

CABINET – 15 NOVEMBER 2022

ITEM 4 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Questions	Cabinet Member
<p>1. COUNCILLOR CHARLIE HICKS</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member confirm if the forecast HIF2 costs have been recalculated based on the latest inflationary figures, whether it is considered fully funded, and whether the CPOs for it have been dropped? And connectedly, can the Cabinet Member confirm whether or not the forecast HIF1 costs have been recalculated based on the latest inflationary pressures and whether the Director of Finance still has confidence that the project is fully funded, and therefore whether the basis for the CPOs for this project is still lawful?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DUNCAN ENRIGHT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRAVEL & DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY</p> <p>The HIF2 costs are regularly recalculated to include the latest inflationary cost estimates. Should this result in a need to withdraw the current Compulsory Purchase Order – and Side Road Order - this will follow the statutory process for informing stakeholders but OCC's commitment to improve the transport options along the A40 corridor remains.</p> <p>The same would apply to HIF1 and any other schemes with CPOs.</p>
<p>2. COUNCILLOR MICHAEL O'CONNOR</p> <p>Could the Cabinet member please let me know whether there has been a change in parking policy or personnel in the Park Town area, and clarify whether the land adjacent to the highway is owned by the County? By this, I mean land such as that where the highway meets the smaller lanes which run behind the houses. I have received complaints from a number of</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT</p> <p>We are aware of complaints received from some local residents in the Park Town Area about enforcement of 'no waiting at any time' restrictions (double yellow lines) for vehicles parked off the carriageway. For reference, double yellow lines are painted adjacent to the edge of the carriageway, but the enforceable area applies from centre of the road to the back of the highway boundary. This often includes footways and verges adjacent to the carriageway and vehicles parking behind the</p>

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<p>long-term residents about a recent spate of parking tickets, which have been met with confusing responses from County officers. Could he also please undertake to carry out a dialogue with residents, who have been taken aback by the changes, which have come out of the blue, and who are being penalised in a way that does not benefit anybody?</p>	<p>lines maybe issued with a penalty charge notice for being in contravention of the restrictions.</p> <p>In responses sent to residents, we have confirmed the extent of the highway boundary and that a valid traffic regulation order is in place for the no waiting restrictions.</p> <p>It is not uncommon for our enforcement teams to take action in response to complaints received, but in terms of a change of policy, I can confirm that our parking policies have been in place for a number of years and have not recently changed. Details can be found on our website: https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/file/roads-and-transport-parking/parking-policy.pdf</p> <p>I would draw particular attention to our enforcement procedures section (appendix 13) which states that; ‘Do not assume that by parking behind yellow lines you are not parking in contravention of a traffic regulation order. Areas where you think you may be legally allowed to park will in fact be part of the highway and will be enforced as such.’</p> <p>Any motorists who feels a PCN has been wrongly issued has the right to make an appeal and any challenges will be carefully considered in line with our normal procedures. Our enforcement teams are always open to dialogue with residents and businesses and we recommend that enquiries are directed to our parking inbox; parking@oxfordshire.gov.uk</p>
<p>3. COUNCILLOR MICHAEL O’CONNOR</p> <p>Could the Cabinet member please let me know whether residents are entitled to blue badges if they have acute immune deficiencies and if not, why not? I ask because I understand that</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT</p> <p>All residents are entitled to apply for a blue badge, however the guidance set by the Department for transport indicates that to be eligible for a blue badge, an individual should have a permanent and substantial</p>

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<p>County Councils such as Cambridgeshire County Council provide blue badges to those with such conditions, who are often unable to mix with large groups, provided they have a medical recommendation.</p>	<p>condition that causes them considerable difficulty when undertaking a journey meaning.</p> <p>All local authorities follow the same guidance set by the Department for transport and do not issue on condition alone however, assess eligibility of applicants based on the affect the condition has on an individual, which may including one of the following factor/s:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are unable to walk • Experience very considerable difficulty whilst walking which may include very considerable psychological distress • They are at risk of serious harm when walking, or pose when walking a risk of serious harm to any other person. <p>Applicants with a diagnosis of Acute immune deficiency can apply under the non-visible criterion if they are at risk of serious harm when walking (likely to catch diseases by being in close proximity to others).</p> <p>Evidence is required to support all blue badge applications and I would encourage individuals applying under the non-visible criterion to find a Consultant or Expert who is known to them and specialises in their condition to complete our expert assessment form on our website. Expert assessment form Oxfordshire County Council A PDF version is also available to print directly from our website. Alternatively, an applicant can provide a letter/s from a Consultant or Expert stating their condition and the affect/s it is having on them.</p> <p>Below is a list of Experts we can accept information from (this list is not exhaustive):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical Psychologist • Educational Psychologist • Gastroenterologist • Neurologist • Occupational Therapist

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physiotherapist • Psychiatrist • Rheumatologist • Special educational needs co-ordinator • Social Worker
<p>4. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</p> <p>Have any Members of Council failed to attend a meeting of Full Council since May 2022 and not sent apologies and, if so, how many occurrences of this has there been?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LIZ LEFFMAN, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>Records show that Members who have not attended meetings of Full Council in this period have either sent apologies in advance or their apologies have been reported by the relevant Group Leaders at each meeting.</p>
<p>5. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>While supporting the traffic filter scheme, I am very concerned that it proposes to give 100 permits a year to everyone who lives in Botley, North Hinksey and Cumnor, although they are outside the City. This adds an extra 18,000 people! It would encourage people to drive past Seacourt park and ride car park. It would greatly increase congestion and pollution in Botley Road. It is totally against our policies. Please can the Cabinet Member explain the reasoning behind this ludicrous proposal?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT</p> <p>The key point of the trial traffic filters is that they would allow us to monitor the effect of the filters, including changes in ring road traffic and on roads leading to it such as Botley Road. If the trial of the traffic filters goes ahead, the results of the monitoring including traffic levels across the city will be reported to a subsequent meeting of the County Council Cabinet to inform a decision about whether to make the scheme permanent.</p> <p>Having said that, we understand your concerns and officers are recommending a change to the scheme that allows a limited number of people living outside of the permit area to be able to apply for a limited number of day passes to drive through the filters. You can read about this in the Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee agenda (item 7 here). If this is approved and taken forward, this will help to take pressure off the Botley Road as people from the south and east can approach from Abingdon Road and people from the north and east can approach from</p>

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	<p>St Giles. We expect this change to the scheme to increase the benefits for Botley Road.</p> <p>The 100 day passes for residents living in Oxford and its immediate surrounds is a change to the proposals that we shared with the public and stakeholders in February this year. It is in response to concerns that were expressed about the impact that the filters would have on people's day to day journeys. The boundary of the day pass area was drawn in such a way as to include the people who were considered to be most affected by the traffic filters.</p>