

OXFORDSHIRE JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11 JUNE 2026

Update Report from the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Primary Care Access and Estates Working Group

Report by Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Committee is **RECOMMENDED** to:
 - a) **RECEIVE** and **NOTE** the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) primary care and estates working group interim report found in Annex 1.
 - b) **AGREE** to the appointment of an additional working group member (whilst adhering to the principle of political balance) given that Cllr Gareth Epps is no longer a member of the Committee.
 - c) **AGREE** to receive a final report with findings and recommendations from the working group in the September 2026 JHOSC meeting, so as to allow for:
 - The final planned working group session to take place with representatives of the Thames Valley Integrated Care Board (ICB) on the use of digital tools and models in primary care services.
 - Conducting site visits to GP practices in both rural and urban areas.
 - Inclusion of further findings from the working group's inquiry on the national backdrop of General Practice, and on the case studies of the Great Western Park and Bicester Health Centre.

Executive Summary:

2. This report introduces the Committee to the work and the interim findings and recommendations of the JHOSC Primary Care Access and Estates Working Group (Annex 1).
3. The working group was established to support the Committee's scrutiny of primary care access and the condition, capacity and suitability of the primary care estate across Oxfordshire, including how system partners are responding to pressures in access and premises and what plans are in place for improvement.
4. Annex 1 sets out the group's latest update, key themes emerging from its work, and its interim findings and recommendations for the Committee to consider.

5. The Committee is asked to receive and note the working group's update report and to consider the interim findings and recommendations within Annex 1. The Committee is also asked to extend the timescale of the working group to enable planned site visits to GP practices in urban and rural parts of the County to take place (this is due to the working group awaiting confirmation from the ICB and individual GP practices as to when they can host such visits).

Background and work undertaken to date:

6. The JHOSC Primary Care Access and Estates Working Group was established by the Committee to undertake detailed work on issues relating to access to general practice and primary care estates, and to report back to the Committee with findings and recommendations.
7. The working group's remit includes understanding the current position on access (including variation across localities and groups of patients), reviewing the capacity and condition of primary care premises, and considering the plans of system partners to improve access and address estates constraints. The group has gathered evidence through engagement with relevant NHS partners and by reviewing available performance and estates information.
8. Since its formation, the working group has continued its programme of evidence-gathering and discussion on primary care access and estates, supported by officers.
9. The update report in Annex 1 contains some key interim findings of the working group and summarises the key themes emerging from the group's work to date, including issues raised in relation to access routes and patient experience, and the constraints and opportunities associated with the primary care estate.
10. Annex 1 also sets out the working group's interim recommendations on GP services and estates matters for the Committee to consider and, when finalised in its report to the Committee in September 2026, to submit these to the Thames Valley Integrated Care Board.

Legal implications:

11. The establishment of this working group has been undertaken pursuant to Part 6.1B of Oxfordshire County Council's Constitution which states that: 'Appointments to such Working Groups will be made by the Committee, ensuring political balance as far as possible. Such panels will exist for a fixed period, on the expiry of which they shall cease to exist.'
12. There are no other direct legal implications arising from this report relating to the existence of this working group or its interim report and recommendations to the wider Committee.

Legal Comments:

Jay Akbar – Head of Legal & Governance

Financial implications:

13. There are no direct financial implications arising from the existence of this working group or its interim report and recommendations to the wider Committee.

Comments checked by:

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Anita Bradley

Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer

Annex 1: Interim Report of the Oxfordshire JHOSC Primary Care Access and Estates Working Group.

Please note: The Interim Report of the working group has its own set of annexes labelled A-E.

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