

County Council

12 September 2023

Agenda

To: **Members of the County COUNCIL**

Notice of a Meeting of the County Council

Tuesday, 12 September 2023 at 10.30 am

Council Chamber - County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND

If you wish to view proceedings, please click on this [Live Stream Link](#). Please note, that will not allow you to participate in the meeting.



Martin Reeves
Chief Executive

September 2023

Committee Officer:

Colm Ó Caomhánaigh

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AGENDA

1. Minutes (Pages 1 - 10)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2023 (**CC1**) and to receive information arising from them.

2. Apologies for Absence

3. Declarations of Interest - see guidance note

Members are reminded that they must declare their interests orally at the meeting and specify (a) the nature of the interest and (b) which items on the agenda are the relevant items. This applies also to items where members have interests by virtue of their membership of a district council in Oxfordshire.

4. Official Communications

5. Appointments

To make any changes to the membership of the Cabinet, scrutiny and other committees on the nomination of political groups.

6. Petitions and Public Address

Members of the public who wish to speak on an item on the agenda at this meeting, or present a petition, can attend the meeting in person or 'virtually' through an online connection. Requests must be submitted no later than 9am one working day before the meeting i.e., 9am on Monday 11 September 2023. Requests to speak should be sent to committeesdemocraticservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk

If you are speaking 'virtually', you may submit a written statement of your presentation to ensure that if the technology fails, then your views can still be taken into account. A written copy of your statement can be provided no later than 9am on the day of the meeting. Written submissions should be no longer than 1 A4 sheet.

7. Questions with Notice from Members of the Public

8. Questions with Notice from Members of the Council

9. Treasury Management Annual Report 2022/23 (Pages 11 - 24)

Report (**CC9**) on the Council's treasury management activities for the financial year 2022/23.

Council is RECOMMENDED to note the Council's treasury management activity and outcomes in 2022/23.

10. Report of the Cabinet (Pages 25 - 28)

Report (**CC10**) of the Cabinet meeting held on 18 July 2023.

MOTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

WOULD MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE THAT ANY AMENDMENTS TO MOTIONS WITH NOTICE MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE PROPER OFFICER IN WRITING BY 9.00 AM ON THE MONDAY BEFORE THE MEETING

11. Motion from Councillor David Bartholomew

Cabinet has approved the proposals for new infrastructure to support housing in Didcot and welcomes the millions of pounds offered by Government, but the Planning & Regulation Committee have rejected the proposals. This Council therefore welcomes the intervention by the Secretary of State to resolve the impasse.

12. Motion from Councillor Charlie Hicks

Years of Conservative cuts have eroded Oxfordshire's bus network, especially in rural and deprived areas.

To improve bus services for Oxfordshire residents, Council and operators, via the Enhanced Partnership, are delivering a new fleet of electric buses and improvements at Park & Ride sites.

To build on these successes, Council wishes to explore options to bring buses back into public control, as other local authorities are doing, and to make further bus services improvements. Therefore, Council asks Cabinet to consider:

1. Funding in 2024/25 a detailed feasibility study into options of setting up:
 - (i) Oxfordshire bus franchising,
 - (ii) An Oxfordshire municipal bus company, and/or
 - (iii) A "Transport for Oxfordshire" public transport body (akin to Transport for West Midlands)
2. This study should be informed by an initial assessment of the public transport needs of Oxfordshire's underserved and deprived communities, including isolated rural communities, shift workers, women, disabled, and young people. It should also assess community and on-demand bus services integration within these models;
3. Working with unions, public transport and taxi operators, police and other stakeholders to address gender-based violence on public transport and safe night-time travel for shift workers;

4. Improving communications highlighting the current and proposed new bus services to be introduced alongside the Oxford traffic filters (akin to the TfL Superloop comms);
5. Piloting car-free Sundays with free bus travel in Oxford and Market Towns in 2024, where there is local support, to showcase how reduced congestion leads to better bus services.

13. Motion from Councillor Jane Hanna

This Council notes:

- That a new rail station north of Grove was estimated in an independent opinion in 2018 to become the fifth busiest station in Oxfordshire, attracting at least one million users, and was subsequently included in the Oxfordshire Rail Corridor Study, the County Council Local Transport and Connectivity Plan, and has safeguarded sites under the Vale of White Horse District Local Plan. An estimated 'high value for money' of £2.48 for each £1 expended means the scheme has a strong economic case.
- National campaigning to win support from government for small funding allocation to progress plans for the station failed in 2022, despite this area experiencing a 34% population increase.
- That the Council budget and the Cabinet commitment of new funding in 2022/23 and 2023/24 supports investment through project development work. As a result, a Strategic Outline Business Case for the new Oxford–Eynsham–Witney–Carterton 'Windrush Line' has recently been completed successfully.
- That project development work on Wantage and Grove Station would build on this example and would fit with ambitions of increased investment in an inclusive, integrated, county-wide active and sustainable travel network fit for the 21st century, to improve choice and reduce car journeys.

Council therefore calls on Cabinet to consider building on the 2018 Statement of Opinion by commissioning, before the end of this financial year, while funding resources remain available, a DfT-compliant Strategic Outline Business Case, and an initial assessment of financing options for a new rail station for Wantage and Grove.

14. Motion from Councillor Sally Povolotsky

This Council notes:

- In 2022 a survey commissioned by Action Aid UK found nearly one in eight women in Great Britain had recently struggled to buy menstrual products — either for themselves or for a dependent.
- The survey found, of those who has struggled to afford menstrual products, 75% had needed to prioritise spending money on food and 49% needed to prioritise spending money on gas/electric.
- A number of Councils across the UK have already set up or agreed to schemes to provide free period products, including Oxford City Council.

- 35% of teenage girls said they had taken time off school because of their period which is a 7% increase since 2019.
- A YouGov survey showed two thirds of Britons supported making it a legal requirement for local authorities to provide free period products.

Council strongly believes:

- The cost-of-living crisis has forced many women to prioritise other household essentials such as food, clothes and heating over menstrual products.
- No one should ever have to experience period poverty.

Council resolves to ask Cabinet to:

- Look into a period pant scheme, akin to reusable nappy schemes, to help with the costly purchase of more climate friendly products for all ages.
- Promote the national school period product scheme to *all* Oxfordshire schools and monitor gaps in uptake.
- Make free Menstrual products accessible in every council owned building in the county.

15. Motion by Councillor Bob Johnston

Oxfordshire County Council deplores in the strongest terms the draft proposals to close station ticket offices in the County. This is because such a move will exclude all the digitally challenged from easily purchasing tickets, among whom are numbered many travellers that are elderly, disabled, or both.

All rail users will be denied easy purchase of the full range of tickets, including some of the cheapest tickets. It will make split ticketing and the redemption of delay/repay vouchers difficult, if not impossible.

The assumption on which the proposal is based is highly questionable, with impartial data showing that at some stations as much as 50% of the tickets purchased are through ticket offices. Furthermore, it will restrict the advice available on ticketing: it is quicker for an experienced operator to issue a ticket than to supervise somebody else to do the same. There is also evidence that the tickets currently purchased from ticket offices are either high value or for complicated journeys.

Council therefore

- urges all Members to sign the online petition about the proposed closures to ensure that the move is discussed in Parliament;
- asks the Leader of Council to send a response opposing the closure of all ticket offices in Oxfordshire and
- asks the Cabinet Member covering library services, should the closures take place, to investigate what support the county library service can offer digitally challenged users of the rail network to obtain best value, especially during the current cost-of-living crisis.

16. Motion by Councillor Andrew Gant

Oxfordshire County Council is proud of our history of welcoming people seeking safety in our county. We believe that:

- everyone has the right to seek safety, and everyone's claim for asylum should be treated equally and fairly;
- the Government's 'anti-refugee' laws undermine internationally recognised rights for people fleeing war and persecution to seek safety;
- people seeking safety should be housed as our neighbours and as a part of our communities;
- the UK needs an asylum system that empowers people seeking safety to rebuild their lives and enables communities to welcome them;

Council resolves to:

(i) defend the right to seek safety from war and persecution in the UK by signing the national 'Fight the Anti-Refugee Laws' pledge;

(ii) call on the UK Government to repeal the Illegal Migration Act and the Nationality and Borders Act, withdraw the UK–Rwanda partnership,

(iii) request Cabinet to

- work with Local Authorities and communities to build a refugee protection system that treats all people with dignity and compassion;
- continue to lobby against any UK Government plans to build or repurpose facilities in Oxfordshire to detain or warehouse people seeking safety;
- work with local organisations and people with lived experience of the asylum system to identify ways to mitigate the effects of these measures in Oxfordshire;
- consider joining the network of cities and towns which promote the inclusion and welfare of people who are fleeing violence and persecution and become a recognised Council of Sanctuary.

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.

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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Agenda Item 1

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 11 July 2023 commencing at 10.30 am and finishing at 3.15 pm

Present:

Councillor Felix Bloomfield – in the Chair

Councillors:

Alison Rooke	Ted Fenton	Mark Lygo
Brad Baines	Nick Field-Johnson	Ian Middleton
Hannah Banfield	Donna Ford	Freddie van Mierlo
David Bartholomew	Andrew Gant	Calum Miller
Tim Bearder	Stefan Gawrysiak	Michael O'Connor
Robin Bennett	Andy Graham	Glynis Phillips
Liz Brighthouse OBE	Kate Gregory	Susanna Pressel
Kevin Bulmer	Jane Hanna OBE	G.A. Reynolds
Nigel Champken-Woods	Jenny Hannaby	Judy Roberts
Mark Cherry	Damian Haywood	David Rouane
Andrew Coles	Charlie Hicks	Geoff Saul
Yvonne Constance OBE	John Howson	Les Sibley
Ian Corkin	Tony Ilott	Nigel Simpson
Imade Edosomwan	Bob Johnston	Roz Smith
Trish Elphinstone	Liz Leffman	Ian Snowdon
Duncan Enright	Nick Leverton	Bethia Thomas
Mohamed Fadlalla	Dan Levy	Liam Walker
Neil Fawcett	Dr Nathan Ley	Richard Webber

The Council considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting and decided as set out below. Except insofar as otherwise specified, the reasons for the decisions are contained in the agenda and reports, copies of which are attached to the signed Minutes.

41/23 MINUTES

(Agenda Item 1)

The minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 16 May 2023 were approved and signed as a correct record.

42/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(Agenda Item 2)

Apologies were received from Councillors Ash, Fatemian, Mallon, Murphy, Povolotsky, Reeves, Sudbury and Waine.

43/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - SEE GUIDANCE NOTE

(Agenda Item 3)

A dispensation had been granted to Councillor Mohamed Fadlalla to allow him to participate fully in item 14 Motion proposed by Councillor Imade Edosomwan. Councillor Fadlalla had a Non-Registerable Interest as defined in the Members' Code of Conduct, paragraph 7.3. The dispensation had been granted by the Monitoring Officer using the delegation provided to the Monitoring Officer by Council on 17 May 2022.

44/23 OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

(Agenda Item 4)

The Chair summarised the events he had attended since the last meeting of Council which were listed in the Schedule of Business.

45/23 APPOINTMENTS

(Agenda Item 5)

The following appointments were noted:

Councillor Gregory replaced Councillor Hannaby as Cabinet Member for Community Services & Safety.

Councillor Reeves replaced Councillor Murphy on the Oxfordshire County Council & Employees Joint Consultative Committee.

46/23 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS

(Agenda Item 6)

The following speakers were heard. The texts of their speeches are published on the website alongside the minutes.

Petitions

Steve Wright: Fire Brigade Union campaign

Simon Howell: Parking in Shrivenham

James Schumann: Do not dismantle LTNs

Public Address

Item 14 Motion from Cllr Edosomwan

Evelyne Godfrey;
City Cllr Lubna Arshad;
Nazar Eltahir

Item 15 Motion from Cllr Johnston

Charlie Maynard

47/23 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(Agenda Item 7)

There were six questions submitted by members of the public. The questions and responses were published in the Schedule of Business.

On question 1, Mr Tucker asked in a supplementary question if it was correct to summarise that the issue of the traffic filter scheme was the first time that the Council pro-actively provided traffic forecasts. Councillor Enright responded that he believed that it was the case. In recent years the science of traffic forecasting had improved and it was this administration's intention to provide as much useful data as possible when making such major decisions.

There were no other supplementary questions asked.

48/23 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(Agenda Item 8)

28 questions with Notice were asked. Details of the questions and answers were set out in the Schedule of Business.

On Question 10, Councillor Field-Johnson asked if it was possible to give some timelines when trials would be phased in and when we would see limits imposed. Councillor Enright responded that it had been hoped to have an all-Member briefing by the end of July before the school holidays but it now looked like it would be September.

On Question 13, Councillor Howson asked if it was a requirement to have the Horton Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee or was it a Council decision. Councillor Leffman responded that it was up to the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee to decide if the Committee was still needed. At the moment there was no requirement for it to meet.

49/23 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OXFORDSHIRE JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Agenda Item 9)

Council had before it the annual report of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, Regulation 28(1) of the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 the Council had a duty to "review and scrutinise any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of the health services in its area".

As part of this overarching duty, it had a duty, enshrined in the Council's Constitution, to report on its activity over the preceding year in the form of an annual report.

Councillor Jane Hanna presented the report and responded to a number of points raised by Members.

Following debate, the motion was proposed by Councillor Hanna and seconded by Councillor Haywood.

RESOLVED (unanimously) to receive the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Annual Report.

50/23 REPORT OF THE CABINET

(Agenda Item 10)

Councillor Leffman, responding on behalf of Councillor Sudbury to a question from Councillor David Rouane, agreed to make the point to Councillor Sudbury, that councils should avoid the danger of tying up useful groups, such as the Local Nature Partnership, in too many rules.

Councillor Enright, Cabinet Member for Travel & Development Strategy, responding to Councillor Middleton, agreed to circulate more information on the timings for the remaining phases of Loop Farm roadworks.

51/23 SPECIAL URGENCY DECISIONS

(Agenda Item 11)

Council considered a report listing the Special Urgency Decisions taken in the last three months and a summary of the matters in respect of which those decisions were taken.

Councillor Liz Leffman summarised the report and proposed the motion. Councillor Liz Brighouse seconded the motion and thanked the Chair for his part in facilitating the urgent decisions.

RESOLVED: (unanimously) to note the use of Special Urgency for Key Decisions on 9 June, 29 June and 30 June 2023.

52/23 INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

(Agenda Item 12)

Council was asked to consider a report proposing that up to two new Independent Members be appointed to the Audit and Governance Committee.

The motion was moved by Councillor Bloomfield and seconded by Councillor Rooke.

Councillor Roz Smith, Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee, stated that Council's agreement was required before advertisements could be placed for the two independent positions.

RESOLVED: (unanimously) to introduce an allowance of £3,156 per annum for new Independent Members of the Audit and Governance Committee in line with the recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

53/23 MOTION BY COUNCILLOR FREDDIE VAN MIERLO

(Agenda Item 13)

Councillor Freddie van Mierlo moved and Councillor Ian Middleton seconded the following motion:

Publishing the voting and attendance records of elected representatives is critical for democratic accountability. It allows residents to make informed decisions during elections and hold elected representatives to account. This council therefore requests the Director of Law and Governance to publish on the Council's website:

1. A summary of the attendance records of members at Full Council (as is done by district councils, including South Oxfordshire District Council).
2. A record of the individual votes of members made at Full Council as required under the Constitution Part 3.1, section 17.2.

The information should be displayed prominently on the appropriate section of the website and be easily accessible.

Votes taken by show of hands at the Chair's discretion will not require individual votes to be published.

The Director of Law and Governance is not requested to retrospectively publish voting or attendance records, but to do so going forwards at the earliest opportunity.

Following debate the motion was put to a vote. Councillor Ian Corkin called for a recorded vote and was supported by more than the required six other Members.

Councillors voting for the motion (31):

Baines, Brighouse, Cherry, Coles, Edosomwan, Elphinstone, Enright, Fadlalla, Fawcett, Gant, Graham, Gregory, Hanna, Haywood, Hicks, Johnston, Leffman, Levy, Ley, Middleton, van Mierlo, O'Connor, Phillips, Pressel, Roberts, Rooke, Rouane, Saul, Smith, Thomas, Webber

Councillors voting against the motion (3):

Banfield, Corkin, Gawrysiak

Councillor abstaining (13):

Bartholomew, Bloomfield, Bulmer, Champken-Woods, Constance, Fenton, Field-Johnson, Ford, Iott, Reynolds, Sibley, Simpson, Snowdon

RESOLVED (31 to 3):

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54/23 MOTION BY COUNCILLOR IMADE EDOSOMWAN

(Agenda Item 14)

Councillor Imade Edosomwan moved and Councillor Trish Elphinstone seconded the following motion which included amendments from the proposer, accepted by Council, indicated in bold and strikethrough:

The ongoing conflict in Sudan has resulted in the loss of countless lives, displacement of hundreds of thousands of people, and a severe humanitarian crisis.

Oxfordshire has a proud history of providing support for those fleeing war. A great example is ~~the Ukrainians fleeing the conflict in Ukraine.~~ **how** Oxfordshire has continued to stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Ukraine.

We are dismayed at the government's chaotic and inadequate response. They have failed to evacuate British citizens, offer sanctuary to family and dependants, or waive existing barriers to settlement and support in the UK.

This motion condemns the war in Sudan and calls on the government to redouble their efforts to work urgently with regional partners to secure a

permanent ceasefire and to engage in negotiations to find a peaceful and lasting solution to the crisis.

Oxfordshire County Council resolves to request Cabinet to continue to support refugees locally, including by:

- working with the Oxfordshire Sudanese community to identify and support new arrivals.
- collaborating with organisations in the public/voluntary sectors so they can provide appropriate support, especially for those with physical and psychological trauma.
- briefing frontline council staff so they understand needs and pathways to relevant services.

We further resolve to request the Leader to write to the Home Secretary **and Oxfordshire members of parliament** to:

- expand safe, legal routes for extended family of British citizens and Sudanese asylum seekers.
- waive existing barriers to support including the habitual residence test.
- establish a formal programme mirroring the Ukrainian settlement scheme for Sudanese nationals seeking sanctuary.

Following debate the motion as amended was carried by 31 votes to 0 with 11 abstentions.

RESOLVED: (31 to 0)

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Oxfordshire has a proud history of providing support for those fleeing war. A great example is ~~the Ukrainians fleeing the conflict in Ukraine.~~ **how** Oxfordshire has continued to stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Ukraine.

We are dismayed at the government's chaotic and inadequate response. They have failed to evacuate British citizens, offer sanctuary to family and dependants, or waive existing barriers to settlement and support in the UK.

This motion condemns the war in Sudan and calls on the government to redouble their efforts to work urgently with regional partners to secure a permanent ceasefire and to engage in negotiations to find a peaceful and lasting solution to the crisis.

Oxfordshire County Council resolves to request Cabinet to continue to support refugees locally, including by:

- working with the Oxfordshire Sudanese community to identify and support new arrivals.

- collaborating with organisations in the public/voluntary sectors so they can provide appropriate support, especially for those with physical and psychological trauma.
- briefing frontline council staff so they understand needs and pathways to relevant services.

We further resolve to request the Leader to write to the Home Secretary **and Oxfordshire members of parliament** to:

- expand safe, legal routes for extended family of British citizens and Sudanese asylum seekers.
- waive existing barriers to support including the habitual residence test.
- establish a formal programme mirroring the Ukrainian settlement scheme for Sudanese nationals seeking sanctuary.”

55/23 MOTION BY COUNCILLOR BOB JOHNSTON

(Agenda Item 15)

Councillor Bob Johnston moved and Councillor Dan Levy seconded the following motion:

This Council welcomes the feasibility study for a railway line in the west of Oxfordshire linking Carterton to Cowley. With the possibility of around 10,000 additional employment opportunities being created on the north and west side of the city, (4,500 Oxford North; 1,000 Botley Road; 4,000 Osney Mead; up to 1,000 at Oxpens) there has never been a more important need for a mass transit system connecting the city with the expanding towns along the A40 corridor.

This Council urges the Cabinet to request the Corporate Director Environment & Place to build upon the results of the recently published feasibility study by entering into discussions with central government and other possible funders to identify sources of funding that would take the project forward, either in phases or as a complete route.

Following some debate on the motion, Councillor David Bartholomew moved and Councillor Donna Ford seconded that the motion now be put. The Chair put this to a vote which was carried by 21 votes to 15.

The motion was passed by 35 votes to 1 with 1 abstention.

RESOLVED: (35 to 1)

This Council welcomes the feasibility study for a railway line in the west of Oxfordshire linking Carterton to Cowley. With the possibility of around 10,000 additional employment opportunities being created on the north and west side of the city, (4,500 Oxford North; 1,000 Botley Road; 4,000 Osney Mead; up to 1,000 at Oxpens) there has never been a more important need for a mass transit system connecting the city with the expanding towns along the A40 corridor.

This Council urges the Cabinet to request the Corporate Director Environment & Place to build upon the results of the recently published feasibility study by entering into discussions with central government and other possible funders to identify sources of funding that would take the project forward, either in phases or as a complete route.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing

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Division(s): N/A

COUNCIL 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL PERFORMANCE 2022/23

Report by the Director of Finance

RECOMMENDATION

1. Council is **RECOMMENDED** to note the Council's treasury management activity and outcomes in 2022/23.

Executive Summary

2. Treasury management is defined as: "The management of the organisation's borrowing, investments and cash flows, including its banking, money market and capital market transactions, the effective control of the risks associated with those activities, and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks."
3. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA's) 'Code of Practice on Treasury Management 2021' requires that the Council and Audit & Governance Committee receives a report on Treasury Management activities at least four times per year. This report is the final report for the financial year 2022/23 and sets out the position at 31 March 2023.
4. Throughout this report performance for the 2022/23 financial year is measured against the budget agreed by Council in February 2022.
5. At 31 March 2023, the council's outstanding debt totalled £306m and the average rate of interest paid on long-term debt during the year was 4.43%. £7m of maturing Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) loans were repaid during the year. No new external borrowing was arranged during 2022/23. The Council's debt financing position for 2022/23 is shown in Annex 1.
6. The [Treasury Management Strategy for 2022/23](#) agreed in February 2022 assumed an average base rate forecast of 0.35% consistent with rates at that time. The average daily balance of temporary surplus cash invested in-house was expected to be £341m in 2022/23.
7. The Council achieved an average in-house return for the year of 1.38% on average cash balances of £447.943m, producing gross interest receivable of £6.845m. In relation to external funds, the return for the year was 4.44% producing gross distributions totalling £4.447m, bringing total investment income to £11.292m. This compares to budgeted investment income of £5.352m, giving a net overachievement of £5.940m. £5.043m of this was used to fund the indexation of Section 106 funding held by the council.

8. At 31 March 2023, the council's investment portfolio of £548.301m comprised £434.500m of fixed term deposits, £18.443m at short term notice in money market funds and £95.358m in pooled funds with a variable net asset value. Annex 4 provides an analysis of the investment portfolio at 31 March 2023.

9.

Treasury Management Activity

Debt Financing & Maturing Debt

10. The Strategy for Long Term Borrowing agreed in February 2022 included the option to fund new or replacement borrowing up to the value of £100m through internal borrowing. The aim was to reduce the Council's exposure to credit risk and reduce the cost of carry (difference between borrowing costs and investment returns) whilst debt rates remained higher than investment interest rates.
11. The council is able to borrow from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) or through the money markets. At the start of the financial year, global economic events led to interest rates unexpectedly rising sharply, but with an expectation that they would reduce over the medium term. The original budget had assumed £46m of new external borrowing, however, as the council was able to undertake internal borrowing no new external borrowing was arranged during 2022/23.
12. As at 31 March 2023, the authority had 46 PWLB loans totalling £256.383m, 9 LOBO¹ loans totalling £45m and one £5m money market loan. The average rate of interest paid on PWLB debt was 4.65% and the average cost of LOBO debt in 2022/23 was 3.94%. The cost of debt on the money market loan was 3.95%. The combined weighted average for interest paid on long-term debt was 4.44%. The Council's debt portfolio as at 31 March 2023 is shown in Annex 1.
13. The Council repaid £7m of maturing PWLB loans during the year. The weighted average interest rate payable on the matured loans was 5.67%. The outturn for interest payable in 2022/23 was £13.8m which was below the budgeted figure of £14.4m. The details are set out in Annex 2.

Investment Strategy

14. In line with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management, the council prioritised security and liquidity of cash above the requirement to maximise returns during 2022/23. Fixed deposits, call accounts, notice accounts, money market funds and pooled funds were utilised to deposit the council's in-house cash surpluses. Credit quality information regarding the institutions on the council's approved Lending List was continuously monitored to reduce risk.
15. Because of continued volatility in financial markets during 2022/23, exposure to banks was limited by lending to local authorities in the United Kingdom. At 31 March 2023 the council had £69.7m of long-term fixed deposits (deposits over 364 days), all of which were placed

¹ LOBO (Lender's Option/Borrower's Option) Loans are long-term loans which include a re-pricing option for the bank at predetermined intervals.

with local authorities. The aim was to maintain a high level of security and manage exposure to interest rate and counterparty risk.

16. The 2022/23 Treasury Management Strategy allowed for 50% of the total portfolio to be held in Strategic Pooled funds and this policy was maintained throughout the year, although the value held in these funds was consistently well-below that maximum.
17. The weighted average maturity of all deposits at 31 March 2023, including money deposited in short-term notice accounts, was 229 days (compared with 259 days during 2021/22). The decrease compared to 2021/22 reflects the opportunity to take advantage of increasing interest rates in an environment of rapidly increasing interest rates.

The Council's Lending List

18. In-house cash balances are deposited with institutions that meet the council's approved credit rating criteria. The approved lending list, which sets out those institutions, is updated to reflect changes in bank and building society credit ratings. Changes are reported to Cabinet as part of the Business Management & Monitoring Report. The approved lending list may also be further restricted by officers, in response to changing conditions and perceived risk. There were no changes to the lending list in 2022/23.

Investment Income Received in 2022/23

19. Temporary surplus cash balances include: developer contributions; council reserves and balances; and various other funds to which the Council pays interest at each financial year end. The budgeted return on these in-house balances for 2022/23 was 0.35% and assumed an average in-house cash balance of £340.630m.
20. The actual average daily balance of temporary surplus cash invested in-house was £447.943m in 2022/23 and the average in-house return was 1.38%, producing gross interest receivable of £6.845m. Gross distributions from pooled funds totalling £4.447m were also realised in year, bringing total investment income to £11.292m. This compares to budgeted investment income of £5.352m, giving a net overachievement of £5.940m. This reflects a combination of higher than forecast average cash balances, rapidly increasing interest rates, and higher than forecast distributions from pooled funds. £5.043m of this overachievement was used to fund the indexation of Section 106 funding held by the council.
21. Cash balances for the year were lower than they otherwise would have been as a result of negative DSG balances which increased from £29.8m at 1 April 2022 to £41.1m at 31 March 2023. The impact of this is an estimated opportunity cost of £0.49m in unearned interest during 2022/23
22. The Council operates a number of instant access call accounts and money market funds to deposit short-term cash surpluses. During 2022/23 the average balance held on instant access was £42.499m.
23. At 31 March 2023 the total value of pooled fund investments was £95.358m. The values as at 31 March 2023 represented a book value loss of £10.168m compared to the value at 31

March 2022. The decrease was due to the extreme global financial volatility as a result of the war in Ukraine.

24. At 31 March 2023, the Council's investment portfolio of £548.301m comprised £434.500m of fixed term deposits, £18.443m at short term notice in money market funds and £95.358m in pooled funds with a variable net asset value. Annex 4 provides an analysis of the investment portfolio at 31 March 2023.
25. During 2022/23 the Council entered into a new Revolving Credit Facility (RCF) of £10m with Network Homes Ltd. None of the RCFs in place during the year were utilised. Non utilisation fees for the facilities produced £0.080m interest for the year.
26. The Council's Treasury Management Strategy Team regularly monitors the risk profile of the Council's investment portfolio. An analysis of the credit and maturity position of the portfolio at 31 March 2023 is included at Annex 3.

Prudential Indicators for Treasury Management

27. During the financial year, the Council operated within the treasury limits and Prudential Indicators set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2022/23. The outturn for the Prudential Indicators is shown in Annex 4.

External Performance Indicators and Statistics

28. The Council's treasury management advisors Link Treasury Services benchmark the Council's investment performance against its other clients on a quarterly basis. The results of the quarter 4 benchmarking to 31 March 2023 are included in Annex 5.
29. The benchmarking results show that the Council was achieving lower than average interest on deposits at 31 March 2023 compared to the benchmark group. This is as result of placing deposits with institutions that are of higher than average credit quality, coupled with a lag on average returns due to on-going historic loans taken out before the period of global economic volatility.

Financial Implications

30. This report is mostly concerned with finance and the implications are set out in the main body of the report.

Comments checked by:

Kathy Wilcox, Head of Financial Strategy, kathy.wilcox@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Legal Implications

31. The report meets the requirements of both the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities. The Council is required to comply

with both Codes through Regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003. There are no other legal implications.

Comments checked by:

Jennifer Crouch, Principal Solicitor, jennifer.crouch@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Sustainability Implications

32. This report is not expected to have any negative impact with regards to the Council's zero carbon emissions commitment by 2030.

Annexes:

Annex 1	Oxfordshire County Council Debt Profile 31 March 2023
Annex 2	Long-term debt that Matured in 2022/23
Annex 3	Oxfordshire County Council Investment Portfolio 31/03/2023
Annex 4	Prudential Indicators Outturn 31 March 2023
Annex 5	Benchmarking

Lorna Baxter
Director of Finance

Contact officer: Tim Chapple
Telephone Number: 07917 262935
June 2023

Annex 1

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL DEBT PROFILE 31 MARCH 2023

LOAN No	£m	RATE %	Start Date	End Date	LOAN No	£m	RATE %	Start Date	End/Call Date
480867	2.000	5.625	23/04/1998	30/04/2023	492386	2.000	4.350	03/11/2006	01/04/2027
480915	2.000	5.625	30/04/1998	22/05/2023	492535	10.000	4.200	29/11/2006	30/06/2037
483469	3.000	4.250	12/11/1999	22/11/2024	492561	6.000	4.250	07/12/2006	30/06/2032
483659	2.000	4.250	25/11/1999	30/04/2025	492598	8.000	4.500	18/12/2006	30/04/2027
487777	4.000	4.650	16/05/2003	01/05/2028	492599	6.000	4.500	18/12/2006	31/05/2027
488204	8.000	5.000	27/10/2003	01/11/2023	492789	6.000	4.500	24/01/2007	31/01/2032
488562	7.650	4.700	19/03/2004	16/03/2030	492990	6.000	4.450	06/03/2007	31/03/2032
488563	1.733	4.700	19/03/2004	16/03/2030	492807	4.000	4.250	25/01/2007	30/06/2053
488989	6.000	4.850	16/08/2004	13/07/2030	493378	4.000	4.900	11/06/2007	30/06/2032
489168	6.000	4.700	22/10/2004	01/03/2030	493638	6.000	4.550	02/08/2007	30/09/2052
489287	6.000	4.600	22/11/2004	01/04/2032	493803	4.000	4.650	23/08/2007	20/09/2032
489429	6.000	4.550	02/12/2004	01/06/2032	493822	6.000	4.450	23/08/2007	30/09/2053
489856	5.000	4.600	06/05/2005	01/05/2033	494069	6.000	4.500	21/11/2007	30/09/2052
490105	5.000	4.450	23/05/2005	01/12/2033	494171	6.000	4.480	27/12/2007	31/03/2052
491669	4.000	4.450	23/05/2006	14/06/2026	494200	6.000	4.420	04/01/2008	31/03/2057
491948	5.000	4.650	16/08/2006	31/12/2026	494703	6.000	4.460	04/08/2008	13/07/2058
491957	4.000	4.500	18/08/2006	31/12/2031	494747	10.000	4.390	15/08/2008	26/03/2058
491958	4.000	4.500	18/08/2006	30/09/2031	497549	5.000	4.190	08/07/2010	14/06/2054
491959	2.000	4.600	21/08/2006	30/04/2027	LOBO 06	5.000	4.290	27/04/2005	27/10/2023
491960	10.000	4.600	21/08/2006	30/09/2026	LOBO 07	5.000	4.500	27/04/2005	27/10/2023
492021	5.000	4.350	25/08/2006	22/11/2031	LOBO 08	5.000	3.950	31/05/2005	29/05/2065
492063	5.000	4.450	31/08/2006	31/03/2028	LOBO 09	5.000	3.680	23/11/2005	24/11/2025
492064	5.000	4.450	31/08/2006	30/04/2027	LOBO 10	5.000	3.800	31/07/2006	29/07/2023
492088	4.000	4.350	04/09/2006	02/03/2032	LOBO 11	5.000	3.840	31/07/2006	31/07/2026
492117	4.000	4.450	07/09/2006	02/03/2037	LOBO 12	5.000	3.825	02/10/2006	04/10/2027
492371	13.000	4.500	31/10/2006	31/12/2026	LOBO 13	5.000	4.010	02/10/2006	02/10/2024
492375	10.000	4.200	01/11/2006	31/12/2036	LOBO 14	5.000	3.820	31/08/2006	31/08/2023
492376	10.000	4.200	01/11/2006	31/03/2037	LOBO 15	5.000	3.720	21/09/2006	13/10/2027
					TOTAL	306.383			

Long-term debt that Matured in 2022/23

Date	Amount £m	Rate %	Repayment Type
26/03/2023	1.684	6.625	Maturity
26/03/2023	0.316	6.625	Maturity
31/12/2022	1.000	6.250	Maturity
31/10/2022	4.000	5.050	Maturity
Total	7.000		

Repayment Types

Maturity – Full amount of principal is repaid at the final maturity date

EIP – Equal Instalments of Principal are repaid every 6 months until the final maturity date

Annex 3

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO 31/03/2023

Fixed term deposits held at 31/03/2023

Counterparty	Principal Deposited	Maturity Date
Uttlesford District Council	£5,000,000.00	19/06/2023
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	£3,000,000.00	10/07/2023
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	£3,000,000.00	31/07/2023
South Ayrshire Council	£3,000,000.00	22/02/2024
Gravesham Borough Council	£5,800,000.00	15/03/2024
Cambridgeshire County Council	£10,000,000.00	22/11/2023
Kirklees Council	£5,000,000.00	15/02/2024
Somerset West and Taunton Council	£10,000,000.00	03/04/2023
Peterborough City Council	£5,000,000.00	03/04/2023
Aberdeenshire Council	£5,000,000.00	05/04/2023
Moray Council	£5,000,000.00	05/04/2023
Liverpool City Council	£10,000,000.00	06/04/2023
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council	£10,000,000.00	19/04/2023
West Dunbartonshire Council	£5,000,000.00	19/04/2023
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council	£5,000,000.00	25/04/2023
Cherwell District Council	£5,000,000.00	27/04/2023
Rushmoor Borough Council	£5,000,000.00	28/04/2023
West Dunbartonshire Council	£6,000,000.00	02/05/2023
Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside	£5,000,000.00	03/05/2023
Blackpool Council	£8,000,000.00	04/05/2023
Basildon Borough Council	£5,000,000.00	05/05/2023
Surrey County Council	£5,000,000.00	30/06/2023
South Ayrshire Council	£5,000,000.00	03/07/2023
Surrey Heath Borough Council	£6,000,000.00	16/06/2023
South Cambridgeshire District Council	£5,000,000.00	26/07/2023
West Dunbartonshire Council	£5,000,000.00	26/07/2023
Surrey County Council	£5,000,000.00	24/04/2023
The Highland Council	£5,000,000.00	09/08/2023
Bradford Metropolitan District Council	£10,000,000.00	01/09/2023
Manchester City Council	£5,000,000.00	01/09/2023
Plymouth City Council	£5,000,000.00	06/09/2023
London Borough of Brent Council	£5,000,000.00	07/09/2023
The Highland Council	£5,000,000.00	10/10/2023
South Ayrshire Council	£5,000,000.00	11/10/2023
Powys County Council	£10,000,000.00	12/10/2023
Plymouth City Council	£10,000,000.00	19/10/2023
London Borough of Hillingdon Council	£5,000,000.00	26/10/2023
Medway Council	£5,000,000.00	06/11/2023
West Dunbartonshire Council	£5,000,000.00	20/11/2023
Wrexham County Borough Council	£5,000,000.00	22/11/2023

Medway Council	£5,000,000.00	23/11/2023
Worcestershire County Council	£5,000,000.00	08/12/2023
Great Yarmouth Borough Council	£6,000,000.00	13/12/2023
Watford Borough Council	£5,000,000.00	14/12/2023
Wrexham County Borough Council	£5,000,000.00	20/09/2023
Ashford Borough Council	£5,000,000.00	22/09/2023
Cambridgeshire County Council	£5,000,000.00	10/01/2024
Denbighshire County Council	£5,000,000.00	18/01/2024
Manchester City Council	£10,000,000.00	23/01/2024
Fife Council	£5,000,000.00	24/01/2024
Oadby and Wigston Borough Council	£8,000,000.00	24/01/2024
East Dunbartonshire Council	£5,000,000.00	07/08/2023
East Dunbartonshire Council	£5,000,000.00	15/08/2023
Falkirk Council	£5,000,000.00	25/01/2024
Fife Council	£5,000,000.00	25/01/2024
Guildford Borough Council	£10,000,000.00	25/01/2024
Falkirk Council	£5,000,000.00	04/09/2023
Plymouth City Council	£5,000,000.00	07/11/2023
Reading Borough Council	£5,000,000.00	14/08/2023
London Borough of Newham Council	£5,000,000.00	21/08/2023
London Borough of Newham Council	£5,000,000.00	14/09/2023
London Borough of Waltham Forest Council	£5,000,000.00	01/09/2023
Gravesham Borough Council	£6,000,000.00	07/03/2024
Short Term Deposit Total	£364,800,000.00	
Counterparty	Principal Deposited	Maturity Date
South Ayrshire Council	£5,000,000.00	24/05/2024
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	£5,000,000.00	26/04/2024
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	£5,000,000.00	26/04/2024
Gravesham Borough Council	£2,500,000.00	26/04/2024
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	£5,000,000.00	30/09/2024
Gravesham Borough Council	£2,400,000.00	26/04/2024
Gravesham Borough Council	£1,800,000.00	26/04/2024
Falkirk Council	£5,000,000.00	03/01/2025
Falkirk Council	£5,000,000.00	31/01/2025
Worthing Borough Council	£3,000,000.00	19/11/2024
Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire	£5,000,000.00	06/01/2025
Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire	£5,000,000.00	14/04/2025
Cambridgeshire County Council	£5,000,000.00	15/08/2024
Kirklees Council	£5,000,000.00	15/08/2025
North East Lincolnshire Council	£5,000,000.00	21/11/2025
Worthing Borough Council	£5,000,000.00	21/11/2025
Long Term Deposit Total	£69,700,000.00	
Total Deposits	£434,500,000.00	

Money Market Funds

Counterparty	Balance at 31/03/23 (£)	Notice period
Aberdeen Liquidity Fund	646.87	Same day
Goldman Sachs Sterling Liquid Fund	0.00	Same day
Deutsche Sterling Liquid Fund	0.00	Same day
Federated Sterling Liquidity Funds	26,567.35	Same day
Legal & General Sterling Liquidity Fund	13,400,000.00	Same day
CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund	5,000,000.00	Same day
Morgan Stanley Sterling Liquid Fund	10,386.75	Same day
Total	18,437,600.97	

Notice / Call Accounts

Counterparty	Balance at 31/03/23 (£)	Notice period
Santander Call Account	3,643.29	Same day
Barclays Current	9,325.51	Same day
Handlesbanken	2,383.99	Same day
Total	15,52.79	

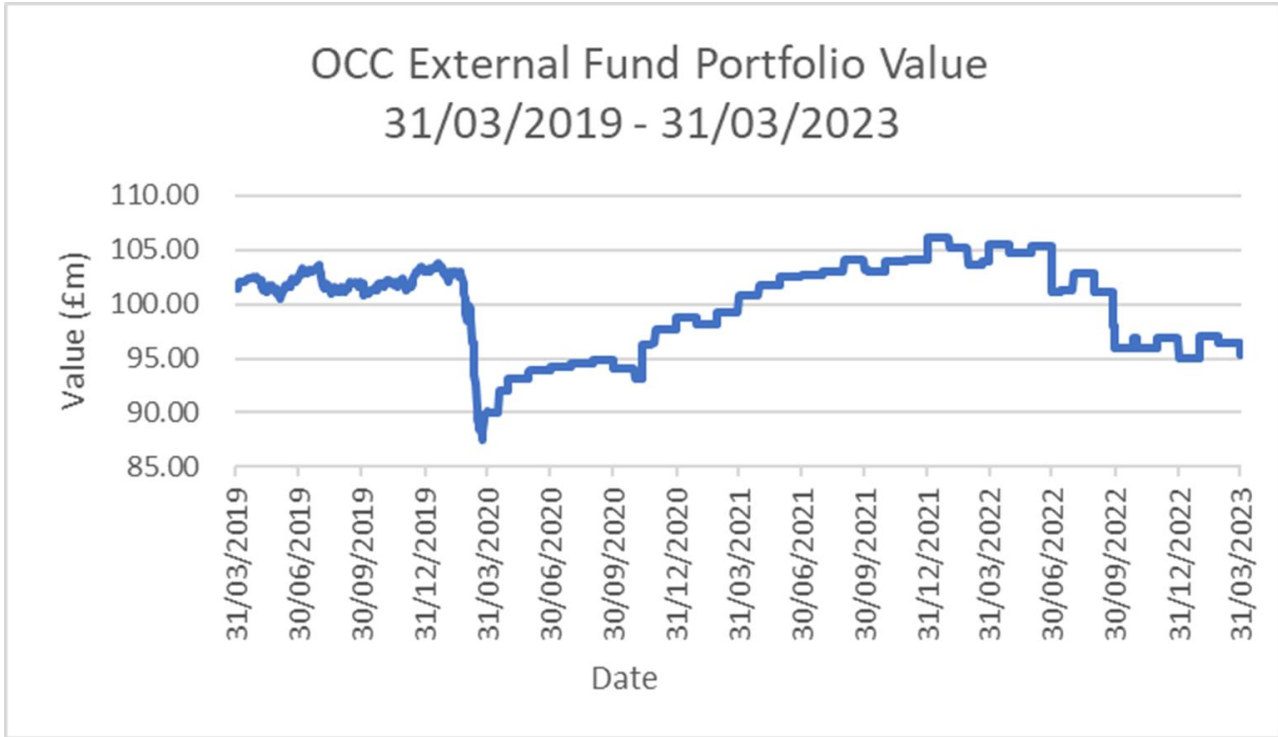
Strategic Bond Funds

Fund	Balance at 31/03/23 (£)	Notice period
Threadneedle strategic bond fund (income)	11,839,123.89	4 days
Threadneedle Global Equity Income Fund	15,376,511.61	4 days
Kames Diversified Income	8,896,538.89	4 days
Ninety One Diversified Income	8,982,460.80	4 days
M&G Strategic Corporate Bond Fund	10,938,950.05	4 days
Schroder Income Maximiser	10,808,295.68	4 days
CCLA Diversified Income Fund	4,694,844.23	4 days
Total	71,536,725.15	

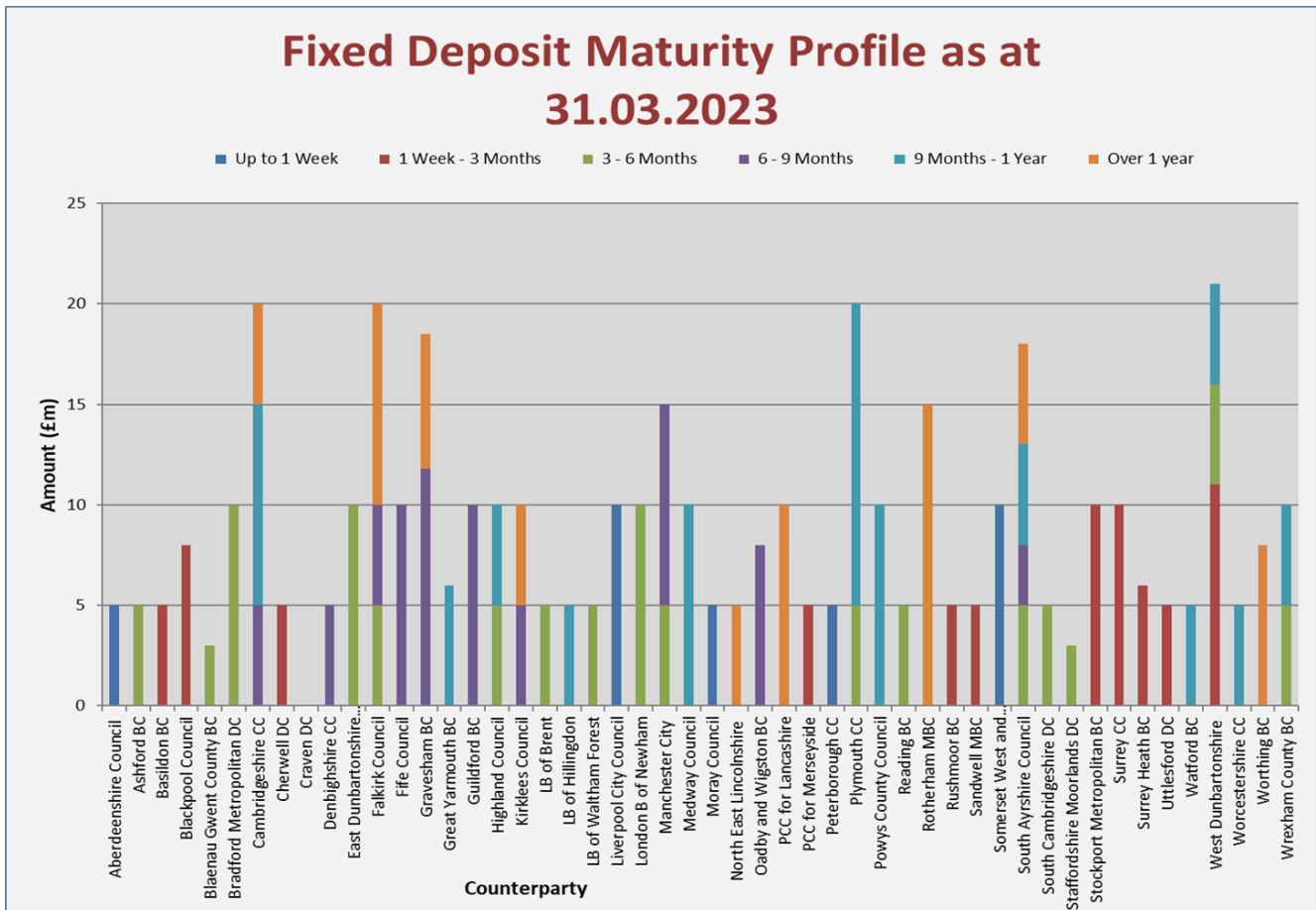
Property Funds

Fund	Balance at 31/03/22 (£)	Notice period
CCLA Local Authorities Property Fund	23,821,072.21	Monthly
Total	23,821,072.21	

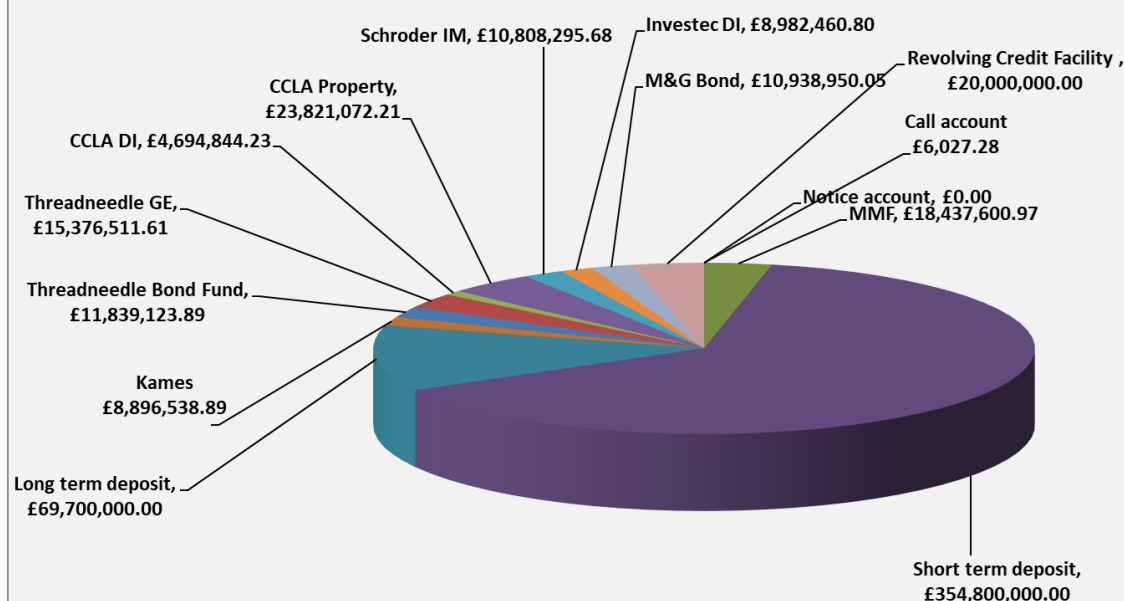
Strategic Pooled Fund Portfolio Value Over Time



Investment portfolio risk profile at 31/03/22



Total Combined Portfolio as at 31.03.2023



Annex 4

Prudential Indicators Outturn 31 March 2023

Authorised and Operational Limit for External Debt

Authorised Limit for External Debt	£495,000,000
Operational Limit for External Debt	£610,000,000
Actual External Debt at 31 March 2023	£306,382,618

Fixed Interest Rate Exposure

Fixed Interest Net Borrowing limit	£350,000,000
Actual at 31 March 2023	-£82,117,382

Variable Interest Rate Exposure

Variable Interest Net Borrowing limit	0
Actual at 31 March 2023	- £82,862,588

Sums Invested over 364 days

Total sums invested for more than 364 days maximum limit	£274,000,000
Actual sums invested for more than 364 days at 31 March 2023	£69,500,000

Maturity Structure of Borrowing at 31/03/23

Limit % Actual %

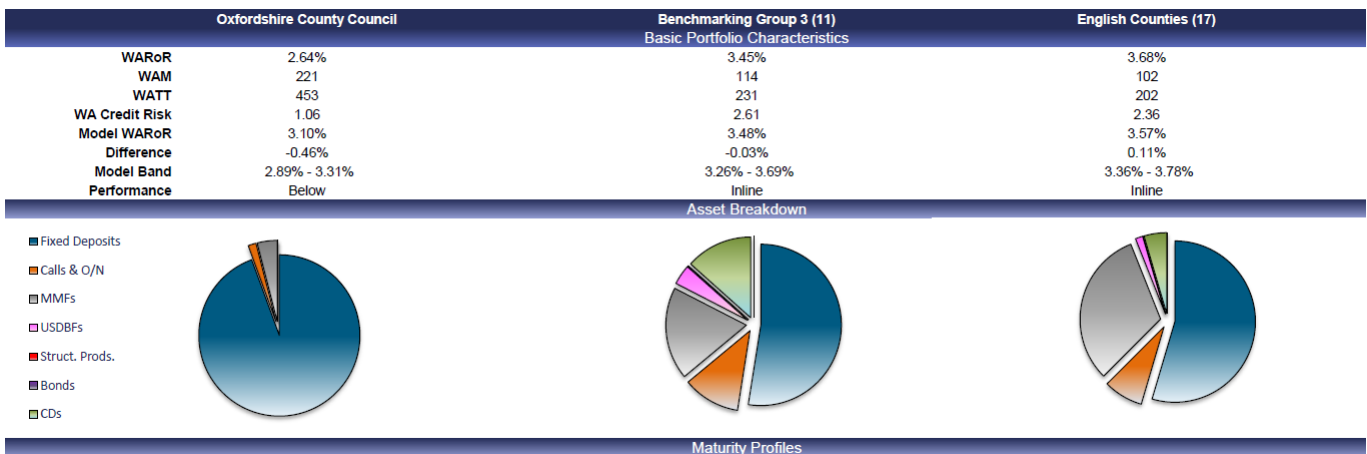
From 01/04/22		
Under 12 months	0 - 20	9.79
12 – 24 months	0 - 25	5.55
24 months – 5 years	0 - 35	15.34
5 years – 10 years	5 - 40	24.93
10 years +	40 - 95	44.39

The Prudential Indicators for maturity structure are set with reference to the start of the financial year. The actual % shown above relates to the maturity period remaining at 01/04/22 on loans still outstanding at 31/03/23.

Annex 5

Benchmarking

Weighted Average Return



Oxfordshire County Council had a lower return compared to peers as at 31/03/2023, though with a much lower credit risk. The lower return was as a result of interest lag due to some historic loans.

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Divisions- N/A

COUNTY COUNCIL – 12 September 2023

REPORT OF THE CABINET

Cabinet Member: Leader

1. Delegated Powers – Quarterly Report

(Cabinet, 18 July 2023)

Cabinet had before it a report referring to executive decisions taken during the period April to June 2023 inclusive. The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Young People's Services explained the background to the 2 decisions taken in relation to the Children's Services Department.

Cabinet noted the report.

2. Updates to Terms of Reference for Future Oxfordshire Partnership

(Cabinet, 18 July 2023)

Cabinet had before it a report proposing amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Future Oxfordshire Partnership following changes to the programmes within the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal.

Members noted that, while the current changes to the terms of reference were appropriate, it was likely that further revisions would be necessary in due course.

Cabinet approved the revised terms of reference and memorandum of understanding which would take effect following approval by each of the six Oxfordshire councils.

Cabinet Member: Climate Change Delivery and Environment

3. Climate Action Programme Six Month Update

(Cabinet, 18 July 2023)

Cabinet had before it a report giving a six-monthly update on work to address the Climate Emergency, including the delivery of the 22/23 Climate Action Programme workstreams. An updated programme for 2023/24 included actions from an internal audit on integration of climate action, and a number of new joint workstreams agreed with the Future Oxfordshire Partnership. The report illustrated the Council's performance resulting from its environmental strategies and priorities and referred to the recent staff reorganisation which would double the resources devoted to implementing the Council's policies on climate change.

Members welcomed the thoroughness and presentation of the report and noted the importance of working collectively with other organisations on climate change

delivery and towards a circular economy, and the potential for innovative financing including “green bonds”.

Cabinet noted the update report and approved the adjustments to the programme for 2023/24 and the Council’s Carbon Management Plan through to 2030.

Cabinet Member: Finance

4. Business Management and Monitoring Report – May 2023

(Cabinet, 18 July 2023)

Cabinet had before it a report presenting the May 2023 performance, risk, and finance position for the council. Members were given further details on the background to the performance indicators showing red in relation to the introduction of LED lighting, household waste recycling, adult social care debtors, and the Council’s financial position.

Members welcomed the popularity of the 20mph traffic scheme, the achievements of carers in the County recognised in the Oxfordshire Care Awards, and congratulated all the staff involved in achieving the nationally acknowledged CCA accreditation for customer services.

Members also welcomed the introduction of the Citizens’ Portal which would enable the information on the Council’s performance indicators to be widely available.

Cabinet approved the recommendations including funding of £2.0m from the Transformation Reserve to fund the council’s Delivery Unit and associated costs associated with transformation and driving efficiency; the extended capacity needed within the Information Management team to support the council’s ability to respond to Subject Access Requests (SARs); the use of £1.5m one – off funding to support pressures in Children’s Social Care in 2023/24, and the overall allocation of Homes for Ukraine grant funding and delegated authority to officers to finalise the arrangements.

5. Capital Programme Update and Monitoring Report

(Cabinet, 18 July 2023)

Cabinet had before it the first quarterly capital programme update and monitoring report for 2023/24 which set out the monitoring position based on activity to the end of May 2023. The report also provided an update to the Capital Programme approved by Council in February 2023, taking into account additional funding and new schemes. The updated programme incorporated changes agreed through the Capital Programme Approval Reports to Cabinet in May and June 2023 as well as new funding.

Cabinet approved the recommendations including additional funding for repair of potholes and the utilisation of the Sustainable Warmth Fund for Home Upgrade 2 grant in 2023/24 and 2024/25.

6. Treasury Management Annual Performance 2022/23 *(Cabinet, 18 July 2023)*

Cabinet had before it a report on the Council's treasury management activities for the financial year 2022/23. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA's) 'Code of Practice on Treasury Management 2021' required that the Council and Audit & Governance Committee received a report on Treasury Management activities at least four times per year. This was the final report for the financial year 2022/23 and sets out the position at 31 March 2023.

Cabinet noted the report and the challenges experienced by officers in monitoring treasury management in the current economic climate..

Cabinet Member: Travel and Development Strategy

7. HIF2 A40 - Outcomes of Scheme Review *(Cabinet, 18 July 2023)*

Cabinet had before it a report which set out the outcomes of a review of the original A40 HIF2 scheme. The report set out the scope of the initial delivery phase and the recommendation that, subject to discussions with Homes England and further scheme development and engagement, that it is used as a basis for continued discussions and to undertake a public consultation following the Cabinet's decision, to allow for development and subsequent identification of a preferred option.

Members noted that, while the scheme did not provide a complete solution it would encourage the use of public transport and cycling. The congestion issues on the A40 were not acceptable and it was important that some measures be taken to address the issues, including the impact of the development of new housing in the area.

Cabinet approved the continued development of the initial delivery phase and recommendations for further scheme development and engagement.

Scrutiny Reports

8. Reports received from scrutiny committees *(Cabinet, 18 July 2023)*

Cabinet received reports on, and committed to respond formally to, the following:

- Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Vision Zero (April 2023)
- People Overview and Scrutiny Committee: SEND and Staffing Changes in Children's Services (June 2023)

LIZ LEFFMAN
Leader of the Council

September 2023