance

The following set out the performance activity and measures for monitoring these indicators, the frequency of monitoring and where they are reported to. The key measures are reported publicly through Cabinet and Performance & Corporate Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee as part of the monthly Business Management & Monitoring Report (BMMR), others are monitored within the Finance Service and reported by exception or are routinely reported to the Audit and Governance Committee.

SI	Measure	2024/25 Target	Reporting Frequency	Reported to:
Delivering to budget and achieving savings:				
1	Overall forecast revenue variance across the Council	Break even or underspend	Bi-Monthly Business Management & Monitoring Report (BMMR)	Cabinet
1	Achievement of Planned savings in 2024/25	90%	Bi-Monthly BMMR	Cabinet
2	Directorates deliver services and achieve planned performance within budget	=< 1% revenue budget variation (with service outcomes achieved)	Bi-Monthly BMMR	Cabinet

<b>Ability to manage unplanned/unforeseen events:</b>				
1	General Balances are forecast to remain within 85% of the risk assessed level for 2024/25.	>85% of the risk assessed level of £30.2m.	Bi-Monthly BMMR	Cabinet
<b>Use of Grants</b>				
2	Total Outturn variation for Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funded services (schools and early years)	Break even or underspend	Bi-Monthly BMMR	Cabinet
2	Total Outturn variation for Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funded services (high needs)	Overspend no higher than £21.3m (see Annex B)	Bi-Monthly BMMR	Cabinet
2	Use of non-DSG revenue grant funding	=>95% of grant funding is spent in year	Bi-Monthly BMMR	Cabinet
<b>Systems and processes operate effectively and are well controlled to reduce and detect error and fraud:</b>				
2	Positive assurance from External Audit	Zero material issues identified by External Audit	Quarterly and Annual Report (September)	Audit & Governance Committee
2	Annual report of the Chief Internal Auditor (CIA)	Positive assurance by the CIA	Annually (May)	Audit & Governance Committee
Page 243	Positive assurance following Internal Audits of Financial Systems and processes	90% audits of financial systems are rated Green or Amber	Quarterly	Audit & Governance Committee
	Internal Audit actions for financial systems implemented within agreed timescales	90% of priority 1 and 2 audit actions implemented within the originally agreed timescale	Quarterly	Audit & Governance Committee
2	% of agreed invoices paid within 30 days	>95%	Bi-Monthly BMMR	Cabinet
<b>Compliance with the CIPFA Financial Management Code of Practice</b>				
2	annual self-assessment of compliance to the CIPFA FM standards	100% compliance (green and amber RAG ratings)	Annually (January)	Cabinet / Audit & Governance Committee
<b>Debt Management</b>				
2	Invoice Collection Rate – Corporate Debtors	95%	Bi-Monthly BMMR	Cabinet
2	Invoice Collection Rate – ASC contribution debtors	92%	Bi-Monthly BMMR	Cabinet
2	Debt Requiring Impairment – Corporate Debtors	<£0.300M	Bi-Monthly BMMR	Cabinet

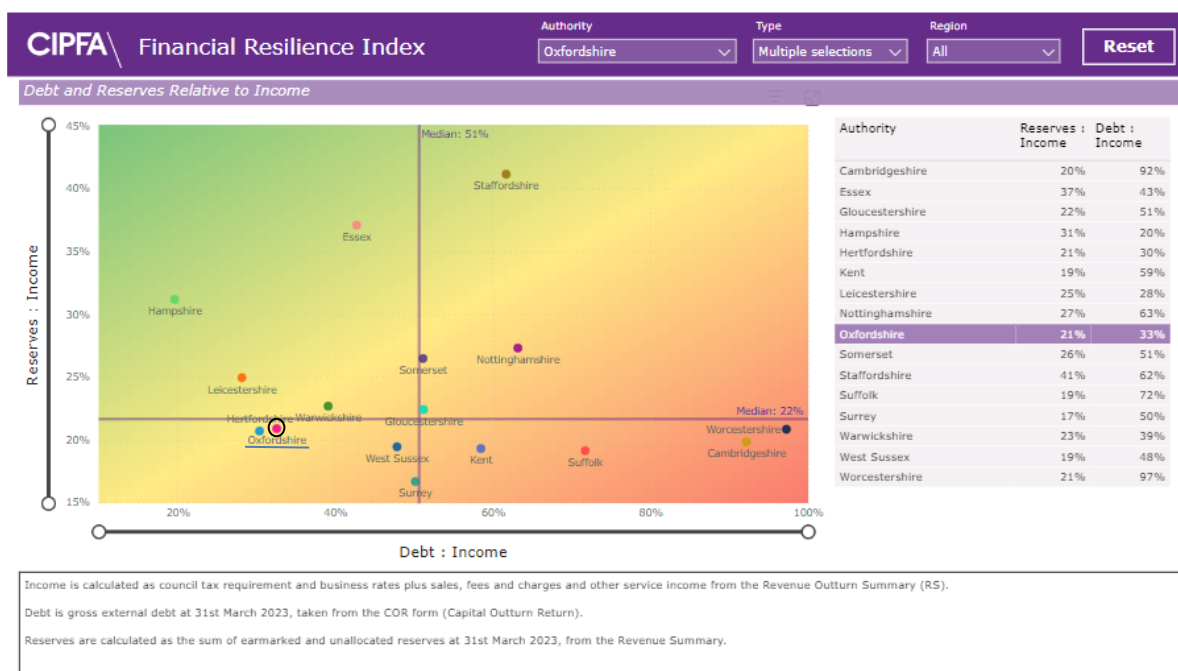
## Section 4.5

2	Debt Requiring Impairment – ASC contribution debtors	<£2.5M	Bi-Monthly BMMR	Cabinet
<b>Treasury Management</b>				
2	Average cash balance compared to forecast average cash balance	=<0% or +15% variation	Quarterly (Quarterly Treasury Management Report)	Cabinet / Audit & Governance Committee
2	Average interest rate achieved on in-house investment portfolio	>=3.00%	Quarterly (Quarterly Treasury Management Report)	Cabinet / Audit & Governance Committee
2	Average Annualised Return achieved for externally managed funds	>=3.75%	Quarterly (Quarterly Treasury Management Report)	Cabinet / Audit & Governance Committee

Capital Programme indicators are included in the Capital & Investment Strategy at Section 5.1



## Section 4.5 Annex 2



**CIPFA Financial Resilience Index**

Authority: **Oxfordshire** Indicator Group: **Primary** Year: **2022-23**

**Results Breakdown**

Indicators of Financial Stress		Indicator	Min	Indicator Value	Max
Reserves Sustainability Measure		Reserves Sustainability Measure	23.06	100.00	100.00
Level of Reserves		Level of Reserves	28.91%	39.18%	75.72%
Change In Reserves		Change In Reserves	-11.51%	65.17%	143.96%
Interest Payable/ Net Revenue Expenditure		Interest Payable/ Net Revenue Expenditure	1.50%	2.27%	4.59%
Gross External Debt		Gross External Debt	£263,069k	£322,119k	£1,024,870k
Social care ratio		Social care ratio	72.03%	78.26%	85.52%
Fees & Charges to Service Expenditure Ratio		Fees & Charges to Service Expenditure Ratio	5.29%	7.01%	12.16%
Council Tax Requirement / Net Revenue Expenditure		Council Tax Requirement / Net Revenue Expenditure	68.35%	82.69%	100.36%
Growth Above Baseline		Growth Above Baseline	2.01%	5.26%	8.39%

**Auditors VFM Assessment**  
Refer to local authority website

**Children's Social Care Judgement**  
Good

**CIPFA Financial Resilience Index**

Authority: **Oxfordshire** Indicator Group: **Primary** Year: **2022-23**

**Results Breakdown**

Indicators of Financial Stress		Indicator	Min	Indicator Value	Max
Reserves Sustainability Measure		Reserves Sustainability Measure	23.06	100.00	100.00
Level of Reserves		Level of Reserves	25.82%	39.18%	75.72%
Change In Reserves		Change In Reserves	-11.51%	65.17%	143.96%
Interest Payable/ Net Revenue Expenditure		Interest Payable/ Net Revenue Expenditure	1.50%	2.27%	5.51%
Gross External Debt		Gross External Debt	£263,069k	£322,119k	£1,311,118k
Social care ratio		Social care ratio	68.96%	78.26%	89.99%
Fees & Charges to Service Expenditure Ratio		Fees & Charges to Service Expenditure Ratio	5.29%	7.01%	12.16%
Council Tax Requirement / Net Revenue Expenditure		Council Tax Requirement / Net Revenue Expenditure	63.41%	82.69%	100.36%
Growth Above Baseline		Growth Above Baseline	1.54%	5.26%	8.39%



## Financial Management Code of Practice – Summary Compliance Assessment 2023/24

Ref	CIPFA Financial Management Standards	Current Status	Further Work	RAG Status
<b>1. Responsibilities of the Chief Finance Officer (CFO) and Leadership Team</b>				
A	The leadership team is able to demonstrate that the services provided by the authority provide value for money (VfM)	<p>Services use benchmarking to inform opportunities to improve VfM but this is often ad hoc and there is limited visibility beyond the service.</p> <p>Procurement decisions consider VfM by considering the quality of service and not just price.</p>	<p>The council's transformation programme is expected to focus on improving the business intelligence information available to the council. This will include developing a strategy for data and insight.</p> <p>A commercial strategy, that will be overseen by a new Commercial Board is being drafted and will also focus on procurement, third party spend, commissioning and commercial activity.</p>	<b>AMBER</b>

Ref	CIPFA Financial Management Standards	Current Status	Further Work	RAG Status
B	The authority complies with the CIPFA "Statement of the Role of the CFO in Local Government"	<p>The CFO is qualified accountant with significant experience working as an active member of the council's leadership team.</p> <p>In carrying out their role as Executive Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer, the CFO is a member of SLT (Strategic Leadership Team) and reports directly to the Chief Executive. The CFO has an influential role with members of the Cabinet, Audit &amp; Governance Committee and lead opposition members.</p> <p>The budget proposals for 2024/25 include funding for additional finance capacity needed to support the organisation to transform and to ensure that the CFO is able to lead and direct a finance function that is resourced to be fit for purpose.</p>	The Business Services Transformation project will focus on sustainable financial management across the organisation through developing improved guidance and training for non – finance staff and reviewing, documenting and clarifying roles and responsibilities and accountabilities with efficient use of systems and processes to support that in the council's self service operating framework.	GREEN

Ref	CIPFA Financial Management Standards	Current Status	Further Work	RAG Status
2.	<b>Governance and Financial Management Style</b>			
C	The Leadership Team demonstrates in its actions and behaviours responsibility for governance and internal control	<p>The Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) understands its responsibilities in relation to Financial Management and considers the assessment against the Code and actions or further work required in order to continuously improve.</p> <p>The Council Management Team (CMT) receive and review on a quarterly basis a report from the Chief Internal Auditor on progress against the Internal Audit Plan, implementation of agreed management actions and delivery of the Counter Fraud Plan. The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) and Action Plan are also considered by CMT.</p> <p>In addition, the Audit &amp; Governance Committee have a key role in providing independent assurance over governance, risk and internal control arrangements.</p>	<p>SLT are continuing to discharge their responsibilities through CMT including focussing on managing pressures over the short and medium term to maintain financial resilience through the Medium Term Financial Strategy.</p> <p>The council's Delivering the Future Together programme has moved to a new phase and is focussing on the operational priorities for the council of employer, place shaper and partner of choice.</p>	<b>GREEN</b>
D	The authority applies the CIPFA/SOLACE "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016)"	The Local Code of Corporate Governance sets out how the Council complies with the requirements of the Framework and identifies key documents, which provide detailed information as to how the Council ensures the Corporate Governance principles are adhered to. The annual update of the Oxfordshire Code of Corporate Governance was last approved by Audit & Governance Committee in May 2023.		<b>GREEN</b>

Ref	CIPFA Financial Management Standards	Current Status	Further Work	RAG Status
E	The Financial Management style of the authority supports financial sustainability	<p>The Council has adopted a Business Partnering model that supports managers to deliver financially sustainable services by providing strategic advice and support. Training in financial management roles and responsibilities has been a focus across a number of Directorates during the last financial year.</p> <p>This is underpinned by a Corporate Function that manages the strategic financing issues and provides the budget setting and accounting framework for the organisation.</p> <p>An updated Financial Strategy including financial performance indicators that are tracked and reporting during the following year is published annually as part of the budget agreed by Council.</p>	<p>Business Services Transformation will develop a clearer framework of financial roles and accountability and develop training to support that which will be used consistently across the Council.</p> <p>A new Financial Management Strategy and a Commercial Strategy are being developed.</p> <p>Business Partnering will be developed across more functions within the council and a formal operating model for business partnering will be developed.</p> <p>Development of improved and digitised business case process for capital and revenue.</p>	<b>AMBER</b>

Ref	CIPFA Financial Management Standards	Current Status	Further Work	RAG Status
3.	<b>Long to Medium-Term Financial Management</b>			
F	The authority has carried out a credible and transparent financial resilience assessment	<p>A review of both the 2022/23 Financial Resilience index and the OFLOG finance data set compared to the nearest neighbours cohort of local authorities has been undertaken. This is set out in in the Financial Strategy (section 4.5 of the Budget &amp; Business Planning Report to Cabinet in January 2024).</p> <p>The Financial Strategy also includes a suite of measures against which financial performance is measured during the year and reported through the Business Management &amp; Monitoring Reports to Cabinet. These measures include the forecast level of General Balances against the minimum risk assessed level for balances taking into account the latest monitoring position in the current year and the forecast achievement of savings built into the budget.</p> <p>The council's People and Culture Strategy, which will inform future workforce requirements will be considered for approval by Cabinet in January 2024.</p>		<b>GREEN</b>

Ref	CIPFA Financial Management Standards	Current Status	Further Work	RAG Status
G	The authority understands its prospects for financial sustainability in the longer term and has reported this clearly to members	<p>The Financial Strategy and MTFS outline the financial challenges and opportunities facing the Council over the medium term.</p> <p>The Capital &amp; Investment Strategy and the Capital Programme both cover a 10-year period. The Capital &amp; Investment Strategy sets out the long-term context in which capital expenditure and investment decisions are made and articulates how the Council's capital investment will help achieve the Council's vision and priorities as well as respond to demographic change.</p>	With the development of a new business intelligence approach, it remains an ambition to progress the development of scenario planning in relation to the long term and the council's place shaping ambitions.	<b>GREEN</b>



Ref	CIPFA Financial Management Standards	Current Status	Further Work	RAG Status
H	The authority complies with the CIPFA "Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities"	<p>The Capital &amp; Investment Strategy is updated annually and agreed by Council alongside the Capital Programme, Treasury Management Strategy, Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy.</p> <p>The Capital Programme is monitored monthly with reports produced quarterly for the Strategic Capital Board and Cabinet. Quarterly Treasury Management reports are taken to Audit &amp; Governance Committee, Cabinet and Council, including monitoring of Prudential Indicators.</p> <p>The ratio of financing costs to the net revenue stream is forecast to remain within 4%-5% over the medium term. The future affordability of any proposed new borrowing is a key consideration within the Budget &amp; Business Planning process.</p>		<b>GREEN</b>
I	The authority has a rolling multi-year medium-term financial plan consistent with sustainable service plans	The Council has an integrated Business and Budget Planning Process with a multi-year Medium Term Financial Strategy linked to service plans. This is reviewed and updated each year with new future years added to ensure that the strategy covers at least three years.		<b>GREEN</b>

Ref	CIPFA Financial Management Standards	Current Status	Further Work	RAG Status
<b>4.</b>	<b>The Annual Budget</b>			
J	The authority complies with its statutory obligations in respect of the budget setting process	The Council produces an annual balanced budget and supporting documentation within the necessary timeframe.		<b>GREEN</b>
	The budget report includes a statement by the CFO on the robustness of the estimates and a statement on the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves	The CFO's Section 25 report accompanies the suite of Budget documents and includes a commentary on the adequacy of proposed financial reserves with reference to CIPFA's Resilience Index as well as assessed compliance with the FM Code.		<b>GREEN</b>

Ref	CIPFA Financial Management Standards	Current Status	Further Work	RAG Status
5.	<b>Stakeholder Engagement and Business Plans</b>			
L	The authority has engaged where appropriate with key stakeholders in developing its long-term financial strategy, medium-term financial plan and annual budget	<p>One of the Council's priorities has been to develop and implement a new consultation and engagement strategy, enhancing opportunities for residents, including young people and those seldom heard, to have their say in service development. This was implemented for the 2023/24 budget process and has been developed further for 2024/25.</p> <p>New for 2024/25 the council is using an online budget simulator tool, that enables residents and other stakeholders to weigh up funding choices and trade-offs for themselves.</p> <p>Wider engagement and outreach activities include two sounding board events for secondary school aged children, three online Oxfordshire Conversations in December 2023 and five events for adults known to experience inequity, in December and January to support their engagement with the simulator.</p> <p>Performance &amp; Corporate Services Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee have also considered the budget proposals ahead of the budget being agreed by Council.</p>		<b>GREEN</b>

Ref	CIPFA Financial Management Standards	Current Status	Further Work	RAG Status
M	The authority uses an appropriate documented options appraisal methodology to demonstrate the value for money of its decisions	Key decisions requiring investment to deliver service improvements, deliver savings or invest or save opportunities require business case to aid decision making via the appropriate governance process (e.g., Strategic Capital Board).	<p>Review the requirements, standards and guidance for business cases including training options for responsible officers and decision makers.</p> <p>A project to automate the completion and sign off of business cases for revenue and capital projects has just commenced and is expected to be completed in Spring 2024.</p>	GREEN

Ref	CIPFA Financial Management Standards	Current Status	Further Work	RAG Status
<b>6.</b>	<b>Monitoring Financial Performance</b>			
N	The Leadership Team takes action using reports enabling it to identify and correct emerging risks to its budget strategy and financial sustainability	<p>The regular Business Management and Monitoring Reports to Cabinet include performance, finance and risk so enable the council's leadership team and Cabinet to respond to emerging issues and to take action to manage those.</p> <p>The regular Capital Programme monitoring report includes updates on scheme activity, performance and risks.</p>	<p>Continue to improve the visibility and links between performance, risk and finance reporting, highlighting key issues that need to be considered in the Business Management &amp; Monitoring Report as well as any issues arising from the Capital Programme.</p> <p>Business Services Transformation and development of Data and Insight are expected to improve reporting capabilities and the use of data to underpin that.</p>	<b>GREEN</b>
	The Leadership Team monitors the elements of its balance sheet that pose a significant risk to financial sustainability	The Business Management and Monitoring Reports to Cabinet include monitoring of key balance sheet items including balances, reserves, debtors, and cash (including the performance of Treasury Management).		<b>GREEN</b>

Ref	CIPFA Financial Management Standards	Current Status	Further Work	RAG Status
7.	<b>External Financial Reporting</b>			
P	The CFO has personal and statutory responsibility for ensuring that the statement of accounts produced by the local authority complies with the reporting requirements of the “Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom” (The Code)	<p>The annual accounts are produced in compliance with The Code and have always received an unqualified audit opinion.</p> <p>Statutory deadlines for publication of the accounts were consistently met until 2021/22 when resourcing issues impacted the completion of the accounts. Since then the on-going impact of audits for previous years has made it more difficult to complete the accounts by the deadline.</p> <p>The audit of the 2020/21 accounts was completed during 2023/24 and the audit of the 2021/22 accounts is expected to be completed in early 2024.</p> <p>The audit of the 2022/23 accounts remains outstanding as at 31 December 2023 pending national guidance on the approach to be taken to resolve the national audit backlog.</p>		GREEN
Q	The presentation of the final outturn figures and variations from budget allows the leadership team to make strategic financial decisions	The Council Management Team and Cabinet consider the outturn and year end variances in a Provisional Outturn Report to Cabinet each June. Where relevant this enables strategic financial decisions to be made early in the following financial year.		GREEN

## **Earmarked Reserves and General Balances Policy Statement 2024/25**

### **Introduction**

1. This paper sets out the Council's policies underpinning the maintenance of a level of general balances and earmarked reserves within the council's accounts.

### **Statutory Position**

2. A local authority is not permitted to allow its spending to exceed its available resources so that overall it would be in deficit. Sections 32 and 43 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 require authorities to have regard to the level of balances and reserves needed for meeting future estimated future expenditure when calculating the council tax requirement.
3. Balances and reserves can be held for three main purposes:
  - A working balance to help cushion the impact of uneven cash flows and avoid unnecessary temporary borrowing, this forms part of general reserves
  - A contingency to cushion the impact of unexpected events or emergencies, this forms part of general balances;
  - A means of building up funds often referred to as earmarked reserves, to meet known or predicted liabilities
4. This policy statement is concerned with general balances and earmarked reserves as defined above.

### **Purpose of balances and reserves**

5. The Council maintains general balances in order to provide a contingency against unplanned or unexpected events.
6. Although there is no recognised official guidance on the level of general balances to be maintained, the key factor is that the level should be justifiable in the context of local circumstances. The council's external auditor comments on the level of balances and reserves as part of the annual audit of the Council's financial position. Financial regulations require Council to decide on the level of general balances it wishes to maintain before it can decide the level of council tax. This will be done as part of the annual budget setting process.
7. Whilst general balances are unallocated, earmarked reserves are held for a specific purpose and to mitigate against potential future known or predicted liabilities.

## **Planned use of balances and reserves**

8. Any planned use of, or contribution to, earmarked reserves or balances must be included as part of the budget setting process each year.
9. In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations, any new reserves or a change in the purpose of earmarked reserves requires Cabinet approval. Contributions to or use of earmarked reserves is reported to Cabinet as part of the monthly Business Management & Monitoring Report Those greater than £1m require endorsement by Cabinet.

## **National Comparison of Level of Earmarked Reserves and Unallocated Reserves (General Balances)**

10. The Office for Local Government (Oflog) established in July 2023 has provided data and analysis about performance of local government. Included in the data is information in relation to the level of non-ringfenced reserves (Earmarked Reserves and General Balances).
11. Further information is included in the Financial Strategy (see paragraphs 28 – 31 and Annex 2 of Section 4.5) but the resilience index demonstrates that Oxfordshire is in the middle compared to the level of un-ringfenced reserves held by other councils, and the change in level of reserves is lower than other comparators. The reserves sustainability measures, measuring the change in reserves in each of the last three years, also indicate that Oxfordshire is lower risk compared to others.

## **Level of General Balances**

12. It is considered prudent to maintain a level of balances commensurate with risk, and a risk assessment is undertaken annually by the Executive Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer, as part of the budget setting process. CIPFA's Financial Resilience Index provides information on the level of general balances for all authorities. As a percentage of both service spend and net revenue expenditure, Oxfordshire is within the median range. Further information is included as part of Annex 2 of the Financial Strategy.
13. The risk assessment for 2024/25 has determined that balances should be held at £30.2m, unchanged from 2023/24. This is equivalent to 4.9% of the proposed net operating budget of £611.2m for 2024/25 and equates to between two and three weeks of net expenditure.
14. High inflation and volatility in the wider economy, including supply chain challenges and labour shortages seen in 2022/23 are continuing to impact in 2023/24 and continue the increased risk to the financial position for the council. The financial landscape for all local authorities and especially those with social care responsibilities remains challenging.



## Section 4.6

15. The Business Management and Monitoring Report to Cabinet in January 2024 sets out an anticipated overspend of £4.2m. This, along with other one – off calls on balances agreed during the year, will need to be met from balances – and as a consequence, the expected level of balances at 31 March 2024 is currently £25.6m, compared to the risk assessed level for 2023/24 of £30.2m.
16. The expected level of balances at 1 April 2024 is currently forecast to be £4.6m less than the risk assessed level for 2024/25 of £30.2m although action is still being taken to reduce the forecast directorate overspend by year end so that no call on balances is required. Because interest rates have been higher than forecast during 2023/24, it is anticipated that additional interest on cash balances received by the council will be used to top up to the risk assessed level if required.
17. It is recognised that the outturn position for 2023/24 may change from that currently forecast so the actual level of balances at 1 April 2024 may differ from the risk assessed level. Consequently, it is proposed that the performance measure for general balances (as set out in the Financial Strategy at Section 4.5) allows for a variation of 15% below the target risk assessed level.
18. Details of the risk assessment are set out as Annex 1 to this policy statement.

## Earmarked Reserves

19. Annex 2 sets out the actual level of earmarked reserves at 31 March 2024 and expected level at 31 March each year to 2027 as well as a description of each reserve. Issues of significance are set out in the paragraphs below.
20. Excluding schools, earmarked reserves are forecast to be £148.8m at 31 March 2024, and £153.2m by 31 March 2027. A significant element of the balance estimated to be held relates to future funding for the capital programme.
21. This position does not take into account an estimated deficit on the DSG Unusable Reserve in relation to High Needs of £144.3m by 31 March 2027. Further detail on this is set out in paragraphs 38-43 below.

## Demographic Risk Reserve

22. In light of the significant pressures relating to High Needs and other budgets with demographic volatility a demographic risk reserve was created in 2019/20. The existing MTFS includes an on-going annual contribution to the reserve of £4.0m. The forecast reserve will total £21.0m by the end of 2024/25 and £29.0m by the end of 2026/27. This reserve will in part offset the impact of carrying the negative DSG reserve on the council's cashflow and improve the financial resilience position.

Budget Priorities Reserve

23. This reserve has been used to fund the priorities of the Council. In February 2023 £6.5m was agreed to be allocated to the following:

- Support for climate action (including tree replacement) £3.0m
- Contribution towards match funding for four Children's Homes £1.2m
- Development of community hubs £0.5m.
- Improvements to highways, cycle-paths and pavements (responding to feedback from the consultation) £1.0m
- Further development of school streets to improve road safety around local schools £0.5m
- Further work to develop rail studies £0.1m
- Continuation of funding for the Business and Intellectual Property Centre for a year from 1 April 2023 £0.2m

24. With the exception of £0.4m relating to support for climate action, all of the investments agreed for 2023/24 have been committed.

25. A further £1.1m is estimated to remain uncommitted at the end of 2023/24, giving a total of £1.5m available in the reserve for use in 2024/25 or beyond.

26. No further budgeted contributions are planned.

COVID-19 Reserve

27. The balance expected to be held in the reserve at 31 March 2024 is £6.1m with further budgeted planned use of £3.8m in 2024/25 and £2.3m in 2025/26 (see Annex 4.2.2) to support directorate pressures and provide a further £0.5m funding for cost of living measures in 2024/25 and 2025/26. All of the reserve is allocated for use by the end of 2025/26.

Business Rates & Council Tax Collection Fund Reserve

28. These reserves have been held to manage fluctuations in Business Rate and Council Tax income that the Council receives. The balance held in the Business Rates Collection Fund reserve is £9.5m. A further £3.0m is held in the Council Tax Collection Fund reserve.

29. It is proposed that the two reserves are merged into one Collection Fund Risk Reserve.

30. £8.5m will be transferred to the Transformation Reserve, leaving £4.0m to fund future volatility in the collection fund position alongside the potential impact of a business rates reset.

### Transformation Reserve

31. The Transformation Reserve has been used to support the costs of the implementation of the council's transformation programme, Delivering the Future Together. The forecast balance at 31 March 2023 is £1.5m with further commitments in 2024/25 expected to utilise all of the existing funding.
32. Through Delivering the Future Together, a successful and sustainable Oxfordshire County Council of the future will be smaller and more focused on delivering key priorities to the best of our ability. To enable the priorities for the next phase of transformation to be delivered and to create a sustainable council for the future (including funding for Artificial Intelligence/technology) it is proposed to transfer funding of £8.5m from the Business Rates Reserve into the Transformation Reserve in 2024/25. A further one – off revenue contribution of £1.5m will be funded by additional interest on balances held by the council.

### Redundancy Reserve

33. The estimated balance held in the Redundancy Reserve is expected to be £2.4m at 31 March 2024. Reflecting the need to reduce the size of the council to be sustainable in future it is proposed to add £3.8m that is not now required and can be released from the 20 mile per hour speed limits programme<sup>1</sup> to the reserve as well as £1.2m from the Budget Equalisation Reserve to increase the balance available to support future redundancy costs to £7.4m.

### Impact of IFRS9

34. IFRS9 (changes in the value of Treasury Management Pooled Funds at year end) may impact on the revenue account in 2025/26 if the statutory override which removes changes in their value from the accounts is removed on 1 April 2025.
35. It is proposed to create a new reserve to manage estimated risk pending confirmation about the statutory override. An initial contribution of £2.2m will be funded by additional interest on balances held by the council.

### Investment Pump Priming Reserve

36. This reserve is held to meet the costs of self-financing schemes which require pump priming until the funds are returned. The uncommitted balance in the reserve is expected to be £0.1m at 1 April 2024. Schemes approved as part of the 2023/24 budget setting process and during 2023/24 are:
- 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
  - Investigation and development of solar panel programme £0.1m.

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<sup>1</sup> This was originally agreed to be funded by a mix of funding from the Budget Priority, Budget Equalisation and Council Tax Collection fund reserve as part of the 2022/23 budget.

37. £0.1m currently remains available to utilise.

#### Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Unusable Reserve

38. The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2020 stipulate that a deficit on the DSG must be carried forward to be funded from future DSG income unless permission is sought from the Secretary of State for Education to fund the deficit from general resources.
39. The accounting treatment for deficit DSG balances was provided by the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2020. These stipulated that where a local authority has a deficit in respect of its school budget for a financial year beginning on 1st April 2020, 2021 or 2022, the authority—
  - (a) must not charge to a revenue account an amount in respect of that deficit; and
  - (b) must charge the amount of the deficit to an account established, charged and used solely for the purpose of recognising deficits in respect of its school budget.
40. As a result of this, an unusable reserve was created on the balance sheet to hold the negative balance. Unusable reserves are usually created to hold accounting adjustments that cannot be charged to the general fund and have no cash value. The new DSG unusable reserve is unique in that the deficit balance has a real impact on the council's cash balances.
41. In December 2022 Parliament agreed the extension of the DSG statutory override for a one-off period of three years (up to March 2026)<sup>2</sup>.
42. As at 31 March 2024, the DSG Unusable Reserve is expected to have a negative balance of £62.3m of which a negative balance of £68.0m related to High Needs DSG. Taking account of the deficits for 2024/25 – 2026/27 set out in Annex B it is anticipated that the high need deficit held in the reserve could reach £114.3m at the end of 2025/26 and £150.0m by the end of 2026/27.
43. Beyond the period of the statutory override, the expectation is that the balance on the DSG Unusable Reserve will transfer back to the Council's total Earmarked Reserves. If this happens, it materially impacts on the overall level of reserves and by 1 April 2026, the Council would be in a position where its total reserves (excluding schools' balances) were only £47.6m. This not only has an impact on the level of risk over the medium term (as referred to in the Financial Strategy at Section 4.5), but also has an immediate impact on reducing the cash balances and interest earned (as set out in the Treasury Management Strategy at Section 5.2).

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<sup>2</sup> The Statutory Instrument (SI): Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 2022 approving this was laid before Parliament on 16 December 2022.

## Annex 1

## 2024/25 risk assessment for determining appropriate level of general balances

Area of risk	2024/25 £m	Explanation of risk/justification of balances	2023/24 £m
Emergencies	6.1	An allowance of 1.0% of annual net operating budget for the cost of responding to emergencies that falls outside of eligibility for the Bellwin Scheme	5.4
Directorate overspends	15.8	Risk that directorates will overspend due to unforeseen pressures, demography or demand and no mitigations are available - assumes 2.5% overspend	13.2
Contingent liabilities & insurance risk	3.1	Possible liabilities for which no provision has been made or funding set aside in an earmarked reserve (0.25% of net expenditure or minimum to meet quantified contingent liabilities)	4.6
Major contracts & 3rd party spend	5.2	Risk of contractors failing, mis-specification, or non-delivery plus contract costs increase by more than allowed for in the budget - calculated as 0.75% of estimated spend with suppliers (reduced from 1.0% in 2023/24)	7.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>30.2</b>		<b>30.2</b>
<b>Contingency (on-going funding)</b>	<b>6.6</b>		<b>8.3</b>
<b>Total Balances and Contingency</b>	<b>36.8</b>		<b>38.5</b>
<b>Risk assessed level of Balances as % of net operating budget</b>	<b>4.9%</b>		
Net operating budget - spend per week	11.8		
Weeks of spend	2.6		

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## Forecast Earmarked Reserves 2023/24 to 2026/27

Reserve	2023/24			2024/25		2025/26		2026/27	
	Balance at 1 April 2023	Forecast Change	Forecast Balance at 31 March 2024	Forecast Change	Forecast Balance at 31 March 2025	Forecast Change	Forecast Balance at 31 March 2026	Forecast Change	Forecast Balance at 31 March 2027
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
<b>Revenue Grants Unapplied</b>									
Grants and Contributions Reserve	37.0	-19.0	18.0	-7.0	11.1	-3.7	7.4	-1.0	6.4
COVID-19 Reserve	15.4	-9.3	6.1	-3.8	2.3	-2.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Government Initiatives Reserve	2.3	-0.5	1.8	-0.5	1.4	-0.3	1.0	0.0	1.0
<b>Subtotal Revenue Grants Unapplied</b>	<b>54.8</b>	<b>-28.8</b>	<b>25.9</b>	<b>-11.2</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>-6.3</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>7.5</b>
<b>Corporate Priorities</b>									
Budget Priorities Reserve	11.4	-9.8	1.6	-0.1	1.5	-0.1	1.4	0.0	1.4
Transformation Reserve	1.5	0.0	1.5	3.2	4.7	-4.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Zero Emissions Zone	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.5
Youth Provision Reserve	0.3	-0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Subtotal Corporate Priorities</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>-10.1</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>-4.7</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1.9</b>
<b>Funding for Risk</b>									
Insurance Reserve	12.9	0.0	12.9	0.0	12.9	0.0	12.9	0.0	12.9
Demographic Risk Reserve	13.0	4.0	17.0	4.0	21.0	4.0	25.0	4.0	29.0
Council Elections	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.8	-0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Redundancy Reserve	2.4	0.0	2.4	1.3	3.7	-3.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Trading Accounts	0.2	-0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Council Tax Collection Fund Reserve	3.0	0.0	3.0	-3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Business Rates Reserve	9.5	0.0	9.5	-9.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Collection Fund Reserve (NEW)	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	0.0	4.0
IFRS 9 Risk Reserve (NEW)	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.2	2.2	0.0	2.2	0.0	2.2
<b>Subtotal Funding for Risk</b>	<b>41.3</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>45.4</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>44.6</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>44.1</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>48.1</b>
<b>Capital &amp; Equipment</b>									
Capital Reserves	67.8	-3.1	64.7	11.6	76.4	9.7	86.1	7.5	93.6
Vehicle and Equipment Reserve	3.4	0.3	3.7	-1.6	2.2	-1.3	0.8	0.0	0.8
Investment Pump Priming Reserve	2.0	-1.9	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
<b>Subtotal Capital &amp; Equipment</b>	<b>73.2</b>	<b>-4.7</b>	<b>68.6</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>78.7</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>87.0</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>94.5</b>
<b>Other Reserves</b>									
Schools' Reserves	12.9	0.0	12.9	0.0	12.9	0.0	12.9	0.0	12.9
Partnership Reserves	1.9	-1.6	0.3	-0.2	0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
On Street Car Parking Reserve	4.9	0.2	5.1	-2.2	2.9	-1.3	1.6	-0.5	1.1
<b>Subtotal Other Reserves</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>-2.4</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>14.1</b>
<b>Total Earmarked Reserves</b>	<b>202.7</b>	<b>-40.9</b>	<b>161.8</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>160.6</b>	<b>-4.5</b>	<b>156.2</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>166.1</b>
DSG Unusable Reserve *	-41.1	-21.2	-62.3	-21.3	-83.6	-25.0	-108.6	-35.7	-144.3
<b>DSG High Needs deficit within Unusable Reserve *</b>	<b>-46.8</b>	<b>-21.2</b>	<b>-68.0</b>	<b>-21.3</b>	<b>-89.3</b>	<b>-25.0</b>	<b>-114.3</b>	<b>-35.7</b>	<b>-150.0</b>
<b>Total Earmarked Reserves after DSG Unusable Reserve</b>	<b>161.6</b>	<b>-62.1</b>	<b>99.5</b>	<b>-22.4</b>	<b>77.1</b>	<b>-29.5</b>	<b>47.6</b>	<b>-25.7</b>	<b>21.9</b>

Reserve	Description
<b>Revenue Grants Unapplied</b>	
Grants and Contributions Reserve	Holds overspent or underspent grants & contributions committed to be spent or recovered in future years. Excludes balance relating to DSG.
COVID-19 Reserve	Reserve to cover costs associated with and arising from COVID-19
Government Initiatives Reserve	Holds underspends on budgets funded by un-ringfenced specific grants relating Government initiatives or agreed outcomes.
<b>Subtotal Revenue Grants Unapplied</b>	
<b>Corporate Priorities</b>	
Budget Priorities Reserve	This reserve is being used to support the implementation of the Council's priorities and the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
Transformation Reserve	This reserve is needed to fund the implementation costs of the Council's Transformation programme. £10m proposed contribution assumed to be used in 2024/25 and 2025/26.
Zero Emissions Zone	This reserve holds surpluses generated by Network Coordination for the development and expansion of the ZEZ in the future years.
Youth Provision Reserve	Funding will be used in 2023/24 to manage pressures in Children's Services
<b>Subtotal Corporate Priorities</b>	
<b>Funding for Risk</b>	
Insurance Reserve	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	Held against High Needs DSG Risk
Council Elections	To meet the cost of the County Council elections every four years.
Redundancy Reserve	This reserve is available to fund redundancy costs arising from Transformational Change. Assumes half of the balance + half of new £10m is used in 2024/25 and half in 2025/26
Trading Accounts	Holds funds relating to traded activities which are carried forward each year (whether surplus or deficit).
Council Tax Collection Fund Reserve	This reserve holds any surplus/ deficit as a result of income from council tax being more or less than originally estimated
Business Rates Reserve	This reserve is to smooth the volatility of Business Rates income and to mitigate risk around future changes to Business Rates.
Collection Fund Reserve (NEW)	Create one new collection fund reserve and remove balances from Business Rates and CT reserves.
IFRS 9 Risk Reserve (NEW)	New reserve to smooth the potential impact of IFRS9 (changes in the value of Treasury Management Pooled Funds at year end) which may impact on the revenue account in 25/26 if the statutory override which removes changes in their value from the accounts ends on 1 April 2025.
<b>Subtotal Funding for Risk</b>	
<b>Capital &amp; Equipment</b>	
Capital Reserves	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	To fund future replacement of vehicles and equipment
Investment Pump Priming Reserve	Funding held to meet the costs of self-financing schemes which require pump priming until the funds are returned.
<b>Subtotal Capital &amp; Equipment</b>	
<b>Other Reserves</b>	
Schools' Reserves	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	This relates to funding for the Growth Deal
On Street Car Parking Reserve	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>Total Earmarked Reserves</b>	
DSG Unusable Reserve *	
<b>DSG High Needs deficit within Unusable Reserve *</b>	* total excluding positive balances (eg. new schools set up fund offset by High Needs Deficit)
<b>Total Earmarked Reserves after DSG Unusable Reserve</b>	



## **Oxfordshire County Council**

### **Budget and Business Planning 2024/25**

#### **DRAFT Overarching Equality Impact Assessment**

##### **Context and Purpose**

Oxfordshire County Council's vision is to lead positive change by working in partnership to make Oxfordshire a greener, fairer and healthier county. This includes working to ensure that our policies and services support equality and inclusion.

This assessment sets out the equalities impact of our budget proposals for 2024-25.

We can look to legislation to support our understanding of the council's equalities impacts. The Equality Act (2010) states that all public bodies need to take extra steps to stop discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations: this is known as the Public Sector Equality Duty.

The Act defines discrimination as the less favourable treatment of a person because of a protected characteristic, as compared with others who do not share that characteristic. The legislation also applies where there is a belief that the person who is disadvantaged has a particular protected characteristic, even if it is not the case.

These protected characteristics are:

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- pregnancy and maternity
- race – this includes ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality
- religion or belief – this includes lack of belief
- sex
- sexual orientation
- marriage and civil partnership

##### **Including Everyone – an inclusive Oxfordshire**

The council has set out its approach to equalities, diversity and inclusion, including how we meet the Public Sector Equality Duty, in the [Including Everyone](#) framework.

Including Everyone also sets out how the council goes further than the protected characteristics in the Equality Act by considering the impact our decisions might have on:

- People living with social deprivation
- Rural communities
- Those leaving care
- Carers
- Those in our armed forces community

This Overarching Equality Impact Assessment shows how our budget proposals might impact the nine protected characteristics and the five additional areas above, and what we are doing to reduce or remove any potential negative impacts.

## **Equality Impact Assessments**

All council decisions about services are reviewed for their impact on equalities. We assess the potential impacts of new policies and services and review existing services or policies when they are being updated. Where there is potential for material – i.e. significant – impact, a formal Equality Impact Assessment is done.

This Overarching Equality Impact Assessment is made in support of the council's whole Budget and Business Planning proposals for 2024/25. It provides summary information on the equalities impacts which the council's budget proposals might have if the proposals are approved and implemented. It also gives an indication of how we might mitigate any potential negative impacts.

Assessing equality impacts does not guarantee that a change will never have a negative impact. Rather it is intended to ensure that our policies are designed and implemented to meet the diverse needs of individuals, groups and communities in Oxfordshire. Equality Impact Assessments also help to ensure that the outcomes of a proposal are carefully considered, with the potential benefits maximised and possible challenges mitigated, within the overall funding available.

## **Overarching Equality Impact Assessment – approach**

The following pages show how we approach the assessment of impacts on equalities and diversity, setting out at a summary level what impacts our total budget proposals might have on each characteristic listed above.

If a potential material service impact were identified, an initial Equality Impact Assessment would be completed. Any individual Equality Impact Assessments would then be made available as part of the budget's background papers. Following the public consultation, equalities impacts would be reviewed, and any Equality Impact Assessments updated as necessary to take into account consultation responses.

## **Background Papers**

Our current budget proposals are not expected to have significant negative impacts on equalities. Consequently, no Equality Impact Assessments have been published with the Budget consultation at this time.

## **Public Consultation**

Public consultation on specific proposals is one of the tools which OCC can use to help understand and mitigate the potential impacts of proposed savings on equalities (the nine protected characteristics) or wider community areas (rural communities, areas of deprivation, carers, care leavers, armed forces community, social value). Achievement of the savings proposed would be dependent on the outcome of any public consultation.

At present there are no public consultations planned on individual 2024-25 savings proposals.

## Section 1: Summary details

<b>Directorate / Service Area</b>	All Directorates and Service Areas
<b>What is being assessed</b> (e.g. name of policy, procedure, project, service or proposed change).	This assessment sets out the overall impact that the budget and business planning proposals have on a range of equality and diversity characteristics, including the nine protected characteristics defined under the Equality Act 2010. The assessment also summarises any mitigations that have been planned or put in place to reduce or remove any potentially negative impacts.
<b>Is this a new or existing function or policy?</b>	This impact assessment is an overview of the 2024/25 budget and business planning proposals and so comments on existing programmes as well as new proposals.
<b>Summary of assessment</b> Briefly summarise the policy or proposed service change. Summarise possible impacts. Does the proposal bias, discriminate or unfairly disadvantage individuals or groups within the community?	<p>This assessment covers the budget and business planning proposal for Oxfordshire County Council for 2024-25. It is an opportunity to highlight key evidence and intelligence that the council has used to assess the impact of its budget proposals on the nine protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010.</p> <p>In line with our equalities, diversity and inclusion (EDI) framework, the council has also assessed the impact on those living in rural areas, those living with social deprivation, armed forces communities, carers and those leaving care, and Social Value.</p> <p>This assessment has not identified any bias, unfair advantage or disadvantage to any groups or individuals. Where potential negative impacts have been identified, mitigations have been put in place to reduce impact.</p> <p>A summary of the impacts of the budget proposals on climate change outcomes have been set out in a separate overarching Climate Impact Assessment.</p>
<b>Completed By</b>	Steven Fairhurst Jones
<b>Authorised By</b>	Emily Schofield
<b>Date of Assessment</b>	November 2023

## Section 2: Detail of proposal

<p><b>Context / Background</b></p> <p>Briefly summarise the background to the policy or proposed service change, including reasons for any changes from previous versions.</p>	<p>Oxfordshire County Council's vision is to lead positive change by working in partnership to make Oxfordshire a greener, fairer and healthier county.</p> <p>We want to make sure that everyone in Oxfordshire can take advantage of what the county has to offer. Our strategic plan explains our cross-cutting priorities and commitments to achieve our vision and sets out our areas of focus.</p> <p>In recent years Oxfordshire County Council has delivered significant savings both in response to reductions in government funding and in order to release funds to reinvest in meeting rising demand. This budget planning round has been affected by the continued impact of slower than forecast falls in inflation in the UK and the consequent continued high levels of costs and prices for energy, fuel, materials and staff costs.</p> <p>The council also continues to experience demand-led pressures and the effects of the growing nationwide costs of supporting children and young people; the rising cost of social care and care placements for both children and adults; and a national shortage of social care workers leading to a reliance on agency staff and higher costs.</p> <p>The last Census confirms Oxfordshire has a growing and ageing population, which will continue to increase demand on services.</p>
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<p><b>Proposals</b></p> <p>Explain the detail of the proposals, including why this has been decided as the best course of action.</p>	<p>This impact assessment covers all savings proposals across:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Health and Community Safety</li> <li>• Adult Social Care</li> <li>• Children's Services</li> <li>• Environment and Place</li> <li>• Culture, Customer Services, Property and Investment</li> <li>• Finance &amp; Procurement, Human Resources and IT</li> </ul> <p>Details of proposals are set out in the main Budget and Business Planning papers.</p>
<p><b>Evidence / Intelligence</b></p> <p>List and explain any data, consultation outcomes, research findings, feedback from service users and stakeholders etc, that supports your proposals and can help to inform the judgements you make about potential impact</p>	<p>In considering the impact of budget proposals before they are formally agreed, the council undertakes a detailed process of democratic and community engagement. For equalities this includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using the Oxfordshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) of health and wellbeing needs, and the associated Equalities Briefing, to consider the impact of proposals as they are drawn up and in the development of this overarching assessment. The council's JSNA can be found <a href="#">here</a>;</li> <li>• Using data and intelligence gathered through implementing our Including Everyone Framework on equalities, diversity and inclusion, which can be found <a href="#">here</a>;</li> <li>• Directorates follow the council's approach to undertaking Equalities Impact Assessments (EIA). This can include considering at an early stage what impacts each proposal might have on the nine protected characteristics or on wider inequalities, and subsequently setting out greater detail, including any actions identified to mitigate negative impacts. If potential impacts are assessed as significant, individual Equalities Impact Assessments are completed and published to aid understanding and outline mitigations.</li> <li>• A public consultation process is being undertaken for the budget proposals. EIAs will be updated as necessary following the budget consultation to take account of responses.</li> </ul>

- A democratic process including agreement of proposals by Cabinet, analysis and comment on those proposals by Performance Scrutiny Committee, and adoption of a budget by Full Council. Each of these stages provides an opportunity to invite comment and engagement from the public and representatives of particular organisations or population groups.

## Section 3: Impact Assessment

### Assessing the evidence and impact on those with the protected and additional characteristics

The 2021 Census records that Oxfordshire has a population of 725,292. Demographic data below has been taken from the Oxfordshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) 2023 unless otherwise stated. Census 2021 data is still being analysed and the JSNA is being continuously updated.

**Age:** Oxfordshire's population has a median age of 39, compared to the national average of 40.7. The biggest populations by age range are 35-49 year olds, who make up 19.5% of the population, closely followed by 50-64 years at 19% of Oxfordshire's population. Those aged 65+ make up 17.8% of the population, with a higher proportion of over 65s living in rural districts (20%) compared to the city of Oxford (12%). Over the last ten years, the number of over 65s has increased by 48%, whereas the number of 0-15 year olds (18% of the population) has increased by only 10%. Three of Oxfordshire's districts have more residents aged 65+ than 0-15 year olds (South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse and West Oxfordshire).

No specific issues relating to age have been identified as likely to arise as a result of these proposals.

**Disability:** 14.5% of people in Oxfordshire consider themselves disabled as defined in the Equality Act 2010, compared to 17.5% of people nationally. Of those 14.5%, approximately 35% feel limited 'a lot' by their disability in day-to-day activities, with 65% limited 'a little'. Since 2011, the proportion of disabled people in Oxfordshire has increased by 0.7%. The most common types of disability for older people are mobility, breathing/stamina issues and hearing. The main type of disability experienced by working age adults relates to mental health, with children experiencing the most social/behavioural and learning disabilities. As of March 2021, there are 20,000 blue badge holders in Oxfordshire, 2.9% of Oxfordshire

residents (source: Department for Transport), compared with 4.2% of England's population. In November 2022 there were 52,169 disability-related benefits claimed in Oxfordshire.

**Gender Reassignment:** 0.6% of Oxfordshire residents over the age of 16 identify with a gender which differs from their sex registered at birth, compared with 0.5% of over 16s in England. Of this population, 16% identify as a trans woman, 17% as a trans man and 67% as other gender identities. Oxford City has the largest trans and non-binary population outside of London.

No specific issues relating to gender reassignment have been identified as likely to arise as a result of these budget proposals.

**Pregnancy and maternity:** There were 7,379 live births in Oxfordshire in 2021. The general fertility rate (GFR) for Oxfordshire (51.2) is lower than in England (54.3), and the birth rate among mothers aged 30-39 is higher than the England average. The biggest increases in birth rates from 2020-2021 are in South Oxfordshire (11% increase) and Cherwell (9%), with a 2% decrease in live births in Oxford. 4.2% of Oxfordshire maternities took place at home, higher than the UK average of 2.4%.

No specific issues relating to pregnancy and maternity have been identified as likely to arise as a result of these proposals.

**Marriage and civil partnership:** At the time of the 2021 Census there were 132,060 households of married couples or couples in a civil partnership (47% of the Oxfordshire population, 3% higher than national average). 0.8% of Oxfordshire married couples or those in a civil partnership are same-sex couples.

No specific issues relating to marriage and civil partnership have been identified as likely to arise as a result of these proposals.



**Race including ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality:** JSNA records that the largest ethnic group in Oxfordshire is White “English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British” at 83.63% of the population. Aside from that group the largest ethnic groups in Oxfordshire are “Other White” (6.16%), “Indian” (1.25%), “Pakistani” (1.20%) and “African” (1.08%). Oxford City is proportionately more ethnically diverse than England and Wales, whereas all other Oxfordshire districts are less ethnically diverse than England and Wales. West Oxfordshire is the least ethnically diverse Oxfordshire district.

56% of school pupils in Oxford are of an ethnic minority, double the rate of Oxfordshire as a whole, and 33% have a first language which is not English. 18.7% of Oxfordshire residents were born outside of the UK, of which those born in Poland are the largest group, followed by India and Romania. As of 2021 there were 652 ‘White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller’ residents and 1,229 ‘White: Roma’ residents in Oxfordshire. The majority of Roma residents reside in Oxford and Cherwell, with the highest proportion of Gypsy and Irish Traveller population residing in West Oxfordshire.

No specific issues relating to race have been identified as likely to arise as a result of these proposals.

**Religion or Belief:** JSNA data on religion and belief is based on the 2021 Census where this question was voluntary. 65% of Oxfordshire residents chose to disclose a religion. Of those stating a religion, 47% of Oxfordshire residents are Christian, 3% (23,500) are Muslim, 1% (6,332) are Hindu, 1% (3,257) are Buddhist, 1% (2,716) Other Religion, and less than 1% of residents are Jewish (1,893) or Sikh (1,192).

No specific issues relating to religion or belief have been identified as likely to arise as a result of these proposals.

**Sex:** As of mid-2020 there were 347,569 (49.9%) males and 349,311 (50.1%) females living in Oxfordshire. Females in Oxfordshire have a higher life expectancy (84.9) than males (81.5).

	<p>No specific issues relating to sex have been identified as likely to arise as a result of these proposals.</p> <p><b>Sexual Orientation:</b> There is limited data on sexual orientation, defined as people who identify as heterosexual/straight, gay/lesbian, bisexual or another sexual orientation. In 2020 the JSNA estimates that there were 18,446 people aged 16+ in Oxfordshire identifying as lesbian, gay or bisexual. The 2021 Census shows that 3.4% of Oxfordshire residents (21,428) describe their sexual orientation as something other than Straight or Heterosexual. Of this group, 47% are bisexual, 41% are gay or lesbian, 7% are pansexual, 2.5% are asexual, 1.3% are queer and 0.7% other sexual orientation.</p> <p>No specific issues relating to sexual orientation have been identified as likely to arise as a result of these proposals.</p> <p><b>Rural Communities:</b> Oxfordshire is a rural county, with 2.8 people per hectare, and is the most rural county in the South East. Rural areas have a higher proportion of elderly (aged 85+) residents than urban areas: higher rates of over 65s live in one of four rural districts (20%) compared to 12% in Oxford City. 40% of Oxfordshire residents live in small towns and villages. 85 out of 407 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in Oxfordshire are ranked within the most deprived 10% nationally on the geographical access to services (defined as road distance to a post office, primary school, GP and supermarket).</p> <p>No specific issues relating to rural communities have been identified as likely to arise as a result of these proposals.</p> <p><b>Armed Forces:</b> In April 2022 there were 9,350 regular armed forces personnel stationed in Oxfordshire and there are a number military bases in Oxfordshire including Vauxhall Barracks, Dalton Barracks, RAF Brize Norton, RAF Benson and Bicester Garrison. There are 23,541 armed forces veterans in Oxfordshire and as of March 2022 there were 6,718 recipients of pensions/compensation under the Armed Forces</p>
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Pension Scheme, War Pension Scheme and Armed Forces Compensation Scheme in the county. There are an estimated 3,500 military families in the county, of which there are 3,043 school-aged children.

No specific issues relating to the armed forces have been identified as likely to arise as a result of these proposals.

**Carers:** In 2021-2022 there were 4,275 registered carers in Oxfordshire, 44% of whom were aged 65 and over. At least 52,674 residents were providing unpaid care, including 983 young carers aged under 16. The areas in Oxfordshire with highest rates of unpaid carers are within the most deprived wards.

No specific issues relating to carers have been identified as likely to arise as a result of these proposals.

**Care leavers:** As of March 2021, Oxfordshire has 129 care leavers aged 17-18 and 301 care leavers aged 19-21. Care leavers face many challenges as they move into adulthood, such as those relating to careers, education and training, accommodation, finances and personal change. Our Care Leavers Local Offer explains the services which can be accessed by those who have been in OCC's care.

No specific issues relating to care leavers have been identified as likely to arise as a result of these proposals.

**Areas of Social Deprivation:** Oxfordshire is one of the 10 least deprived counties in England, However, there are a number of areas of deprivation in the county: 9 areas in Oxford City, 6 in Banbury and 1 in Abingdon fall within the 20% most deprived areas in the country, with one of the Oxford City areas falling within the 10% most deprived. These communities are often more frequent users of many public services, more densely populated, have lower life-expectancies and greater health inequalities.

No specific issues relating to areas of social deprivation have been identified as likely to arise as a result of these proposals.

	<p>The overall budget proposals have been developed with the objective of effectively targeting services so that we continue to meet the needs of the most vulnerable, including those living with deprivation, and fulfil our statutory duties. All proposals that will have an impact, positive or negative, on any protected characteristic or on rural communities, armed forces, carers or areas of social deprivation, will have an individual Equality Impact Assessment completed alongside policy development, to ensure full compliance to our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion.</p>
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## Oxfordshire County Council

### Budget and Business Planning 2024/25

#### Overarching climate impact review of 2024/25 budget proposals

#### Context & Background

1. This document provides an overview of the potential climate action impact of proposed changes to the budget.
2. As many schemes are in early development, further climate assessment will be undertaken as more detailed business cases are developed through the capital governance process.
3. The [strategic plan 2022 - 2025 \(pdf format, 3.6Mb\)](#) sets out the council's vision to lead positive change by working in partnership to make Oxfordshire a greener, fairer and healthier county. This commitment is strengthened further by the Councils' priority to 'put action to address the climate emergency at the heart of our work'. The council's adopted climate action framework also commits the council to:
  - Being carbon neutral in its operations by 2030
  - Enabling a zero-carbon Oxfordshire well ahead of 2050
4. The council has a cross-organisational work programme to deliver on these commitments. The latest report on this programme can be found at <https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?Id=9894>
5. In the 2023/24 budget setting process the council made additional investment of £23m in climate action and resilience measures including:
  - Transitioning of the council's fleet to electric vehicles
  - Reducing the impact of the council's front line business travel
  - Delivering the council's property strategy which supports the council's commitment to be net zero by 2030.
  - Piloting an energy efficiency loan scheme for maintained schools to support schools to invest in energy efficiency improvements.
  - A Tree Planting scheme; in line with the council's Tree Policy.
  - Staff resource to continue the decarbonisation and resilience of its estate particularly in buildings and fleet.
  - Replacement of ICT with more efficient equipment
6. It is unclear what the impact of the national financial position will be on delivery of the national Net Zero Strategy (both through financing and bringing forward supportive

policy). This is outside the scope of this report but will be a key factor in enabling the delivery of local climate objectives as the council bids for both capital and revenue funding for climate action. Decisions made by central government in this context will also influence private sector investment in this area.

## **Revenue Proposals Climate Impact Review**

7. A number of proposals are included in the budget that support delivery of our Climate Action commitments including:
  - 2025EP641 - Delivering the new Environment Agency guidelines on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). All domestic soft seating containing POPs will now be incinerated at our waste to energy recovery site. This prevents escape into the environment where they persist in water courses.
  - 2025EP647 - The development of a circular economy strategy. A circular economy approach to our internal and external business is critical to delivery of the Councils net zero carbon aspirations. More carbon is used through the delivery of services and goods to residents than through any other means. Moving to a circular economy approach will reduce that impact.
  - 2025EP654, 2025EP744 - Investment in a range of policy areas integral to the delivery of Local Transport and Connectivity Plan and associated decarbonisation targets including Sustainable Travel to School Strategy.
8. 2025EP692 - Within Environment and Circular Economy, pressures have been identified across a range of services including waste management, flooding, biodiversity, public rights of way which link with climate outcomes. 2025EP693 - No additional budget has been allocated to these areas and it is anticipated that the pressures will be managed in the overall service budget.
9. 2025EP638 - A saving is offered related to responses the council makes as Lead Local Flood Authority. Standing advice will be provided in some instances, reducing the amount of bespoke advice to developments.

## **Capital Proposals**

10. A review of the current capital programme has been undertaken, prioritising the schemes and initiatives using the prioritisation framework included at Annex 4a. This includes an assessment of schemes contributing to Climate Action or Active Travel (Prioritisation Category 3).
11. Climate Impact Assessments of the proposals in Annex 3b will be carried out as business cases are developed including consideration of the standards to which buildings will be constructed.

Provision has been made within the programme for investment to support the council's own estate net zero by 2030 target including:

- Property rationalisation programme to reduce our assets and accelerate the decarbonisation of the remaining estate. Ensuring properties are energy efficient, accessible for agile working and fit for purpose for the longer term.

- Refurbishment works at our council owned and managed Gypsy and Traveller sites will increase energy efficiency and support health and well being.
  - A new fire station built to net zero standards at Rewley Rd and Carterton and the redevelopment of Slade Fire Station that includes measures to significantly increase energy efficiency.
  - Decarbonisation Phase 1 including improvements to the thermal fabric of the several council buildings alongside electrical and renewable electricity improvements to counter the increasing running costs.
  - Provision of vehicle charging equipment to charge OCC mobile worker home based fleet vehicles. This enables the transition of council fleet vehicles to electric limiting cost and carbon usage.
  - Investment in ICT to support hybrid agile working approach for staff and increase energy efficiency of equipment.
12. Of the £94m of investment identified to date to decarbonise and improve buildings/assets and reduce energy demand and costs in line with the council's net zero by 2030 target; these proposals bring the total funded within the capital programme to £70m. The council is seeking £3.1m of grant funding through the latest round of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and has set aside the match funding to support this. The further £21m identified on the capital pipeline is not yet funded and will need funding in future years. Further investment will be needed to support offset. Work is taking place to quantify potential offset needs and develop a strategy.
  13. Provision has been made to fund the next phases of both the Zero Emissions Zone (ZEZ) and Traffic Filters work. Both schemes support the delivery of the Local Transport and Connectivity plan and objectives to reduce congestion, reduce emissions and improve air quality.
  14. Provision has been made for a replacement HWRC site, this aligns with the emerging HWRC Strategy, which supports HWRC expansion to meet population growth and potential increase in reuse and recycling capacity. Essential stabilisation works at Redbridge HWRC driven by health and safety considerations offer opportunities to increase household recycling and reuse capacity as well as providing opportunities to install solar panels and protect/restore local biodiversity.
  15. Provision has been made for a replacement mortuary site to fulfil our statutory obligations. This work is at options appraisal stage. Should a new building be required costs to build to net zero will need to be established through the business case development stage. This may create additional investment needs.
  16. A proposal to deliver a new underpass under the A40 at Eynsham will support safe and active travel connecting Eynsham with the development in Salt Cross. This proposal will be subject to a full EIA. It is recognised that mitigations will be required related to the embodied carbon in the development and for the landscape aspects of the development.
  17. Funding is included for the A4095 at NW Bicester. The consented scheme (granted in August 2019) included a number of Conditions in relation to Ecology. The Interim Baseline Report will be updated as the design continues and mitigation and monitoring are confirmed. The constraints identified relate to amphibians, reptiles, bats and breeding birds – mitigation to be use of the District Level Licensing Scheme,

address timing of work and carry out further surveys. The development includes a fully segregated footways and cycleways and a number of high-quality crossing facilities and a bus link.