

## CABINET – 15 OCTOBER 2024

### ITEM 4 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Questions are listed in the order in which they were received. Should any questioner not have received an answer in that time, a written answer will be provided.

<p><b>1. COUNCILLOR CHARLIE HICKS</b></p> <p>Does the Cabinet Member believe that Oxfordshire County Council should be adopting the Welsh Government's approach to road investment decisions, applying the same purposes and conditions as set out in the report, "The Future of Road Investment in Wales"? If so, does he believe that it would be right for the County Council, in the upcoming budget, to fund road schemes that are currently in the Housing &amp; Growth Deal list, but which will miss the March 2025 spending deadline, especially where these schemes have not been tested on meeting, or proven to meet, the above purposes and/or criteria for investment?</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR PETE SUDBURY, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS</b></p> <p>Yes – the Welsh Government's approach is one of the criteria which Oxfordshire County Council will use to assess road investment decisions.</p> <p>For those schemes currently in the Housing &amp; Growth Deal list which will not complete by the March 2025 spending deadline, these schemes are all well-developed through the Housing &amp; Growth Deal and ready to deliver, giving us confidence in any investment decisions.</p> <p>These are schemes which have long been recognised as being priority improvements to both their local and the overall transport network, leading to their inclusion in the Housing &amp; Growth Deal list. Some of these schemes provide additional public realm benefits, for example by removing traffic from Town or Village centres and or improving cycling and walking routes.</p> <p>Importantly, the new housing associated with these schemes is already approved and coming forward - and in some cases is already in place – so it is, therefore, both right and sensible for OCC to invest in seeing these schemes completed and so providing the necessary infrastructure which both new and existing residents deserve.</p>
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