



County Council

12 December 2017

Agenda

Declarations of Interest

The duty to declare.....

Under the Localism Act 2011 it is a criminal offence to

- (a) fail to register a disclosable pecuniary interest within 28 days of election or co-option (or re-election or re-appointment), or
- (b) provide false or misleading information on registration, or
- (c) participate in discussion or voting in a meeting on a matter in which the member or co-opted member has a disclosable pecuniary interest.

Whose Interests must be included?

The Act provides that the interests which must be notified are those of a member or co-opted member of the authority, **or**

- those of a spouse or civil partner of the member or co-opted member;
- those of a person with whom the member or co-opted member is living as husband/wife
- those of a person with whom the member or co-opted member is living as if they were civil partners.

(in each case where the member or co-opted member is aware that the other person has the interest).

What if I remember that I have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest during the Meeting?

The Code requires that, at a meeting, where a member or co-opted member has a disclosable interest (of which they are aware) in any matter being considered, they disclose that interest to the meeting. The Council will continue to include an appropriate item on agendas for all meetings, to facilitate this.

Although not explicitly required by the legislation or by the code, it is recommended that in the interests of transparency and for the benefit of all in attendance at the meeting (including members of the public) the nature as well as the existence of the interest is disclosed.

A member or co-opted member who has disclosed a pecuniary interest at a meeting must not participate (or participate further) in any discussion of the matter; and must not participate in any vote or further vote taken; and must withdraw from the room.

Members are asked to continue to pay regard to the following provisions in the code that *“You must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself”* or *“You must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned.....”*.

Please seek advice from the Monitoring Officer prior to the meeting should you have any doubt about your approach.

List of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:

Employment (includes *“any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain”*.), **Sponsorship, Contracts, Land, Licences, Corporate Tenancies, Securities.**

For a full list of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and further Guidance on this matter please see the Guide to the New Code of Conduct and Register of Interests at Members’ conduct guidelines.

<http://intranet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wps/wcm/connect/occ/Insite/Elected+members/> or contact Glenn Watson on **07776 997946** or glenn.watson@oxfordshire.gov.uk for a hard copy of the document.

If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named on the front page, but please give as much notice as possible before the meeting.



To: **Members of the County Council**

Notice of a Meeting of the County Council

Tuesday, 12 December 2017 at 10.30 am

County Hall, Oxford OX1 1ND

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P.G. Clark".

P.G. Clark
Chief Executive

December 2017

Committee Officer: **Deborah Miller**

Tel: 07920 084239; E-Mail: deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk

In order to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, notice is given that Items 3, 7 and 8 will be recorded. The purpose of recording proceedings is to provide an *aide-memoire* to assist the clerk of the meeting in the drafting of minutes.

Members are asked to sign the attendance book which will be available in the corridor outside the Council Chamber. A list of members present at the meeting will be compiled from this book.

A buffet luncheon will be provided for Council Members.

AGENDA

1. Minutes (Pages 1 - 42)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 07 November 2017 (**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

7. Questions with Notice from Members of the Public

8. Questions with Notice from Members of the Council

9. Report of the Cabinet (Pages 43 - 44)

Report of the Cabinet Meeting held on 28 November 2017 (CC9).

10. Treasury Management Mid Term Review (2017/18) (Pages 45 - 64)

Report by Director of Finance (CC10).

The report sets out the Treasury Management activity undertaken in the first half of the financial year 2017/18 in compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice. The report includes Debt and Investment activity, Prudential Indicator monitoring and forecast interest receivable and payable for the financial year.

Council is RECOMMENDED to approve the revision to the Treasury Management Strategy Statement & Annual Investment Strategy 2017/18.

11. Annual Partnerships Update (Pages 65 - 110)

Report by the Assistant Chief Executive (CC11).

The report provides an update on the activities of the Oxfordshire-wide partnerships that are key for building thriving communities and progressing county-wide priorities around health and wellbeing, safeguarding, community safety and economic growth.

Each partnership report addresses the following points:

- The current focus for the Partnership;
- The personnel (Chairman and supporting staff) of the Partnership
- The Partnership's governance arrangements;
- The Partnership's key achievements in the last year;
- The aims for the Partnership in the year ahead;
- The key challenges for the Partnership and how these will be addressed going forward.

Council is RECOMMENDED to note the report.

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

12. Motion From Councillor Kieron Mallon

“We as elected members of this Council deplore the use of social media to denigrate members of the public and elected members at all levels of public life.

In the words of the Prime Minister:

“All of us should have due care and attention to the way we refer to other people and should show those within public life the respect they deserve.”

And in the words of the Leader of Her Majesty’s opposition:

“So, I say to all activists, cut the personal abuse, cut the cyber bullying online.”

We therefore pledge that as elected members and representatives of our political parties we will:

- not ourselves misuse social media;
- seek out and stop any personal attacks by our own political parties, the elected members of our parties, paid up members and activists of our political parties; and
- show due respect to the people we represent and to our elected colleagues.”

13. Motion From Councillor Emily Smith

“The Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB) Annual Report highlights a 21% increase in the number of children being educated at home. Many children being electively home educated thrive academically and socially in this setting, but others do not. This Council offers some information and support to families and children who are educated at home but contact with us is voluntary and take up is inconsistent.

Professionals have limited opportunities to identify those children who are not receiving a satisfactory education and for safeguarding concerns to be identified. Parents can refuse access to the home and the child, which poses a safeguarding risk, especially in the case of vulnerable children.

This Council calls on the Leader of the Council to write to government requesting local authorities be given greater powers and funding to access and assess children who are home educated, to help ensure they are receiving a satisfactory education and are safe."

14. Motion From Councillor Jamila Azad

"We all have the right to be treated without discrimination. This Council is gravely concerned with reports of significant increases in racially motivated crimes in Oxford since the EU Referendum from an average of 16 per month to an average of 23 per month. This Council takes pride in Oxfordshire's diversity and community cohesion and condemns all acts of racism, xenophobia, homophobia and anti-religious expressions against any religion. This Council is committed to work with all our partners to challenge prejudice.

All Hate Crimes are wrong, but that which is motivated by hatred and prejudice because of race, faith, sexual orientation or Gender identity are particularly offensive. In Britain today we are from a rich mix of races, culture, beliefs attitudes and life styles. Tackling hate crimes matters because of the damage it causes to the victim and his/her family; also effectively tackling it can help foster strong and positive relations between different sections of the community and support community cohesion.

The lead from tackling hate crimes must come from local level, with professionals, the voluntary sector and communities working together to deal with local issues.

This Council asks the Leader of Oxfordshire County Council to write to the Prime Minister with a request for an independent review of hate crime penalties open to the courts, including measures to tackle online hatred and abuse."

15. Motion From Councillor Lynda Atkins

"The Oxford to Cambridge Expressway has been the subject of much comment and concern within the County. The process which is proposed means that Highways England will select a route with no opportunity for members of the public or their representatives to comment on the assessment of need for the road or the local impact of any particular proposed route. This Council calls on the Leader of the Council to write to Highways England, the National Infrastructure Commission and the relevant government departments calling for a Public Enquiry into the need for the road and the selection of a route, so that everyone involved has the opportunity to have their views properly taken into account, and to set up a cross-party Committee to look at all aspects of the impact of the Expressway."

16. Motion From Councillor Jenny Hannaby

“Council agrees that the intention of Universal Credit (UC) to make benefits less complicated and to allow those in low paid work to keep more of their wages is a good idea, but believes that the evidence demonstrates that the UC process is flawed and causing unnecessary hardship to local families.

Council notes that UC was deliberately introduced on a slow rollout so that any issues could be seen and corrected before the benefit was introduced to all claimants.

Council further notes that the evidence of district councils and others across the country is that UC is causing huge increases in rent arrears and in general debt levels amongst claimants, many of whom have never been in debt before. In addition, evidence demonstrates that most private landlords and even some housing associations are refusing to accept tenants receiving UC, leading to an increase in those registering as homeless and seeking temporary accommodation.

Council therefore resolves to call on the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, making these points, requesting that the Government addresses these issues, and that the roll-out is halted until all problems are fixed.”

Pre-Meeting Briefing

There will be a pre-meeting briefing at County Hall on **Monday 11 December at 10.15 am** for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Group Leaders and Deputy Group Leaders

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OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 7 November 2017 commencing at 10.30 am and finishing at 4.30 pm.

Present:

Councillor Zoé Patrick – in the Chair

Councillors:

Sobia Afridi	Mike Fox-Davies	Glynis Phillips
Lynda Atkins	Stefan Gawrysiak	Susanna Pressel
Jamila Begum Azad	Mark Gray	Eddie Reeves
Hannah Banfield	Pete Handley	G.A. Reynolds
David Bartholomew	Jenny Hannaby	Judy Roberts
Dr Suzanne Bartington	Neville F. Harris	Alison Rooke
Maurice Billington	Steve Harrod	Dan Sames
Liz Brighthouse OBE	Mrs Judith Heathcoat	Gill Sanders
Paul Buckley	Hilary Hibbert-Biles	John Sanders
Kevin Bulmer	John Howson	Les Sibley
Nick Carter	Ian Hudspeth	Emily Smith
Mark Cherry	Tony Ilott	Roz Smith
Yvonne Constance OBE	Dr Kirsten Johnson	Lawrie Stratford
Ian Corkin	Bob Johnston	Alan Thompson
Helen Evans	Liz Leffman	Emma Turnbull
Arash Fatemian	Lorraine Lindsay-Gale	Michael Waine
Neil Fawcett	D. McIlveen	Liam Walker
Ted Fenton	Kieron Mallon	Richard Webber
Nicholas Field-Johnson	Jeannette Matelot	
Mrs Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor	Charles Mathew	

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.

159/17 MINUTES

(Agenda Item 1)

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 September 2017 were approved and signed subject to inserting the letter 'E' before Smith in Minute 156/17.

160/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(Agenda Item 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dr Clarke, Griffiths, Lygo and Price.

161/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(Agenda Item 3)

Councillor Rooke declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 11 by virtue of having a daughter who was an employee of the Vale of White Horse District Council.

162/17 OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

(Agenda Item 4)

The Chairman reported as follows:

Council paid tribute to former county councillors Mr Peter Jones and Janet Morgan and to the former Director of Social Services Ian White. Council observed a Minute's silence in their honour.

Council congratulated the Director of Environment and Economy on receiving reports of outstanding service from the Highways Team.

The Chairman thanked the Council for their generous contributions to the Maggie's Centres Culture Crawl. £439 was raised for the Charity.

The Chairman reminded members to let officers know whether they could attend her Charity Dinner to be held on 9th December 2018. Contributions towards the raffle were also welcomed.

Council was encouraged to attend the member briefing on the work of the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board and the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board which would commence on the rise of Council.

163/17 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS

(Agenda Item 6)

Council received a Petition from Oxford Friends of the Earth requesting that the County Council set up a new Air Pollution Action Group for the City to reduce pollution to safe levels by 2020, with the necessary financial backing.

The Chairman forwarded the Petition to the Director of Environment and Economy.

164/17 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(Agenda Item 8)

27 questions with notice were asked. Details of the questions and answers and supplementary questions and answers (where asked) are set out in Annex 1 to the minutes.

In relation to question 4 (Question to Councillor Hibbert-Biles from Councillor Howson) Councillor Hibbert-Biles gave an undertaking to provide Councillor Howson with an answer as to whether the issue of using Apprenticeship

Levy money had been on the Teacher's Joint Sub-Committee Agenda and if it had not, to get it put on the Agenda.

In relation to question 5 (Question to Councillor Hibbert-Biles from Councillor Howson) Councillor Hibbert-Biles gave an undertaking to provide Councillor Howson with a written answer detailing whether the Council was on track to meet the savings that were identified against this budget line across the whole of the Medium Term Financial Plan and if so whether or not the recent statutory guidance reissued by the Department for Education in relation to 16–18 Education (where the government was now saying that local authorities should pay more attention to the fact that the de facto leaving age had been raised to 18, that we should treat 16-18 year olds in the same way as those of statutory school age) would effect things.

In relation to question 8 (Question to Councillor Hibbert-Biles from Councillor Judy Roberts) Councillor Hibbert-Biles gave an undertaking to provide a written answer detailing how many of the 18 children that had come mid-term had accepted places and how long those children that had arrived mid- year had been out of school before they had accepted a place.

In relation to question 10 (Question to Councillor Hudspeth from Councillor Webber) Councillor Hudspeth gave an undertaking to give consideration to stopping the purchasing of papers for the member's group rooms.

In relation to question 12 (Question to Councillor Constance from Councillor Roz Smith) Councillor Constance gave an undertaking to provide Councillor Roz Smith with a written answer detailing when the new distributor was appointed and what had happened in relation to notifying local residents prior to the installations of street lights.

In relation to question 18 (Question to Councillor Constance from Councillor Johnson) Councillor Constance gave an undertaking to explore the idea of using the £48,000 spent on school travel in different ways such as minibuses.

In relation to question 27 (Question to Councillor Heathcoat from Councillor Bartington) Councillor Heathcoat gave an undertaking to investigate when the purchase of an AED would be actioned and respond to all members in writing.

165/17 REPORT OF THE CABINET

(Agenda Item 9)

Council received the report of the Cabinet.

Councillor Brighouse moved and Councillor Webber seconded that the Council Procedure Rules be suspended in relation to paragraph 1 of the Cabinet Report (Submission of Expression of Interest to the Housing Infrastructure Fund) so as to adjourn the meeting and to allow for a 'whole

Council' discussion and question and answer session in relation to the prepared Statement from Cllr Ian Hudspeth relating to paragraph 1 and the broader issue of the Growth Deal.

The Leader of the Council read out a statement in relation to the HIP, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of the minutes.

The Motion was put to the vote and was Agreed nem con.

The Council then held an extended question and answer sessions with the Leader around the Growth deal for Oxfordshire.

In relation to paragraph 4 (Corporate Plan 2017/2021) (Question from Councillor Roz Smith to Councillor Heathcoat) Councillor Heathcoat undertook to provide Councillor Roz Smith with a written answer detailing the number of prospectus printed and the associated printing costs.

In relation to paragraph 6 (The Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report/The Performance Audit and Quality Assurance Annual Report and the Case Review & Governance Annual Report) (Question from Councillor Johnson to Councillor Harrod), Councillor Harrod undertook to provide Councillor Johnson with a written answer detailing the reason why 67% percent of children newly subjected to child protection plans were as a result of neglect in Oxfordshire and why this was much higher than the national average of 45%?

In relation to paragraph 7 (Queen Street Experimental TRO) (Question from Councillor Johnston to Councillor Constance), Councillor Constance undertook to provide Councillor Johnston with a written answer detailing whether the signage at the southern end of Queen Street was sufficient to warn all users that it was a shared space and whether there was any signage at the northern end to warn pedestrians that it was a shared space?

In relation to paragraph 9 (2017/18 Financial Monitoring & Business Strategy Delivery Report) (Question from Councillor Mathew to Councillor Bartholomew), Councillor Bartholomew undertook to provide Councillor Mathew with a written answer detailing the net proceeds for all county council property/asset sales in the last 3 years and how that money had been utilised?

In relation to paragraph 11 (Director of Public Health Annual Report 2016/17) (Question from Councillor Howson to Councillor Hibbert-Biles), Councillor Hibbert-Biles undertook to provide Councillor Howson with a written answer detailing why there was no mention of E-Bacc in the Director for Public Health Annual report.

166/17 PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

(Agenda Item 10)

The Council had before them the 10th Annual Report by the Director of Public Health which summarised key issues associated with the Public Health of the County. It included details of progress over the past year as well as information on future work. It was an independent report for all organisations and individuals.

The report had also been considered at the Oxfordshire Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee in September and the Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet in November 2017.

RESOLVED: (on a motion by Councillor Hibbert-Biles, seconded by Councillor Hudspeth and carried nem con) to receive the report.

167/17 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR LIZ BRIGHOUSE

(Agenda Item 11)

Councillor Brighouse moved and Councillor Cherry seconded the following Motion:

"This Council notes that for most workers in local government and schools, pay and other terms and conditions are determined by the National Joint Council (NJC) for local government services.

On average NJC basic pay has fallen by 21% in real terms since 2010. A three-year pay freeze from 2010-2012 and a 1% increase annually since leaves NJC pay as the lowest in the public sector. Differentials in pay grades are being squeezed and distorted by bottom-loaded NJC pay, settlements are needed to reflect the increased Statutory National Living Wage and rising inflation could worsen the current inequality.

We therefore support the NJC pay claim for 2018, submitted by UNISON, GMB and Unite on behalf of council and school workers and call for the end of public sector pay restraint. NJC pay must not fall even further behind other parts of the public sector.

Amid local government funding pressures, we call on the Government to provide the additional resources to ensure local authorities can fund a decent pay rise for NJC employees and the pay spine review.

Council resolves to ask the Leader of the Council to write:

- to the LGA asking it to make urgent representations to Government to fund the NJC claim and the pay spine review; and
- to the Prime Minister and Chancellor supporting the NJC pay claim and seeking the additional resources needed to fund a decent pay rise and the pay spine review;"

Following debate the motion was put to the vote and was lost by 31 votes to 27.

168/17 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR KIRSTEN JOHNSON

(Agenda Item 12)

With the consent of Council, Councillor Johnson moved an alteration to her motion at the suggestion of Councillor Gray as shown below in bold italics/strikethrough:

“Oxfordshire’s growing population includes increasing numbers of both very young people and those of retirement age. Both groups are key users of public transport and especially buses. Public transport has proven environmental benefits in supporting the county’s move towards a low-carbon future.

The Council calls on Cabinet to work towards:

- a set of principles whereby every resident has access to daily public transport. Not only would this help promote the development of communities, integrate society and allow both young and old to reside anywhere in the county, it would also be in line with the Local Transport Plan whereby “accessible bus connections will enable disabled people, the elderly and those unable to drive to travel more.”
- creating a spider-web of bus networks within the county, with key hubs linking the strands. These hubs, serving the rural villages, would be intrinsic to connecting our towns and Oxford city. The buses would range in sizes, from minivans to full-scale buses, depending on demand.

This Council ~~instructs~~ asks Cabinet to write to bus companies encouraging them to ~~use fares from high-use runs to subsidise those of less use within a hub network~~ ***in which*** all bus services should be frequent and reliable. ~~As franchises come to an end, tenders should be sought from companies to run inclusive networks, with profit from high-use routes subsidising low-use.~~ ***Differing operating models such as*** Co-operative, mutual and social enterprise models should be encouraged in providing these services with new technological innovations, for example app-based hail-n-ride, can be part of the solution.”

Following debate, the Motion as amended was put to the vote and was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: (unanimous)

“Oxfordshire’s growing population includes increasing numbers of both very young people and those of retirement age. Both groups are key users of public transport and especially buses. Public transport has proven environmental benefits in supporting the county’s move towards a low-carbon future.

The Council calls on Cabinet to work towards:

- a set of principles whereby every resident has access to daily public transport. Not only would this help promote the development of communities, integrate society and allow both young and old to reside anywhere in the county, it would also be in line with the Local Transport Plan whereby “accessible bus connections will enable disabled people, the elderly and those unable to drive to travel more.”
- creating a spider-web of bus networks within the county, with key hubs linking the strands. These hubs, serving the rural villages, would be intrinsic to connecting our towns and Oxford city. The buses would range in sizes, from minivans to full-scale buses, depending on demand.

This Council asks Cabinet to write to bus companies encouraging them to run a hub network in which all bus services should be frequent and reliable. Differing operating models such as Co-operative, mutual and social enterprise models should be encouraged in providing these services with new technological innovations, for example app-based hail-n-ride, can be part of the solution.”

169/17 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN SANDERS

(Agenda Item 13)

Prior to consideration of this Motion, the Chairman sought approval from Council to extend the Meeting to 4.30 pm to allow for consideration of this item.

There being some dissent, the suggestion was put to the vote and it was:

RESOLVED: (by 29 votes to 27, with 1 abstention) to extend the meeting until 4.30 pm.

With the consent of Council, Councillor John Sanders moved an alteration to his motion at the suggestion of Councillor Johnston as shown below in bold italics/strikethrough:

This Council welcomes in principle the Government’s announcement that it intends to ban the production of diesel and petrol-driven cars by the year 2040 in order to reduce the effects of air pollution on public health. Recognising that, in the meanwhile, it is incumbent on all councils to play their part in reducing air pollution.

This Council instructs the Cabinet to co-operate with all Oxfordshire’s district councils urgently to identify ***further*** measures, ***and build on those in the LTP4***, that will reduce such pollution. In particular, Council calls on Cabinet to propose a councillor-led inter-council Air Pollution Action Group to produce plans for zero-emission or low-emission zones in AQMAs and to restrict the access of polluting traffic in such areas.”

Councillor Fatemian moved and Councillor Constance seconded the following amendment as shown in bold italics/strikethrough:

“This Council welcomes in principle the Government’s announcement that it intends to ban the production of diesel and petrol-driven cars by the year 2040 in order to reduce the effects of air pollution on public health. Recognising that, in the meanwhile, it is incumbent on all councils to play their part in reducing air pollution.

This Council ~~instructs~~ **asks** the Cabinet to co-operate with all Oxfordshire’s district councils urgently to identify measures that will reduce such pollution. In particular, Council calls on Cabinet to ~~propose~~ **investigate how** a councillor-led inter-council Air Pollution Action Group ~~to~~ **could** produce plans for zero-emission or low-emission zones in AQMAs and to restrict the access of polluting traffic in such areas.”

Following debate, the amendment was put to the vote and was lost by 28 votes to 27 (the Chairman having exercised her casting vote).

The substantive Motion was then put to the vote and was agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: (unanimous)

This Council welcomes in principle the Government’s announcement that it intends to ban the production of diesel and petrol-driven cars by the year 2040 in order to reduce the effects of air pollution on public health. Recognising that, in the meanwhile, it is incumbent on all councils to play their part in reducing air pollution.

This Council instructs the Cabinet to co-operate with all Oxfordshire’s district councils urgently to identify further measures, and build on those in the LTP4, that will reduce such pollution. In particular, Council calls on Cabinet to propose a councillor-led inter-council Air Pollution Action Group to produce plans for zero-emission or low-emission zones in AQMAs and to restrict the access of polluting traffic in such areas.”

170/17 MOTIONS 14, 15 AND 16

(Agenda Item 14)

The time being 4.30 pm, motions 14, 15 and 16 were considered dropped in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.5.5.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing

QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Questions	Answers
<p>1. COUNCILLOR NICK CARTER</p> <p>In one of Oxfordshire's principal market towns, Thame, employment land is shrinking at an alarming rate because of ill-conceived new planning rules, which oblige district councils to grant change of use from business to residential accommodation. Since the new rules' introduction, the resulting loss of employment land in Thame alone represents the equivalent of 900 jobs.</p> <p>The effect of this change in planning law must surely be contrary to the County's long-stated ambitions for economic growth. It severely reduces the options for existing local businesses which want to expand; it prevents businesses from moving into Oxfordshire and bringing their business rates with them; and it limits the ability of start-ups to locate where they need to.</p> <p>What is the Council's understanding of the impact of these new rules on employment land and business premises across the county, and will the relevant Cabinet member initiate urgent research into their effect <i>per</i> district, and preferably <i>per</i> market town?</p>	<p>COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>This question appears to refer to the changes to the Town & Country Planning General Development Order (GDO) that were initially introduced on a temporary basis in 2013 and subsequently made permanent in 2016, under which the conversion of offices to residential uses became "Permitted Development" (PD) - that is, development which is allowable without the need for planning permission. Although "prior approval" is still required from local authorities for a limited number of technical matters concerning highways safety, flooding and pollution, the new regime is considerably more facilitative of residential uses than hitherto.</p> <p>The primary reason for these changes was the need for a major step-change in the delivery of new homes nationally, recent levels of output being little more than half of what is needed to match with demands and to ensure an adequate future labour supply. Oxfordshire is no exception to this and, as members will be aware, some 100,000 new homes need to be provided in the county by 2031.</p> <p>That said, it is nonetheless apparent that this much less restrictive approach to office conversions has not been without some significant adverse effects in certain parts of the country – the kind of effects to which the question refers. This has been particularly the case in highly constrained communities, where suitable opportunities to replace lost office space can be very difficult. In the local context, both Oxford City and West Oxfordshire District have experienced such problems and in these parts of the county the local authorities have taken steps to prevent "office-to-residential" conversions on several key employment sites. They have done this by making what is known as an "Article 4 Direction", the effect of which is to withdraw the relevant permitted development rights; hence, if a prospective developer wishes to convert offices to homes in these areas they now have to apply for planning</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>permission in the normal way. From investigations, it does not appear that either Cherwell or South Oxfordshire District Councils have yet felt the need to withdraw permitted development rights on any of their key employment sites, while the situation in the Vale of White Horse is presently unknown.</p> <p>Officers will, however, keep the situation under review and of course, new provision for employment-generating development will be brought forward in appropriate parts of the county through the statutory Local and Neighbourhood Plan-making processes.</p> <p>As things stand at the moment, jobs growth in Oxfordshire is running ahead of the target in the Oxfordshire Strategic Economic Plan 2016 (SEP) - 86,000 new jobs between 2011 and 2031 - with some 45,000 jobs having been created since the 2011 base date.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Is Councillor Hudspeth aware that this Article 4 direction to withdraw permitted development rights is self-defeating as it requires a publicity period, more bureaucracy unfortunately, of 12 months before taking effect which effectively means open season on further permitted development during that 12 months, if he isn't aware of that I am glad to make him aware and I will be going into chapter and verse in my response to him which I will hopefully furnish to a wider audience.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I look forward to learning more about Article 4 and exactly what Councillor Carter has in mind.</p>
<p>2. COUNCILLOR MARK CHERRY</p> <p>Will the Cabinet member for Environment ensure</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>It is recognised that Caernarvon Way needs treatment and as such full</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>that there is adequate funding in the next financial year to Facilitate Full researching of both Caernarvon Way roads off Edinburgh Way, Banbury, as highways officers have informed that both stated roads need totally re-surfacing. As one resident put it “Caernarvon Way roads have had managed decline over ten years.”</p>	<p>investigations have already been carried out. Thus, officers, will be recommending that two schemes for Caernarvon Way (Edinburgh Way to End) and (Edinburgh Way to Stirling Court) be considered for inclusion within the Capital Programme for 2018/19 that will be going to Cabinet later this year.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>I just want to make sure and reiterate that red boat residents in Caernarvon Way and Edinburgh Way have really waited long enough for the two schemes to totally resurface both roads.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I can tell you that offices are well ahead of you and this is scheduled for inclusion in next year’s programme and everybody feels that they have waited long enough but it worth getting the proper resurfacing.</p>
<p>3. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</p> <p>If any money collected from schools as part of the Apprenticeship Levy remains unspent at the end of the financial year what happens to the remaining money?</p>	<p>COUCILLOR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE</p> <p>The Apprenticeship Levy is a central government initiative, and as a large employer, the Council has to abide by <u>funding rules as defined by the ESFA</u> (Education and Skills Funding Agency). Any Levy funds left in the Council’s digital account expire after 24 months. Central government do not explicitly advise large employers what happens to the funds after this, but I believe they are absorbed by the Treasury.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member work across Cabinet to ensure that the Apprenticeship Levy is properly spent and doesn’t become a tax on our small rural primary schools if the money must be sent back to the Government?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I think this question is outside of my remit and needs to be addressed at a later date to the relevant portfolio holder.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>4. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</p> <p>What discussions with Head Teacher Associations have taken place with regard to the possibility of using Apprenticeship Levy money for leadership development in primary schools?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR HIBBERT-BILES, CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH & EDUCATION</p> <p>Apprenticeship Levy funds can only be spent on formal apprenticeship training. A “school leadership” apprenticeship is not currently available, although there are general management and leadership apprenticeships available, which have been promoted to schools via a series of face to face meetings, articles in Schools News and briefings to School Business Managers.</p> <p>The Institute for Apprenticeships is responsible for the development of new apprenticeship standards, and supports Trailblazer groups of employers to create new standards, to meet demands for new apprenticeships. In order to develop a new “school leadership” apprenticeship standard, a national Trailblazer group needs to form, to devise the standard and assessment requirements. Groups have to have at least 10 different employers as members (in addition to any professional bodies who want to be involved). The <u>latest information about the development of new standards</u> suggests that there is no Trailblazer group currently working on a school leadership apprenticeship.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Can I ask whether this has been discussed at Teachers Joint Committee and if not whether it can be put on the agenda for that Committee?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I am not sure whether it has been on the agenda but I will check and if it hasn't then I think maybe it should.</p>
<p>5. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</p> <p>How much less is being spent on non-SEND transport this term compared with the same term in the year before the last major change in</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR HIBBERT-BILES, CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH & EDUCATION</p> <p>Information is recorded based on financial years, not school years / terms, therefore the following table compares net expenditure for April to July 2015 with net expenditure for April to July 2017.</p>

Questions	Answers																				
transport policy was introduced?	<table border="1" data-bbox="936 236 1977 507"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>April - July 2015</th> <th>April - July 2017</th> <th>Change</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Mainstream Primary</td> <td>560,561</td> <td>454,845</td> <td>-105,716</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mainstream Secondary</td> <td>1,546,004</td> <td>1,185,387</td> <td>-360,618</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Post 16 Mainstream</td> <td>2,722</td> <td>17,221</td> <td>14,499</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2,109,288</td> <td>1,657,453</td> <td>-451,835</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p data-bbox="936 584 2040 655">Net expenditure for non-SEND was £452k lower for April to July 2017 than the same period preceding the policy change in 2015.</p>		April - July 2015	April - July 2017	Change	Mainstream Primary	560,561	454,845	-105,716	Mainstream Secondary	1,546,004	1,185,387	-360,618	Post 16 Mainstream	2,722	17,221	14,499		2,109,288	1,657,453	-451,835
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<p data-bbox="203 695 667 727">SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p data-bbox="203 770 898 1209">Can I ask whether or not we are on track to meet the savings that were identified against this budget line across the whole of the medium term financial plan and if so whether or not the recent statutory guidance reissued by the Department for Education in relation to 16-18 age education (where the Government is now saying that Local Authorities should pay more attention to the fact that the <i>de facto</i> if not <i>de jure</i> leaving age has been raised to 18 and that we should treat 16-18 year olds in the same way as those of statutory school age) will have an effect?</p>	<p data-bbox="936 695 1373 727">SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p data-bbox="936 770 1765 802">I will get back to you with a written answer to that question.</p>																				
<p data-bbox="203 1251 696 1283">6. COUNCILLOR ROZ SMITH</p> <p data-bbox="203 1361 831 1431">Is the Cabinet Member content that the new highway engineering works in Queen Street,</p>	<p data-bbox="936 1251 1888 1321">COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p data-bbox="936 1361 1977 1431">I can confirm that all highway works associated with the Westgate Development, including works to Queen Street, are designed in excess of</p>																				

Questions	Answers
<p>undertaken during the recent Westgate re-development, will withstand the weight of busses and HGVs without damage?</p>	<p>nationally recognised highway design standards. To this end and for clarity, the carriageway at the New Street end of Queen Street is capable of passing both Public Service Vehicles and HGV's without sustaining damage (100mm thick yorkstone paviers are installed on high strength cement bedding, over 150mm thick reinforced concrete base).</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Walking through Queen Street this morning I could see that damage has already been done to the surface of the lovely York stone paviers installed, in so much as they are now covered in a layer of muck possibly from exhaust fumes from buses and also I noticed that around the edges it is quite a mess between the paviers and the rough tarmac. Will this be cleaned and tidied up and when?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Thank you for your question, which enables us to say how well prepared the surface has been, you will know of course that the County Council hoped to avoid having any buses going through Queen Street. Any cleaning up or repairing any damage will have to wait whilst it remains in its experimental stage.</p>
<p>7. COUNCILLOR ROZ SMITH</p> <p>Thank you for attending the recent Access to Headington stakeholder's meetings. The original consultation showed schemes costing a total of around £12.5 million for this project. What is the current estimate of the total scheme?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The total budget allocation for the Access to Headington programme including completed design, construction and preparation work as well as forthcoming works for planned phases is £11,030,000.</p> <p>The difference in the original consulted budget (£12.5m) and the current budget (£11m) revolves around s106 allocation. Some of which was wrongly allocated (already allocated to other city projects) and some of which has been re-allocated for specific Headington schemes outside of the Access to Headington programme (CPZs/20mph zones)</p>

Questions	Answers
	The nature of the scheme allows for maximum delivery against this budget and the estimate for the scheme as it stands, including risk and contingency, is £11,030,000.
<p>8. COUNCILLOR JUDY ROBERTS</p> <p>How many children have been offered a place at St Gregory the Great School for September 2017, and since then as in-year admissions requested through the County, where the parent had not specified this as a school for their child?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR HIBBERT-BILES, CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH & EDUCATION</p> <p>On behalf of the Governors, we offered 130 children places in Year 7 at St Gregory the Great Catholic School for September 2017 and we have offered 20 places to in-year applicants of which 10 did not request the school. 14 of these offers were accepted. 17 further requests for places are in the pipeline from parents who have requested the school. There is also 1 request pending regarding a child whose parents have not listed St Gregory the Great Catholic School as a preference.</p> <p>This academic year, the first admissions' meeting for Governors was held on 14 September 2017. The second meeting was due on 19 October 2017 but was cancelled. The next admissions' meeting for Governors is expected to be on 2 November 2017.</p> <p>The PAN is 210. We do not hold accurate data on this schools numbers on roll but all year groups known to be below the PAN.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>How many of the 18 children that have come mid-term have accepted places and how long have these children that have arrived mid-year been out of school because they have accepted a place?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I'm afraid I don't know the answer to that question so I will also have to get back to you.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>9. COUNCILLOR BOB JOHNSTON</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member for Transport inform the Council as to what contingency planning (if any) for the future of Queen Street should the Minister side with the bus companies?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>There has already been a significant amount of planning for both Queen Street scenarios i.e. with and without buses. This planning has involved many discussions with bus operators and with other stakeholders of city centre streets, such as taxi owners.</p> <p>Following advice received from civil servants at the Department for Transport, the Council is now monitoring the impact of a reduced number of buses (amounting to approximately 50% reduction, compared to pre-Westgate flows) in Bonn Square and Queen Street.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>What contingency plans, if any have been made should the Minister decide to confirm the County's decision to exclude buses from Queen Street particularly in respect of services like the 35 (which profoundly effects my division) where in the case of Queen Street being closed where are buses going to be turned and it applies to all the other services that currently return via Queen Street to go back along the Abingdon Road and What sort of timescale is that decision going to take?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Thank you, the answer to your supplementary question is of course this will all have to be decided after the experimental stage. There is a well-developed plan to cope with buses turning in other circles to avoid coming up Queen Street. Of course, only 50% of the buses are currently coming up Queen Street so there is some impact on services as we stand. The best that we can tell you is that the County is working with the City Council and Colter to try to establish the baseline for the monitoring that has not actually been formally agreed between all parties. The expectation through, is that we should provide Government with monitoring figures based on normal conditions. I am concerned about what happens during the abnormal but I have raised that, but normal conditions will have to be established before we do the monitoring formally of the impact of only half the buses using Queen Street. We are not expecting to start that until February 2018. It will have to be after the Christmas rush. Meantime I can confirm since I nearly walked under a bus myself last week that the buses are being extremely attentive and I think they are running at about 2 or 5 mph. But you can't hear them because we are requiring them of course to run on their electric circuits and there are big questions around that - we are monitoring it closely.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>10. COUNCILLOR RICHARD WEBBER</p> <p>Please could the Leader list the national newspapers and other publications available in County Hall which are provided free to the public and to employees of the Council, and the total annual cost to the council of providing this service?</p>	<p>COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>I can advise Cllr Webber that the papers which are free to the public and employees at County Hall are detailed in the attached Annex.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>The main reason for my asking the question is that if you look on page 35 at the list of papers that we are putting out at great public expense in the public areas here, it is a very select group of newspapers, most of which are not read by the majority of people in Oxfordshire. If we want to treat our prejudices in that way should we at least consider having a full range of newspapers or better still as part of the austerity cuts, let us cut all the newspapers in public services altogether so if I want to feed my prejudices as other people could do I would jolly well go and buy my own newspaper. Is that not a reasonable position?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Yes it sounds a very reasonable position and since I have been at the Council I have been through 2 phases of culling papers and culling publications and one of the key things I think it is an interesting argument you put forward about the café but also about the Group Rooms and in the members area itself, because it is amazing the number of times (I am in virtually every day) I come in and the papers for the Group Rooms have not been read. I would suggest to make an immediate saving that we get rid of the Group Room papers and just have the member's ones that I read in the morning and then put in the Member's Resource Room and that would save about £540 a year, and that would be something I would be willing to look at.</p>
<p>11. COUNCILLOR RICHARD WEBBER</p> <p>In "The MJ" - the management journal for local authority business - "Council Leaders were encouraged to quote "bin" letters from Jeremy Hunt by Lord Porter - Chairman of the LGA. Mr Hunt's letter criticised some LAs for failing to reach delayed transfer of care</p>	<p>COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>The comments made by Lord Porter to "bin the letters from the Secretary of State for Health unless there is a cheque attached" were off the cuff comments made at the recent NCAS (National Children and Adult Services) conference; as such they probably do not reflect the view of the LGA.</p> <p>We take seriously any communication for any member of the Government,</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>targets. Lord Porter thinks the targets are unachievable. Does the Leader support the position of Mr Hunt or Lord Porter? And what did OCC do with Mr Hunt's letter?</p>	<p>should we feel that some of the comments are of a generic nature and not reflect the situation in Oxfordshire then we robustly defend our position.</p> <p>We decided to not respond to the letter from the SoS, but that we have provided information to the LGA, CCN and ADASS about our challenging DTOC trajectory, how we are currently spending the improved Better Care Fund, and the potential impact on services should funding allocations be reviewed.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>I am a little bit alarmed in his assertion that Lord Porter, Chairman of the LGA views don't necessarily reflect the view of the LGA, I think I might want to challenge that I suspect that they do represent the view of the LGA as far as this letter is concerned. I am fascinated to know what this Council did with its letter from Lord Porter?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Of course, we filed it suitably to make sure we have it for reference purposes at a later date. In answer to Lord Porter point, perhaps it was probably a personal view regarding the issue rather than a Council view on that matter.</p>
<p>12. COUNCILLOR ROZ SMITH</p> <p>Can she confirm that residents are being written to regarding the installation of new LED lights and columns as per the agreement with the contractor?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>I can confirm that letter drops are being made to local residents, these are sent two weeks prior to works commencing on site. Unfortunately, there were teething problems earlier in the project with Balfour Beatty's previous distributor, a new distributor has now been appointed.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Thank you I would like to know when the new contract was made and a new distributor was appointed because unfortunately Councillor Constance, we are still getting residents</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I can only tell you that it was a very resent appointment of a new distributor because I have been waiting for lamps and lights in my patch as well. I will have to come back to you on that date. On the question of when the letter drops are made, I don't have the detail now, but I will ask what record we keep</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>contacting us to say that new street columns and lights are going in without any notification at all. I have spent so much time over the last 2 years when this project started answering queries from residents. I was pleased when I saw that Belfour Beatty was going to be sending out 2 weeks in advance, notification to residents, I thought that this would be helpful. But I am very disappointed, to have spent so much time again this summer talking the residents who noticed there were squiggles and things on the highway but not had any notification– so when was the new distributor appointed and what is going to happen to those residents that still have not received a letter at all informing them of the new lights going in?</p>	<p>of the streets that are notified before the lights go in. there could be an element of residents binning unrecognised letters, however I accept that if a whole street has not been notified and everybody is complaining we must try to be sure that the commitment is in the contract and make sure that it is happening. I will get back to you.</p>
<p>13. COUNCILLOR PAUL BUCKLEY</p> <p>It is now over a year since the Council’s new Community Asset Transfer Policy came into force. Under the policy all community groups, renting OCC properties and seeking to renew their lease, face huge rent increases that will threaten the viability of treasured, community-run activities across the county. What evidence does the Cabinet member have so far, to reassure Council that this harsh policy will not lead to a collapse of community-run activities relying on use of OCC properties?</p>	<p>COUCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY- GALE, CABINET MEMBER FOR PROPERTY & CULTURAL SERVICES</p> <p>The Councils Asset Transfer Policy was reviewed in early 2016 following collaborative discussions with services and tenants in light of lessons learnt under the wave of asset transfers arising under Big Society. A revised policy was then adopted in June 2016. The material change was that the Council would not let premises upon a notional or peppercorn rent but would charge an appropriate rent for the property in line with ambitions to make most effective use of Council assets, which takes into account the restriction for community use</p> <p>In December 2016 Cabinet considered a motion to waive the rent for a building where that would keep a Children’s Centre open in circumstances where it would otherwise have to close. Whilst additional transitional support through a rent-free period was adopted the principal of charging rent was</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>unchanged.</p> <p>The report to Cabinet, dated 20th December 2016 provides detailed background of the reasoning behind the policy which Cllr Buckley may find helpful. It forms agenda item 10 and can be found on page 257 of the public reports pack.</p> <p>It is recognised that the sustainability of Voluntary & Community Sector activity can be challenging and that is why the county council put in place facilities to aid the transitional phase both through grant and through rent free periods. This approach helps to ensure that those planning to deliver activity through non-OCC buildings are not disadvantaged.</p> <p>Since adoption of the policy the council has implemented a transformation programme which has enabled community groups to come forward with proposals to deliver community services within county council buildings backed up by robust business cases that account for the full costs of the service including premises costs. Many of these are celebrated in the October 2017 Update issued by Cllr Gray, Cabinet Member for Local Communities. The terms for use of county council buildings within this programme are determined in accordance with the policy.</p> <p>The County Council does recognise that it is important to review the support offered to the Voluntary & Community Sector but hidden subsidy to those groups that are fortunate to occupy county council premises is not a fair and transparent approach.</p> <p>Background</p> <p>All buildings held by the Council place financial pressures upon the authority not just the day to day running costs but also more importantly the investment necessary to maintain their condition.</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>Any building leased out will expect to be on terms that deliver income to help meet these costs but at rent levels that reflect the use; consequently</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • where the use is commercial in nature the rent will be a commercial market rent • but where the use is a community use it will be an appropriate rent reflecting the community use (typically half that levied for commercial uses but in some defined circumstances significantly less than that). Whilst such rents are not free they are likely to be significantly less than premises which might otherwise be available within the market places <p>The income is necessary to help offset the costs of holding the building and the loss of income or receipts that would otherwise have been generated.</p> <p>I fully recognise that in the past the County Council has, on occasion, provided subsidy to community organisations through nominal or even peppercorn rent. This however brings material issues to the County Council for example:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the subsidy provided is not transparent, nor recognised by the wider community and can be argued to disadvantage other bodies who rely upon use of non - county council buildings 2. when a group do not pay rent, they have no motivation to consolidate operations into the actual space required and reduce their costs nor to co-operate with other community groups to share costs 3. where a community group occupy without rent there are instances where they sub-let to other community groups, other publically funded services or even commercial operations at market rates generating further hidden subsidy. 4. It is very important that the council is in control of the levels of subsidy it offers – it may in some circumstances need to manage the levels of

Questions	Answers
	<p>subsidy in light of competing priorities.</p> <p>The Policy now makes it clear that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. any subsidy, other than via community rent, shall be through direct grant funding rather than indirect premises support <p>That subletting of premises at rates higher than those applied under the head lease are controlled to ensure that community groups are not demotivated from making best use of assets but equally that where appropriate income generation from use of the building can be shared to not only help offset any occupier's priorities but also those of the county council.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>What I wanted to do now is to raise a very particular case of the Wolvercote Young Peoples Club which is unusual. It is old and very precious community resource. It is nearly 80 years old, does fantastic work with youngsters in my division. The building has been inherited by the County Council quite recently, the County Council has neglected it, it is in a poor state of repair and right now the County Council is trying to force on this club a fast rent increase of 640% and to take full liability for all the repairs that are needed. Now this will bankrupt the club within 3 years. My question is would Councillor Lindsay-Gale please meet urgently with myself and the club leaders to see what can be done about this?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Yes, of course we will have a meeting. I do understand Councillor Buckley that you have already had long conversations with some of the officers from Property Services and I am very happy to continue the conversation and see what can be done. But I would like Councillors to understand that I know the rent that we are asking you is high. It is £22,000 a year. However, you are in the fortunate position that you are able rent out some of the building which is surplus to your requirements for £45,000 a year. Now this is something that from my point of view we can't accept so I am very happy to talk to you and we will continue the conversation out of this meeting.</p>

Questions	Answers																																																																							
<p>14. COUNCILLOR EMILY SMITH</p> <p>The OSCB Annual Report suggests that the 21% increase in children being educated at home could be the result of poor handling of difficult situations at school, what evidence does the Council possess to either support or refute the OSCB view about the reason for the increase in home schooling in Oxfordshire?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR HIBBERT-BILES, CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH & EDUCATION</p> <p>This is information gathered from parents when we are informed of their decision to go EHE and would be the only evidence we could provide. This year's data is available, however, the report this has come from has not yet been published and OSCB will not have had access to the data for 2016/17.</p> <p>Reasons for Elective Home Education</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="947 608 2011 1361"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Reason</th> <th colspan="5">Number of cases</th> </tr> <tr> <th>2011/12</th> <th>2012/13</th> <th>2013/14</th> <th>2014/15</th> <th>2015/16</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bullying</td> <td>28</td> <td>27</td> <td>24</td> <td>22</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dissatisfaction with system</td> <td>81</td> <td>85</td> <td>85</td> <td>62</td> <td>51</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Distance/Access to local School</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> <td>13</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other/Unknown</td> <td>51</td> <td>47</td> <td>64</td> <td>122</td> <td>127</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parents Desire for Closer Relations</td> <td>26</td> <td>29</td> <td>27</td> <td>30</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Philosophical/Ideological beliefs</td> <td>28</td> <td>30</td> <td>35</td> <td>35</td> <td>49</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Religious/cultural beliefs</td> <td>45</td> <td>56</td> <td>48</td> <td>49</td> <td>55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Special Educational Needs</td> <td>62</td> <td>35</td> <td>42</td> <td>32</td> <td>37</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Short term intervention</td> <td>38</td> <td>48</td> <td>51</td> <td>75</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unwilling/Unable to attend School</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>21</td> <td>25</td> <td>27</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>These statistics are based on main reasons given by parents/guardians (often</p>	Reason	Number of cases					2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Bullying	28	27	24	22	25	Dissatisfaction with system	81	85	85	62	51	Distance/Access to local School	5	5	13	4	4	Other/Unknown	51	47	64	122	127	Parents Desire for Closer Relations	26	29	27	30	25	Philosophical/Ideological beliefs	28	30	35	35	49	Religious/cultural beliefs	45	56	48	49	55	Special Educational Needs	62	35	42	32	37	Short term intervention	38	48	51	75	60	Unwilling/Unable to attend School	15	16	21	25	27
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Questions	Answers
	there are a number of factors contributing to their decision to home educate).
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>I would like to know what action the Cabinet Member is taking to understand why families decide to home educate, if this increase relates to particular key stages and what she is doing to ensure this growing cohort of young people are receiving a satisfactory education and the support they need to thrive?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>We don't have the up to date information yet. If a parent chooses not to tell us, it is their choice not to tell us and we can't do anything about that. However, there is a group considering all these issues because obviously, there are issues sometimes about home education. Could I just say that I am happy to have a conversation?</p>
<p>15. COUNCILLOR RICHARD WEBBER</p> <p>How does the Leader and Cabinet propose to respond to the call of the Communities Secretary to use Prudential Borrowing as a means of addressing the current Housing crisis?</p>	<p>COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>We all recognise that there is a need for more homes particularly for young residents of Oxfordshire. I understand that this was a suggestion by the Secretary of State to address the shortage of homes; yet it is not a proposal out for consultation. Should there be an announcement in the budget on these lines then we will need to look at the detail before we respond. Obviously, the provision of housing is the responsibility of the District and City councils; we would have to ensure that the appropriate infrastructure is delivered however the funding is provided.</p> <p>My personal view is that we need to look at all ways of providing more homes for Oxfordshire's residents. It is incumbent on all elected representatives whether City, District, County Councillors or MP not to have closed minds either on a parochial or ideological basis otherwise we will be failing Oxfordshire's residents.</p>
<p>16. COUNCILLOR KIRSTEN JOHNSON</p> <p>To ensure public confidence in the decision on where the OxCam Expressway is placed, it is</p>	<p>COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>As members are aware I often write to government and departments regarding various matters and I'm content to ask the question in the context of</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>important to give local residents a say. Will you ask Highways England to conduct a full public consultation on the general corridor of the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway in Stage 1A of the options, prior to HE's announcement of this corridor in July 2018?</p>	<p>the greater Strategic scheme.</p> <p>This is a national piece of infrastructure that could provide a local solution for Oxfordshire particularly around the A34 which impacts on the majority of Oxfordshire's residents. To reject a scheme that would benefit the majority of Oxfordshire on the basis of some important but local matters would not be looking at the strategic view across the County.</p> <p>Whatever route is chosen by HE there will inevitably a negative reaction from the local communities affected. We need to take all the views into consideration and look for mitigation.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Will you ask Highways England on behalf of all us in this Council to conduct a full public consultation to the general corridor of Oxford/Cambridge Expressway in Stage 1A of the options prior to Highways England announcement of this Corridor in July 2018.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>This is for Highways England to determine under their constitution, under the Government they have to answer for their consultation process and it is for them to go through the consultation process, they have come out with some ideas and suggestions about their route and they will be coming back at a later stage when they determine which is the best route there.</p>
<p>17. COUNCILLOR JENNY HANNABY</p> <p>What are you personally doing as leader of Oxfordshire County Council to persuade the Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire District Councils to join the other Oxfordshire District Councils in taking over enforcement of illegal parking.</p>	<p>COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>I personally have always been open, not just to South & Vale but to all our District and City partners that we should work together to deliver Civil Parking Enforcement across the County. To have one back office obviously saves on administration expenses so that we can provide a better service to residents. A greater number of enforcement officers would mean we could direct them to particular areas during peak times for instance the Henley Regatta or Abingdon fair or Countyfile Live at Blenheim or Bank holiday weekends at Bicester village. To have smaller fragmented schemes would not provide the full benefits for the residents and visitors.</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>The County Council have worked closely with Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire District Councils several times in the past to investigate the potential for introducing enforcement of on street parking in those areas. There are strict requirements for civil enforcement that makes the operation of such a scheme quite costly and modelling undertaken to date has suggested that introducing any scheme in these areas would as a result operate at a significant loss. Given the pressure on budgets both within the County and District Councils therefore it has not been possible to progress the implementation of an enforcement scheme. There remains regular dialogue between the authorities however to ensure that a scheme could be progressed should the opportunity arise.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Can I encourage the Leader in his endeavours to keep the dialogue open this illegal parking is a real detriment to our market towns and will put people off coming into them and I was wondering with the new money, that some of it could go towards civilian enforcement?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I must caution all Councillors regarding all this talk of additional funds and where it is going to be. I am sure that we will hear time and time again it being re-spent in different areas, but we have got to make sure that the funds that we get will be used in the most appropriate area and the most sustainable area. My first conversations with the district councils on civilian parking enforcement goes back to 2008 when I was Cabinet Member for Transport. I addressed a Leaders meeting and I said that we need this to get the best across the whole of the Council. I continually have those discussions and it is very unfortunately because of course the key thing about civil parking enforcement now the regulation means you have to have to tie in off-street parking with on-street parking and so therefore it is not just a question of the County Council imposing it we have got to negotiate with those Councils. The only area that has gone ahead with civil enforcement since the City, which was the last one prior to the new regulations, has been West Oxfordshire and of course there because they do not charge for car parking charges there was no loss of income for them to go over. However, there is a cost to West Oxfordshire District Council in providing that service.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>18. COUNCILLOR KIRSTEN JOHNSON</p> <p>What has the impact been on Schools' Transport budgets and demand as a result of local bus service cuts?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>When the council withdrew subsidies to bus services, there were 106 scholars traveling on 10 subsidised buses who needed to be accommodated elsewhere.</p> <p>Before the withdrawal of subsidised bus services, the council spent almost £46k a year on season tickets to transport children to school on these services. Prior to the withdrawal, the council estimated that it would need to spend around £140k to transport these children by other means. In practice, it has cost the council around £78k, which is set against the £3m saved on the withdrawal of subsidised bus services</p> <p>Costs were not as high as originally thought because of the impact of the Nearest School policy change, which reduced the number of students entitled to free school transport from Berinsfield to Abingdon. Also, a safe walking route review reduced the number entitled to free school transport from Towersey to Thame. These changes would have occurred regardless of the withdrawal of bus subsidies.</p> <p>Had subsidies continued, these two changes mean that we would now only be buying season tickets to the value of about £30k across all affected routes rather than the £46k. Therefore, the real additional cost to school travel as a result of the withdrawal of bus subsidies is approximately £48K (£78k-£30k).</p> <p>I can provide a detailed breakdown by individual route if Cllr Johnson would like these.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Do you agree that this money the £48k might be better spent in providing minibuses that more</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Thank you for the question, the increase spend is £2,000 over the previous spend on transporting those children. I think your idea is one we should</p>

Questions	Answers
than one local person could use rather than expensive bespoke taxis services?	explore. There is of course with the comet scheme an opportunity and intension to use school buses in other ways and if there are other ways of getting children to school we should explore it, but it is certainly worth examining.
<p>19. COUNCILLOR KIRSTEN JOHNSON</p> <p>Laybys off the A40, the A418, and Oxford's ring road are being taken over by lorries parked overnight. The fouling that results is a health hazard; further, the lorries occupy space meant for motorists ordinarily using the road. Does the member agree these laybys need No Parking Overnight signs, and will she take action on this?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Some of the laybys on the A40 and A418 do have waiting restrictions that apply twenty-four hours a day, which limit parking to either a 30 minute or one hour period. These restrictions were implemented as a result of antisocial behaviour or crime, and their enforcement is the remit of Thames Valley Police.</p> <p>If I am made aware of other specific laybys that are suffering from overnight lorry parking and associated antisocial behaviour, then motorist's (including lorry drivers) usage of the laybys will be investigated and the implementation of waiting restrictions will be considered.</p>
<p>20. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>It's great to have the new Westgate Centre open at last, but what a pity we still have to wait two months longer for the new Library. Surely this could have been better managed?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LINDAY-GALE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The County Council does not directly control the delivery of the Westgate Library Project. This contract was let and managed by the Westgate Alliance.</p> <p>Much of the works being delivered for the county council were consequential works necessary to enable the remodelling of the entrance to centre in order to achieve the transformation necessary to make the viable and sustainable new shopping centre we now all celebrate.</p> <p>As I am sure Councillor Pressel will have noticed the frontage to the centre has only very recently become finished – some 4-6 weeks ago, fenestration to the front corner of the library had still not been fitted and roofing works were</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>incomplete. It must also be emphasised that the developer has significant works left outstanding with many units still unfinished and ongoing works across the centre likely to continue for the next 4 – 6 months. On opening day, only 60 out of 124 units were open, and only 90 out of 124 will be open by Christmas. This is inevitable when dealing with such a major construction project.</p> <p>The works to the library were very different from the rest of the centre – all other parts of the centre were completely gutted and refitted whereas the library, other than the consequential works necessary in light of the centre transformation, was pre-dominantly re-furnishing. However, this brought forward unique challenges to programming such as additional work found necessary only once works planned to be undertaken by the Alliance were carried out. These for example included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New ceilings where the planned works resulted in the need to take down some ceilings but the condition of supporting structures were found to be inadequate due to age • Enhancements to fire precautions due to incompatibility of existing systems with the overall new systems included in the centre and exposure of poor fire separation due to the age of the building <p>I trust Councillor Pressel will support the need to ensure that such works which have a bearing upon the health and safety of library users must outweigh our own aspirations to align the opening of the library with the centre.</p> <p>Whilst I share Cllr Pressel’s frustration in not being able to experience the new library on day one, I have been closely engaged with the team of officers who have been working tirelessly in the background in close collaboration with the Westgate Alliance and I am confident that library users will appreciate the refurbishments and alterations that have taken place.</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>We are opening the doors to the public on Monday 18th December, and the Library Service is planning our own “Grand Opening” at the end of February when we will be welcoming the Minister for Libraries, Mr John Glen MP, and hope that Members will join us at this celebration. In the meantime, the service is concentrating on closing the temporary library in the Castle Quarter, and moving over 100,000 books back into the Westgate as soon as we get handover from the developers on November 18th.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Why is there no sign on the new building to tell the people where the temporary library is?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Well there were signs on the boards when it was all boarded but the boarding has gone down so there is nowhere to put any signs. The temporary building will be closing any day and they will be moving 100,000 books over to the new library.</p>
<p>21. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>One of the things I get most complaints about is vehicles parking in cycle lanes. It is dangerous when cyclists have to swing out into sometimes heavy traffic, because the cycle lane is obstructed. This is much less likely to happen where we have mandatory cycle lanes (with a solid white line), so please can we have more of these? We say we want to encourage cycling, so we need to make it feel safer.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>There are a number of factors that determine whether mandatory cycle lanes can be provided or are suitable, including width of the highway and impacts on other road users. Cycle standards, including the county council’s own cycle design guide, typically recommend mandatory cycle lane widths of ideally 1.8m or a minimum of 1.5m. On roads in the city where mandatory cycle lanes have not already been introduced then this is generally because the existing carriageway is too narrow for even the minimum width of mandatory cycle lane and if implemented could result in larger vehicles encroaching the lane.</p> <p>There are a number of locations in the city where narrow mandatory lanes are provided, however, these are no longer considered appropriate as this can cause motorists to leave a smaller and inadequate space when overtaking cyclists. It also means cyclists having to travel where the road surface is often poorer because of drainage gullies and debris.</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>Where there is the highway width to accommodate mandatory cycle lanes then it will often be necessary to undertake reallocation measures such as removing on-street parking, reducing footways widths (in areas with low footfall) and removing road centre lines.</p> <p>Where funding is available then this will be considered and is being done as part of the Access to Headington project, where some on-street parking is being removed to accommodate new and improved cycle lanes including hybrid, or fully segregated cycle lanes, mandatory and wider advisory where the highway is still too narrow.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Why don't you work with the police to make sure that drivers who encroach on the mandatory cycle lanes are fined then they will learn to hang back until it is safe to overtake.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>They only answer to that is that we all know that the police do not actually exercise much time or effort on controlling traffic they have other things to do. But what is important is that we are launching a survey with cycle groups. Both Councillor Bartington and I will be meeting them at the weekend to talk about the work that is being done in City to try and find ways and where possible to expand the cycle track. As you know the Botley Road Scheme is about to go into design and consultation and that will inform us about the potential and the opportunities elsewhere. Cycling is pretty much top of our agenda.</p>
<p>22. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>The most common complaint of all from cyclists in recent years is about potholes. These can be highly dangerous and are certainly a deterrent to cycling. Please can you tell me what you intend to do about this?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The service is aware of the impact potholes have on both experienced cyclists and how it acts as a deterrent to less experienced cyclists and as such there is a different criterion for fixing potholes on cycle routes to reflect the higher risk that arises. Ideally, the service would like to be more proactive in repairing roads before pot holes form however current levels of funding only allow roads to be surfaced on average once every 178 years, when typically,</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>the life expectancy of a road surface would be 20-30 years and so this is not currently possible although the service is currently developing a business case to increase investment into highway maintenance in Oxfordshire.</p> <p>In the meantime, the service has recently launched a survey with cycle groups to better understand where the higher risk areas are and these will help influence future maintenance programmes.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>If cycling is top of your agenda why do you need a survey to find out where you need to mend potholes? It is obvious where there is heavy cycling so please mend those potholes promptly.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>The survey is to work out where the greatest need is so that attention can be focused on it, that what it says in the answer I can give you no better.</p>
<p>23. COUNCILLOR JAMILA AZAD</p> <p>Black Cabs Taxi Rank in Corn Market is very dangerous as too many Taxis are there in the evening. They have to do u turn to go to St. Aldates or High Street and I don't understand the logic of putting Black Cabs in Corn Market. Previous system worked well for drivers and passengers.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The Cornmarket taxi rank is experimental and will be reviewed once the Westgate centre is fully open, including the new taxi rank in Old Greyfriars Street. Queen Street is expected to be very busy with pedestrians in the evenings once the new cinema and restaurant in the Westgate centre open. The situation will be kept under review and we are regularly liaising with COLTA and the City Council licensing team.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Almost all taxi drivers are very upset that they have just been shuffled down to Cornmarket Street to do their U-Turn. It takes them longer to come back to their ranks and the rank near to Westgate is deserted. So, could you tell us</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>As you know it is the intention of the County Council not to have public transport through Queen Street, whilst the experiment is going on the intention is to monitor the performance of the buses on the street. I do have a note from the officer that the experimental taxi rank in Cornmarket has been expanded and it is being monitored very closely. There may have to be some</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>please if they can come down Queen Street after 6.30 pm and before 6.00 am in the morning.</p>	<p>adjustments about taxi ranks elsewhere, but the possibility of putting them back through Queen Street has not yet been considered and I think will probably come at the end of the experimental phase. There is an intension to try to establish quite clearly what the bus impact is in Queen Street.</p>
<p>24. COUNCILLOR JAMILA AZAD</p> <p>Now that buses are running through Queen Street, can I ask Cabinet Member that Taxis are permitted to run through Queen Street after 6.30pm and before 6am. They have to come from George Street to use Corn Market Rank than to go to Hythe Bridge Street or Holly Bush Row and have to go to Oxpense and passing through Speedwell Street into St. Aldates. Can we put limit on Black Cabs on each Rank?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The Cornmarket taxi rank is experimental and will be reviewed once the Westgate centre is fully open, including the new taxi rank in Old Greyfriars Street. Queen Street is expected to be very busy with pedestrians in the evenings once the new cinema and restaurant in the Westgate centre open. The situation will be kept under review and we are regularly liaising with COLTA and the city council licensing team.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>I know that you have been taking to COLTA taxi association, but a lot of other taxi drivers depend on driving taxis and special Black Cabs and most of them are in Oxford. Can you please consult with all of them rather than just consulting with COLTA?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>You are quite right to bring that to my attention, I wasn't aware that they were not included in COLTA. There is one other point to make when all the restaurants and the cinema are open it is expected that Queen Street will be as busy at night as it is by day so there are good reasons for leaving things through the experimental phase as they are, but I note your question and we won't forget you.</p>
<p>25. COUNCILLOR GLYNIS PHILLIPS</p> <p>What more can be done to reduce the time that young carers have to wait for an assessment of their needs? In October, there were over 100</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR STEVE HARROD, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES</p> <p>As of 2nd November 2017, the OCC Young Carers Service has 120 children waiting for an assessment of their caring needs. Of this group 36 have been waiting longer than 4 months to be seen.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>children waiting over 4 months for an assessment and this is an improvement from an earlier waiting time of 6 months. This should be unacceptable for a Council which boasts of prioritising the most vulnerable in our county'.</p>	<p>We have this waiting list due to a number of factors including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A high level of referrals that have sustained since the legal changes for young carers relating to the Care Act/Children and Families Act in 2015. We have received 176 referrals over the last 6 months. • Prior to 1st April 2017 Spurgeon's Children's Charity where contracted by OCC to undertake these assessments, they had a significant waiting list/time delay. When the Spurgeon's contract ended and all the service came under the OCC Young Carers Service we inherited that waiting list – at that time the list was at nearly 200 children. • Since April 2017 the OCC Young Carers team has been subject to a service consultation and restructure. We are now a team that consists of a part time manager, 2x Senior Practitioners Social Workers (1 new post filled in September 17 & 1 vacant due to be filled in November 17), 7.6fte grade 9 posts – Young Carers Specialist Workers (currently 1.19fte vacant posts and 1fte on long term sick leave) and 1fte administrator. We are a small team covering the county. <p>We have worked hard since April to address the waiting list. We have a process in place to monitor and prioritise the referrals received by the team, this includes using information on the social care system, reviewing school attendance and considering the case against a specialist young carers risk form we have developed. The manager and Senior Practitioner meets weekly to review, cases that have been waiting for more than 4 months are reviewed again and prioritised.</p> <p>Cases are allocated as soon as possible to workers, however working with young carers and their families is demanding emotionally on staff and as a manager I work hard to protect the caseload levels of my staff, keeping them to below 25 for a fulltime worker.</p> <p>At present the team records within Framework but we do not have specific work flow (episodes) within the system which does hinder and elongate the</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>written element and quality assurance of the assessment.</p> <p>While we are working to deal with the historic number of referrals, we are also endeavouring to ensure that future referrals are relevant and timely for the child and family. We are attending the area RAP meetings, publicising the changes to our core offer and working with LCSS to ensure that our work with schools is supportive and that the clear message to all partners is that safeguarding and supporting young carers is everyone's business.</p> <p>As a service, we fully recognise that this waiting time is not an ideal situation and our aspiration is to be dealing with our referrals in real time, so that waiting times for young carers are kept to a minimum. Even with the measures outlined above in place and the current staff resource available, we will still have a waiting list for some time to come.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>I accept that the team themselves are doing all they can, but these children are some of the most vulnerable in the County and this is a safeguarding issue so my original question what more can be done to reduce the waiting time for young carers assessments.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Thank you for that question, it is something that is being addressed by the officers on an on-going basis as we speak. I am constantly aware of the need for this and I am following up with our officers so as soon as we have any concrete feedback to give I will be happy to provide that.</p>
<p>26. COUNCILLOR DEBORAH MCILVEEN</p> <p>The Living Wage is enough to ensure that employees and their families can live free from poverty and is a voluntary scheme. The Oxford Living Wage is £9.26 an hour.</p> <p>Employers who sign up to the Living Wage</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR JUDITH HEATHCOAT, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>Firstly, just to clarify, the National Living Wage is £7.50 and applies only to those aged 25 or over. For those under 25, the relevant National Minimum Wage applies.</p> <p>What percentage of Oxford based County Council employees are paid the Oxford Living Wage?</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>commit to pay it to all staff over the age of 18 who work regularly on their premises. This includes employed, contracted and subcontracted staff. The National Living Wage is only £5.60 per hour for 18 - 20year olds rising to £7.50 per hour for employees over 25 years. What percentage of Oxford based County Council employees are paid the Oxford Living Wage and what percentage of non-Oxford based employees are paid the National Living Wage?</p>	<p>20.16% of our employees are known to live in Oxford (OX1, OX2, OX3 and OX4 postcodes). Of those 70.66% are paid above or equal to the Oxford Living Wage.</p> <p>85.04% of our employees are known to live in Oxfordshire (OX Postcode & SN7 Postcode). Of those, 67.20% are paid above or equal to the Oxford Living Wage.</p> <p>What percentage of non-Oxford based employees are paid the National Living Wage?</p> <p>78.04% of our employees are known to live outside of Oxford Centre (not an OX1, OX2, OX3 and OX4 postcode). Of those, 99.94% are paid at or above the National Living Wage, regardless of age.</p> <p>13.15% of our employees are known to live outside of Oxfordshire (not an OX postcode & SN7 postcode). Of those, 99.93% are paid at or above the National Living Wage, regardless of age.</p> <p>For comparison:</p> <p>What percentage of non-Oxford based County Council employees are paid the Oxford Living Wage?</p> <p>78.04% of our employees are known to live outside of Oxford, (not an OX1, OX2, OX3 and OX4 postcode). Of those 68.06% are paid above or equal to the Oxford Living Wage.</p> <p>13.15% of our employees are known to live outside of Oxfordshire (not an OX or SN7 postcode). Of those, 77.58% are paid above or equal to the Oxford Living Wage.</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>What percentage of Oxford based employees are paid the National Living Wage?</p> <p>20.16% of our employees are known to live in Oxford (OX1, OX2, OX3 and OX4 postcodes). Of those 99.91% are paid above or equal to the National Living Wage, regardless of age.</p> <p>85.04% of our employees are known to live in Oxfordshire (OX Postcode & SN7 Postcode). Of those, 99.94% are paid above or equal to the National Living Wage, regardless of age.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>How much would it cost for this Authority to ensure that all our employees can earn and are paid the Oxford Living Wage, which incidentally was increased yesterday as was the London Living Wage.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>As you know with the Living Wage policy, the barrier for us to implement it across the piste could be between £2m and £20m per year and excludes employer costs of 30% so I think that is something you need to reflect on.</p>
<p>27. COUNCILLOR DR SUZANNE BARTINGTON</p> <p>The community response to cardiac arrest is critical to saving lives. Each year, UK emergency services respond to approximately 60,000 cases of suspected cardiac arrest. The immediate initiation of bystander Basic Life Support (BLS) including Cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) can double long-term survival from out-of-hospital cardiac arrest, but currently only approximately 40% of UK victims receive bystander CPR.</p> <p>Strengthening the community response to</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR JUDITH HEATHCOAT, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>I'm grateful for Cllr Bartington's question that County Councillors be offered training in Basic Life Support and CPR.</p> <p>As County Councillors, we are all aware that we can help raise the profile of emergency life support training within our communities and of the safe use of Automated External Defibrillators (AED) devices. There's no better way to do this than by taking the training ourselves if we possibly can.</p> <p>Three Training sessions for County Councillors have been arranged as a key part of our councillor development programme and the training covers:-</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>cardiac arrest by training and empowering bystanders with emergency life-support skills could help save lives in Oxfordshire. In the past year, over 10,000 people in southern England have been trained to provide emergency life-support and figures from NHS England confirm that an extra 3 lives per week have been saved as a result. Within their role as elected representatives, County Councillors are regularly in contact with members of the public, including attendance at events held at facilities with installed Automated External Defibrillator (AED) devices. Equipping County Councillors with essential bystander life-support skills would empower them to assist in an emergency situation and help save further lives in Oxfordshire.</p> <p>Can you tell me what specific steps this County Council is taking for ensuring that Councillors are trained and prepared to deliver bystander life-support including emergency CPR and to safely use an AED device? Thank you in advance for answering this question in detail.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Life Support including Cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training; and the • Use of defibrillators (AEDs – Automated External Defibrillators) <p>The first session was held on 2 November. This was well attended. There are to be two further sessions for County Councillors on 6 and 7 December. All councillors have received invitations to take up one of these sessions and I strongly urge colleagues to attend, if they can. Ninety minutes is time well spent if it gives us the skills and confidence that might, one day, save a life.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>I very much hope that all Councillors will avail of this opportunity to undergo this 90-minute training session. I am pleased that update to date has been good. However, I am deeply concerned that the feedback from initial training has a</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I believe that the point that you have just raised has already been asked of officers and I believe that it is already being considered to acquire an AED at County Hall but I will check that.</p>

Questions	Answers
spotlight on the lack of an automated external defibrillator at County Hall and I wanted to ask Councillor Heathcoat, what efforts are being made to ensure that an AED is indeed available and accessible at County Hall given that the likelihood of long term survival decreases rapidly following 5-7 minutes following cardiac arrest.	

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Café	Times Telegraph Daily Mail Daily Express	Times Telegraph Daily Mail Daily Express	Times Telegraph Daily Mail Daily Express	Times Telegraph Daily Mail Daily Express Oxford Times	Times Telegraph Daily Mail Daily Express
Group Rooms	3 x Oxford Mail	3 x Oxford Mail	3 x Oxford Mail	3 x Oxford Mail	3 x Oxford Mail
Ian Hudspeth	Oxford Mail Oxford Mail (Sat)	Oxford Mail	Oxford Mail Abingdon Herald Didcot Herald Witney Gazette	Oxford Mail Banbury Guardian Bicester Advertiser Oxford Times	Oxford Mail Henley Standard
Head of Paid Service	Times Oxford Mail Oxford Mail (Sat)	Times Oxford Mail	Times Oxford Mail	Times Oxford Mail Oxford Times	Times Oxford Mail
Legal	Times	Times	Times	Times	Times
Finance	Financial Times	Financial Times	Financial Times	Financial Times	Financial Times Investors Chronicle
Media			Abingdon Herald Witney Gazette	Banbury Guardian Bicester Advertiser	Henley Standard

S & SC	Oxford Mail	Oxford Mail	Oxford Mail	Oxford Mail	Oxford Mail TES
Localities (1st Floor)	Oxford Mail Oxford Mail (Sat)	Oxford Mail	Oxford Mail Didcot Herald Witney Gazette	Oxford Mail Oxford Times Banbury Guardian Bicester Advertiser	Oxford Mail
TRO (E & E 1st Floor)			Didcot Herald Witney Gazette	Oxford Times Banbury Guardian Bicester Advertiser	Henley Standard

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division(s): N/A

COUNTY COUNCIL – 12 DECEMBER 2017

REPORT OF THE CABINET

Cabinet Member: Deputy Leader of the Council

1. Staffing Report – Quarter 2 - 2017

(Cabinet, 28 November 2017)

Cabinet noted a report which provided an update on staffing numbers and related activity for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 September 2017. It gave details of the actual staffing numbers at 30 September 2017 in terms of Full Time Equivalents. In addition, the report provided information on the cost of posts being covered by agency staff and an Agency Trend analysis.

Cabinet Member: Environment

2. Review of Highway Maintenance Policies

(Cabinet, 28 November 2017)

The County Council's current Highway Maintenance Policy and Strategy are based on the old National Code of Practice for Highway Maintenance (Well Maintained Highways) which has now been superseded by the new Code of Practice, 'Well-managed Highway Infrastructure', commissioned by DfT and published in late 2016.

Refreshing the policies and supporting principles will underpin improvements in the effectiveness of highway maintenance delivery, and assist in meeting planned savings in the delivery of frontline services and to maximise funding Through the DfT Incentive Fund process.

Cabinet approved the draft Highway Infrastructure Management Policy; agreed to the arrangements for sign-off of other documents underpinning the Policy and established a Cabinet Advisory Group.

Cabinet Member: Finance

3. Treasury Management Mid-Term Review 2017/18

(Cabinet, 28 November 2017)

Cabinet noted a report that set out the Treasury Management activity undertaken in the first half of the financial year 2017/18 in compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice. The report included Debt and Investment activity, Prudential Indicator monitoring and forecast interest receivable and payable for the financial year.

Cabinet agreed to recommend Council to approve the revision to the Treasury Management Strategy Statement & Annual Investment Strategy 2017/18.

N.B This item is included elsewhere in the Council agenda for consideration.

Cabinet Member: Local Communities

4. Transition Fund for Open Access Children's Centres – November 2017

(Cabinet, 28 November 2017)

In February 2016, the council agreed to set aside £1m for creating a 'one off' fund to provide pump priming to support the provision of open access children's services. In September 2017 Cabinet agreed the proposed use of the underspend for further rounds of grant funding. Cabinet had before them a report setting out the recommendations of the cross-party group of councillors following their consideration of the applications received against the criteria outlined in the guidance notes.

Cabinet approved funding for Leys Community Church and Slade Nursery School. Cabinet asked that further work is conducted to develop more robust business plans for Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee and Sutton Courtney Stay and Play Group and they be invited to reapply for funding under the next round of applications:

Cabinet Member: Public Health & Education

5. Chiltern Edge School – Progress Report

(Cabinet, 28 November 2017)

Chiltern Edge School has been placed in Special Measures following an Ofsted rating of 'Inadequate'. On 18 July 2017 Cabinet considered a report on a consultation into the future of Chiltern Edge School, and resolved to commission an external review of the progress made by October 2017 towards addressing the weaknesses identified by Ofsted and the construction of an in-year balanced budget. Cabinet considered a further report on the progress identified by the external review.

Cabinet agreed to note the content of the external review and the progress made by the school: towards addressing the weaknesses identified by Ofsted; in creating an in year balanced budget and in identifying an appropriate academy sponsor for the school.

Cabinet agreed not to publish a statutory notice proposing closure of Chiltern Edge School and recognised and supported the leadership of the new headteacher and the wonderful job that parents have done for the children at the school.

IAN HUDSPETH

Leader of the Council

November 2017

Division(s): N/A

COUNCIL – 12 DECEMBER 2017

TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-TERM REVIEW 2017/18

Report by Chief Finance Officer

Introduction

1. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA's) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (Revised) 2011 recommends that members are informed of Treasury Management activities at least twice a year. This report ensures this authority is embracing Best Practice in accordance with CIPFA's recommendations.
2. The following annexes are attached
 - Annex 1 Lending List Changes
 - Annex 2 Debt Financing 2017/18
 - Annex 3 PWLB Debt Maturing
 - Annex 4 Prudential Indicator Monitoring
 - Annex 5 Arlingclose Quarter 2 Benchmarking
 - Annex 6 Amended Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2017/18 – Appendix C

Strategy 2017/18

3. The approved Treasury Management Strategy for 2017/18 was based on an average base rate forecast of 0.25%.
4. The Strategy for borrowing provided an option to fund new or replacement borrowing up to the value of 25% of the portfolio through internal borrowing.
5. The Strategy included the continued use of pooled fund vehicles with variable net asset value.

External Context – Provided by Arlingclose

6. **Economic backdrop:** Commodity prices fluctuated since the 1st April 2017 with oil falling below \$45 a barrel before inching back up to \$58 a barrel. UK Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) index rose with the data for August showing CPI at 2.9%, its highest since June 2013 as the fall in the value of sterling following the June 2016 referendum result continued to feed through into higher import prices. The new inflation measure CPIH, which includes owner occupiers' housing costs, was at 2.7%.
7. The unemployment rate fell to 4.3%, it's lowest since May 1975, but the squeeze on consumers intensified as average earnings grew at 2.5%, below the rate of inflation. Economic activity expanded at a much slower pace as evidenced by Q1 and Q2 GDP

growth of 0.2% and 0.3% respectively. With the dominant services sector accounting for 79% of GDP, the strength of consumer spending remains vital to growth, but with household savings falling and real wage growth negative, there are concerns that these will be a constraint on economic activity in the second half of 2017.

8. The Bank of England made no change to monetary policy at its meetings in the first half of the financial year. The vote to keep Bank Rate at 0.25% narrowed to 5-3 in June 2017 highlighting that some MPC members were more concerned about rising inflation than the risks to growth. Although at the September 2017 meeting the Committee voted 7-2 in favour of keeping Bank Rate unchanged, the MPC changed their rhetoric, implying a rise in Bank Rate in "the coming months". The Council's treasury advisor Arlingclose is not convinced the UK's economic outlook justifies such a move at this stage, but the Bank's interpretation of the data seems to have shifted.
9. In contrast, near-term global growth prospects improved. The US Federal Reserve increased its target range of official interest rates in June for the second time in 2017 by 25bps (basis points) to between 1% and 1.25% and, despite US inflation hitting a soft patch with core CPI at 1.7%, a further similar increase is expected in its December 2017 meeting. The Fed also announced confirmed that it would be starting a reversal of its vast Quantitative Easing programme and reduce the \$4.2 trillion of bonds it acquired by initially cutting the amount it reinvests by \$10bn a month.
10. Geopolitical tensions escalated in August 2017 as the US and North Korea exchanged escalating verbal threats over reports about enhancements in North Korea's missile programme. The provocation from both sides helped wipe off nearly \$1 trillion from global equity markets but benefited safe-haven assets such as gold, the US dollar and the Japanese yen.
11. Prime Minister Theresa May called an unscheduled General Election in June 2017, to resolve uncertainty but the surprise result has led to a minority Conservative government in coalition with the Democratic Unionist Party. This clearly results in an enhanced level of political uncertainty. Although the potential for a so-called hard Brexit is diminished, lack of clarity over future trading partnerships, in particular future customs agreements with the rest of the EU block, is denting business sentiment and investment. The reaction from the markets on the UK election's outcome was fairly muted, business confidence now hinges on the progress (or not) on Brexit negotiations, the ultimate 'divorce bill' for the exit and whether new trade treaties and customs arrangements are successfully concluded to the UK's benefit.
12. In the face of a struggling economy and Brexit-related uncertainty, Arlingclose expects the Bank of England to take only a very measured approach to any monetary policy tightening, any increase will be gradual and limited as the interest rate backdrop will have to provide substantial support to the UK economy through the Brexit transition.
13. **Financial markets:** Gilt yields displayed significant volatility over the six-month period with the appearing change in sentiment in the Bank of England's outlook for interest rates, the push-pull from expectations of tapering of Quantitative Easing (QE) in the US and Europe and from geopolitical tensions, which also had an impact. The yield on the 5-year gilts fell to 0.35% in mid-June 2017, but then rose to 0.80% by the end of September 2017. The 10-year gilts similarly rose from their lows of 0.93% to 1.38% at the end of the quarter, and those on 20-year gilts from 1.62% to 1.94%.

14. The FTSE 100 nevertheless powered away reaching a record high of 7548 in May but dropped back to 7377 at the end of September 2017. Money markets rates have remained low: 1-month, 3-month and 12-month LIBID rates have averaged 0.25%, 0.30% and 0.65% over the period from January to 21st September 2017.

Treasury Management Activity

Debt Financing

15. Oxfordshire County Council's debt financing to date for 2017/18 is analysed in Annex 2.
16. The Council's cumulative total external debt has decreased from £385.38m on 1 April 2017 to £379.38m by 30 September 2017, a net decrease of £6m. No new debt financing has been arranged during the year. The total forecast external debt as at 31 March 2018, after repayment of loans maturing during the year, is £367.38m. The forecast debt financing position for 31 March 2018 is shown in Annex 2.
17. At 30 September 2017, the authority had 62 PWLB¹ loans totalling £329.38m, 9 LOBO² loans totalling £45m and 1 long-term fixed Money Market loan totalling £5m³. The combined weighted average interest rate for external debt as at 30 September 2017 was 4.48%.

Maturing Debt

18. The Council repaid £6m of maturing PWLB loans during the first half of the year. The details are set out in Annex 3.

Debt Restructuring

19. The premium charge for early repayment of PWLB debt remained relatively expensive for the loans in the Authority's portfolio and therefore unattractive for debt restructuring activity. No PWLB debt restructuring activity was undertaken during the first half of the year. Opportunities to restructure debt remain under regular review.

LOBOs

20. At the beginning of the financial year the Authority held £45m of LOBO (Lender's Option Borrower's Option) loans where the lender has the option to propose an increase in the interest rate at set dates, following which the Authority has the option to either accept the new rate or to repay the loan at no additional cost. £25m of these LOBOs had options

¹ PWLB (Public Works Loans Board) is a Government agency operating within the United Kingdom Debt Management Office and is responsible for lending money to Local Authorities.

² LOBO (Lender's Option/Borrower's Option) Loans are long-term loans which include a re-pricing option for the bank at predetermined intervals.

³ In June 2016, the Council's LOBO with Barclays PLC was converted to a fixed rate loan at its current interest rate of 3.95% to mature on the 29th May 2065 with Barclays waiving their right to change the interest rate on the loan in the future.

during 2017/18, to the 30 September 2017 none had been exercised by the lender. The Authority acknowledges there is an element of refinancing risk associated with LOBOs although in the current interest rate environment lenders are unlikely to exercise their options.

Investment Strategy

21. The Authority holds deposits and invested funds representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves. The guidance on Local Government Investments in England gives priority to security and liquidity and the Authority's aim is to achieve a yield commensurate with these principles. The Council continued to adopt a cautious approach to lending to financial institutions and continuously monitored credit quality information relating to counterparties.
22. During the first half of the financial year short term fixed deposits of up to 12 months have been placed with banks and building societies on the approved lending list and Money Market Funds have been utilised for short-term liquidity. Opportunities to place longer-term deposits have been limited.
23. The Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2017/18 included the use of external fund managers and pooled funds to diversify the investment portfolio through the use of different investment instruments, investment in different markets, and exposure to a range of counterparties. It is expected that these funds should outperform the Council's in-house investment performance over a rolling three year period. The strategy permitted up to 50% of the total portfolio to be invested with external fund managers and pooled funds (excluding Money Market Funds). The performance of the pooled funds will continue to be monitored by the Treasury Management Strategy Team (TMST) throughout the year against respective benchmarks and the in-house portfolio.
24. The Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2017/18 permits the use of covered bonds with a minimum issue rating of A-. The maximum maturity period for in house investments and investments held by fund managers is 3 and 10 years respectively.
25. Covered bonds are conventional bonds (fixed or floating) that are backed by a separate group of loans, usually prime residential mortgages. The issue is over collateralised, meaning that the underlying pool of assets is often greater than the principal amount of the issued security. This lowers the creditor's exposure to default risk meaning covered bonds are usually rated AAA, higher than the rating given to the issuer.
26. Covered Bonds offer an alternative to traditional, unsecured investments and provide a higher level of protection in the form of bail-in exemption, dual recourse and over collateralisation. The additional security means that investors receive a relatively lower return compared to an unsecured deposit. However, the high credit quality of covered bonds means that a longer duration can be taken with counterparties where maturities would usually be limited.
27. Due to the high level of protection provided, it is recommended that the minimum issue rating for covered bonds be increased to AAA rating and the maximum maturity period lengthened to 20 years. These changes require an amendment to Appendix C of the

Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2017/18, an updated version of the appendix can be view in Annex 6 of this paper.

The Council's Lending List

28. The Council's in-house cash balances were deposited with institutions that meet the Council's approved credit rating criteria. The approved Lending List is updated to reflect changes in counterparty credit quality with changes reported to Cabinet on a bi-monthly basis. Annex 1 shows the amendments incorporated into the Lending List during the first half of 2017/18, in accordance with the approved credit rating criteria.
29. There were a few credit rating changes during the quarter. The significant change was the downgrade by Moody's to the UK sovereign rating in September from Aa1 to Aa2 which resulted in subsequent downgrades to sub-sovereign entities including local authorities. Moody's downgraded Standard Chartered Bank's long-term rating to A1 from Aa3 on the expectation that the bank's profitability will be lower following management's efforts to de-risk their balance sheet. The agency also affirmed Royal Bank of Scotland's and NatWest's long-term ratings at Baa1, placed Lloyds Bank's A1 rating on review for upgrade, revised the outlook of Santander UK plc, and Nationwide and Coventry building societies from negative to stable but downgraded the long-term rating of Leeds BS from A2 to A3. The agency downgraded long-term ratings of the major Canadian banks on the expectation of a more challenging operating environment and the ratings of the large Australian banks on its view of the rising risks from their exposure to the Australian housing market and the elevated proportion of lending to residential property investors.
30. S&P also revised Nordea Bank's outlook to stable from negative, whilst affirming their long-term rating at AA-. The agency also upgraded the long-term rating of ING Bank from A to A+.
31. The new EU regulations for Money Market Funds were finally approved and published in July and existing funds will have to be compliant by no later than 21st January 2019. The key features include Low Volatility NAV (LVNAV) Money Market Funds which will be permitted to maintain a constant dealing NAV, providing they meet strict new criteria and minimum liquidity requirements. MMFs will not be prohibited from having an external fund rating (as had been suggested in draft regulations). Arlingclose expects most of the short-term MMFs it recommends to convert to the LVNAV structure and awaits confirmation from each fund.
32. In the six months to 30 September 2017 there were no instances of breaches in policy in relation to the Council's Lending List. Any breaches in policy will be reported to Cabinet as part of the bi-monthly Business Strategy and Financial Monitoring report.

Investment Performance

33. Security of capital has remained the Authority's main investment objective. This has been maintained by following the Authority's counterparty policy as set out in its Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2017/18.

34. The average daily balance of temporary surplus cash invested in-house in the six months to 30 September was £361m. The Council achieved an average in-house return for that period of 0.65%, above the budgeted rate of 0.55% set in the strategy. This has produced gross interest receivable of £1.172m for the period to 30 September.
35. Temporary surplus cash includes; developer contributions; council reserves and balances; trust fund balances; and various other funds to which the Council pays interest at each financial year end, based on the average three month London Interbank Bid (LIBID) rate.
36. The Council uses the three month inter-bank sterling bid rate as its benchmark to measure its own in-house investment performance. During the first half of 2017/18 the average three month inter-bank sterling rate was 0.18%. The Council's average in-house return of 0.65% exceeded the benchmark by 0.47%. The Council operates a number of call accounts and instant access Money Market Funds to deposit short-term cash surpluses. The average balance held on overnight deposit in money market funds or call accounts in the 6 months to 30 September was £70.8m.
37. The UK Bank Rate had been maintained at 0.5% since March 2009 until August 2016, when it was cut to 0.25%. Arlingclose currently forecast the bank rate to remain at 0.25%, but with near term upside risk. The Monetary Policy Committee will next meet on the 2nd November 2017 and an update on its outcome will be provided at Audit & Governance Committee. The Council remains unconvinced that the UK's economic outlook justifies a rate increase at this stage but does recognise a change in MPC rhetoric to imply a rise in the "coming months". Short-term money market rates have remained at relatively low levels. Gilt yields are forecast to remain broadly stable across the medium term, but there may be near term volatility due to shifts in interest rate expectations.

External Fund Managers and Pooled Funds

38. The Council continued to use pooled funds with variable net asset value. Weighted by value pooled fund investments produced an overall annualised return of 3.8% for the period. These investments are held with a long-term view and performance is assessed accordingly.
39. Gross distributions from pooled funds have totalled £0.46m in the first six months of the year. This brings total income, including gross interest receivable on in-house deposits to £1.63m for the period.

Prudential Indicators for Treasury Management

40. The Authority confirms compliance with its Prudential Indicators for 2017/18, which were set as part of the Authority's Treasury Management Strategy Statement. The position as at 30 September 2017 for the Prudential Indicators is shown in Annex 4.

External Performance Indicators and Statistics

41. The County Council is a member of the CIPFA Treasury and Debt Management benchmarking club and receives annual reports comparing returns and interest payable against other authorities. The benchmarking results for 2016/17 showed that Oxfordshire County Council had achieved an average total investment return of 0.90% compared with an average of 0.85% for the all member group.
42. The average interest rate paid for all debt during 2016/17 was 4.45%, with an average of 4.06% for the comparative all member group. It should be noted that all of Oxfordshire County Council's debt is long-term, whereas the averages for the comparators include short-term debt which has a lower interest rate and so reduces the averages. Oxfordshire County Council had a higher than average proportion of its debt portfolio in PWLB loans at 87% compared to 72% for the all member group. Oxfordshire County Council had 12% of its debt in LOBO loans as at 31 March 2017 compared with an average of 14% for the comparative group.
43. Arlingclose also benchmark the Council's investment performance against its other clients on a quarterly basis. The results of the quarter 2 benchmarking to 30 September 2017 are shown in Annex 5.
44. The benchmarking results show that the Council was achieving higher than average interest on deposits at 30 September 2017, when compared with a group of 138 other local authorities. This has been achieved by placing deposits over a longer than average duration with institutions that are of higher than average credit quality.
45. Oxfordshire had a higher than average allocation to fixed and local authority deposits when compared with other local authorities in the benchmarking exercise. Oxfordshire also had a notably lower than average exposure to money market funds and call accounts.

Training

46. Individuals within the Treasury Management Team continue to keep up to date with the latest developments and attend external workshops and conferences where relevant.

Financial and Legal Implications

47. Interest payable and receivable in relation to Treasury Management activities are included within the overall Strategic Measures budget. In house interest receivable for 2017/18 is currently forecast as £1.750m, exceeding the budgeted figure of £1.250m by £0.500m. Of the forecast £1.750m interest receivable, £1.172m had been realised as at the 30 September 2017. The increased interest received is due to the achievement of higher than forecast average interest rates. For example, an additional £0.060m has been generated by entering into a Revolving Credit Facility with a Registered Provider which was not factored into the 2017/18 budget.
48. Dividends payable from external funds in 2017/18 are forecast as £0.900m, £0.300m above the 2017/18 budget of £0.600m. This increase is due to higher than anticipated performance by the CCLA Property Fund.

49. Interest payable is currently forecast to be in line with the budgeted figure of £17.6m.

Regulatory Updates

50. **MiFID II:** Local authorities are currently treated by regulated financial services firms as professional clients who can “opt down” to be treated as retail clients instead. But from January 2018, as a result of the second Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID II), local authorities will be treated as retail clients who can “opt up” to be professional clients, providing that they meet certain criteria. Regulated financial services firms include banks; brokers, advisers, fund managers and custodians, but only where they are selling, arranging, advising or managing designated investments. In order to opt up to professional, the authority must have an investment balance of at least £10 million and the person authorised to make investment decisions on behalf of the authority must have at least one year’s relevant professional experience. In addition, the firm must assess that that person has the expertise, experience and knowledge to make investment decisions and understand the risks involved.
51. The main additional protection for retail clients is a duty on the firm to ensure that the investment is “suitable” for the client. However, local authorities are not protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme nor are they eligible to complain to the Financial Ombudsman Service whether they are retail or professional clients. It is also likely that retail clients will face an increased cost and potentially restricted access to certain products including money market funds, pooled funds, treasury bills, bonds, shares and to financial advice. The Authority has declined to opt down to retail client status in the past as the costs were thought to outweigh the benefits.
52. The Council meets the conditions to opt up to professional status and intends to do so in order to maintain their current MiFID status. However, the regulatory changes are creating significant administrative work as the Council is required to provide evidence to meet each financial institutions individual requirements to allow them to complete their assessment that the new requirements for “opting up” to elective professional client status have been met.
53. **CIPFA Consultation on Prudential and Treasury Management Codes:** In February 2017 CIPFA canvassed views on the relevance, adoption and practical application of the Treasury Management and Prudential Codes and after reviewing responses launched a further consultation on changes to the codes in August. The Council submitted responses to both consultations on the 29 September 2017.
54. The proposed changes to the Prudential Code include the production of a new high-level Capital Strategy report to full council which will cover the basics of the capital programme and treasury management. The prudential indicators for capital expenditure and the authorised borrowing limit would be included in this report but other indicators may be delegated to another committee. There are plans to drop certain prudential indicators, however local indicators are recommended for ring fenced funds (including the HRA) and for group accounts. Other proposed changes include applying the principles of the Code to subsidiaries.
55. Proposed changes to the Treasury Management Code include the potential for non-treasury investments such as commercial investments in properties in the definition of “investments” as well as loans made or shares brought for service purposes. Another proposed change is

the inclusion of financial guarantees as instruments requiring risk management and addressed within the Treasury Management Strategy. Approval of the technical detail of the Treasury Management Strategy may be delegated to a committee rather than needing approval of full Council. There are also plans to drop or alter some of the current treasury management indicators.

56. CIPFA intends to publish the two revised Codes towards the end of 2017 for implementation in 2018/19, although CIPFA plans to put transitional arrangements in place for reports that are required to be approved before the start of the 2018/19 financial year. The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and CIPFA wish to have a more rigorous framework in place for the treatment of commercial investments as soon as is practical. It is understood that DCLG will be revising its Investment Guidance (and its Minimum Revenue Position guidance) for local authorities in England; however there have been no discussions with the devolved administrations yet.

RECOMMENDATION

57. **Council is RECOMMENDED to approve the revision to the Treasury Management Strategy Statement & Annual Investment Strategy 2017/18.**

LORNA BAXTER
Director of Finance

Contact officer: Joseph Turner – Financial Manager – Treasury
Contact number: 07392 318984

November 2017

Lending List Changes from 1 April 2017 to 30 September 2017

Counterparty	Lending Limit	Maximum Maturity
Counterparties added/reinstated		
Nordea Bank AB	£25,000,000	13 months
Australia and NZ Banking Group	£25,000,000	6 months
Counterparties suspended		
None		
Lending limits & Maturity limits increased		
DBS Bank (Development Bank of Singapore)	£25,000,000	13 months
United Overseas Bank	£25,000,000	13 months
Oversea Chinese-Banking Corp	£25,000,000	13 months
Close Brothers Ltd	£15,000,000	6 months
Lending limits & Maturity limits decreased		
None		

Pension Fund Lending list changes

The Oxfordshire Pension Fund cash balances are held separately from County Council cash and are deposited in accordance with the Cash Management Strategy approved by the Pension Fund Committee. The Strategy for 2017/18 is to use a sub-set of the Councils approved counterparties. There have so far been no changes to Pension Fund lending list in 2017/18.

Annex 2

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL DEBT FINANCING 2017/18

<u>Debt Profile</u>		£m
1. PWLB	87%	335.38
2. Other Long Term Loans	13%	<u>50.00</u>
3. Sub-total External Debt		385.38
4. Internal Balances		<u>-15.64</u>
5. Actual Debt at 31 March 2017	100%	369.74
6. Government Supported Borrowing		0.00
7. Unsupported Borrowing		31.00
8. Borrowing in Advance		0.00
9. Minimum Revenue Provision		<u>-8.44</u>
10. Forecast Debt at 31 March 2018		392.30
<u>Maturing Debt</u>		
11. PWLB loans maturing during the year		18.00
12. PWLB loans repaid prematurely in the course of debt restructuring		<u>0.00</u>
13. Total Maturing Debt		-18.00
<u>New External Borrowing</u>		
14. PWLB Normal		0.00
15. PWLB loans raised in the course of debt restructuring		0.00
16. Money Market LOBO loans		<u>0.00</u>
17. Total New External Borrowing		0.00
<u>Debt Profile Year End</u>		
18. PWLB	86%	317.38
19. Money Market loans (incl £45m LOBOs)	14%	<u>50.00</u>
20. Forecast Sub-total External Debt		367.38
21. Forecast Internal Balances		<u>24.92</u>
22. Forecast Debt at 31 March 2018	100%	392.30

Line

- 1 – 5 This is a breakdown of the Council's debt at the beginning of the financial year (1 April 2017). The PWLB is a government agency operating within the Debt Management Office. LOBO (Lender's Option/ Borrower's Option) loans are long-term loans, with a maturity of up to 60 years, which includes a re-pricing option for the bank at predetermined time intervals. Internal balances include provisions, reserves, revenue balances, capital receipts unapplied, and excess of creditors over debtors.
- 6 'Government Supported Borrowing' is the amount that the Council can borrow in any one year to finance the capital programme. This is determined by Central Government, and in theory supported through the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) system.
- 7 'Unsupported Borrowing' reflects Prudential Borrowing taken by the authority whereby the associated borrowing costs are met by savings in the revenue budget.
- 8 'Borrowing in Advance' is the amount the Council borrowed in advance to fund future capital finance costs.
- 9 The amount of debt to be repaid from revenue. The sum to be repaid annually is laid down in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, which stipulates that the repayments must equate to at least 4% of the debt outstanding at 1 April each year.
- 10 The Council's forecast total debt by the end of the financial year, after taking into account new borrowing, debt repayment and movement in funding by internal balances.
- 11 The Council's normal maturing PWLB debt.
- 12 PWLB debt repaid early during the year.
- 13 Total debt repayable during the year.
- 14 The normal PWLB borrowing undertaken by the Council during 2017/18.
- 15 New PWLB loans to replace debt repaid early.
- 16 The Money Market borrowing undertaken by the Council during 2017/18
- 17 The total external borrowing undertaken.
- 18-22 The Council's forecast debt profile at the end of the year.

Long-Term Debt Maturing 2017/18**Public Works Loan Board: Loans Matured during first half of 2017/18**

Date	Amount £m	Rate %
13/07/2017	0.500	2.35%
31/07/2017	0.500	2.35%
20/09/2017	5.000	7.88%
Total	6.000	

Public Works Loan Board: Loans Due to Mature during second half of 2017/18

Date	Amount £m	Rate %
31/10/2017	6.000	5.00%
13/01/2018	0.500	2.35%
31/01/2018	0.500	2.35%
02/03/2018	5.000	8.13%
Total	12.000	

Prudential Indicators Monitoring at 30 September 2017

The Local Government Act 2003 requires the Authority to have regard to CIPFA's Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code) when determining how much money it can afford to borrow. To demonstrate that the Authority has fulfilled the requirements of the Prudential Code the following indicators must be set and monitored each year.

Authorised and Operational Limit for External Debt

Actual debt levels are monitored against the Operational Boundary and Authorised Limit for External Debt below. The Operational Boundary is based on the Authority's estimate of most likely, i.e. prudent, but not worst case scenario for external debt. The council confirms that the Operational Boundary has not been breached during 2017/18.

The Authorised Limit is the affordable borrowing limit determined in compliance with the Local Government Act 2003. It is the maximum debt that the Authority can legally owe. The authorised limit provides headroom over and above the operational boundary for unusual cash movements. The Authority confirms that the Authorised limit was not breached in the first half of 2017/18.

Authorised limit for External Debt	£455,000,000	
Operational Limit for External Debt	£450,000,000	
Capital Financing Requirement for year	£406,386,000	
	Actual 30/09/2017	Forecast 31/03/2018
Borrowing	£379,382,618	£367,382,618
Other Long-Term Liabilities	£ 30,000,000	£ 30,000,000
Total	£409,382,618	£397,382,618

Interest Rate Exposures

These indicators are set to control the Authority's exposure to interest rate risk. The upper limits on fixed and variable rate interest exposures. Fixed rate investments and borrowings are those where the rate of interest is fixed for the whole financial year. Instruments that mature during the financial year are classed as variable rate.

Fixed Interest Rate Exposure

Fixed Interest Net Borrowing limit	£350,000,000
Actual at 30 September 2017	£124,382,618

Variable Interest Rate Exposure

Variable Interest Net Borrowing limit	£0
Actual at 30 September 2017	-£116,914,945

Principal Sums Invested over 365 days

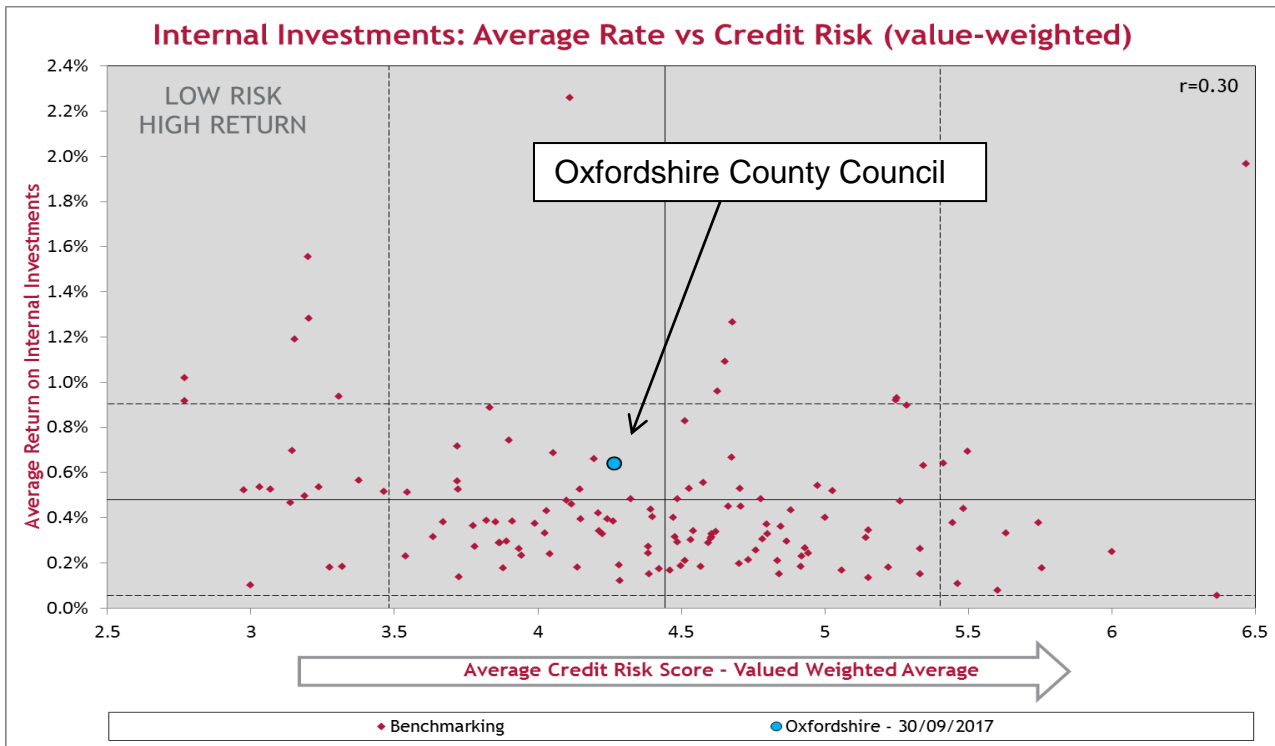
Total sums invested for more than 364 days limit	£ 85,000,000
Actual sums invested for more than 364 days	£ 58,000,000

Maturity Structure of Borrowing

This indicator is set to control the Authority's exposure to refinancing risk. The upper and lower limits on the maturity structure of fixed rate borrowing and the actual structure at 30 September 2017, are shown below. Time periods start on the first day of each financial year. The maturity date of borrowing is the earliest date on which the lender can demand repayment.

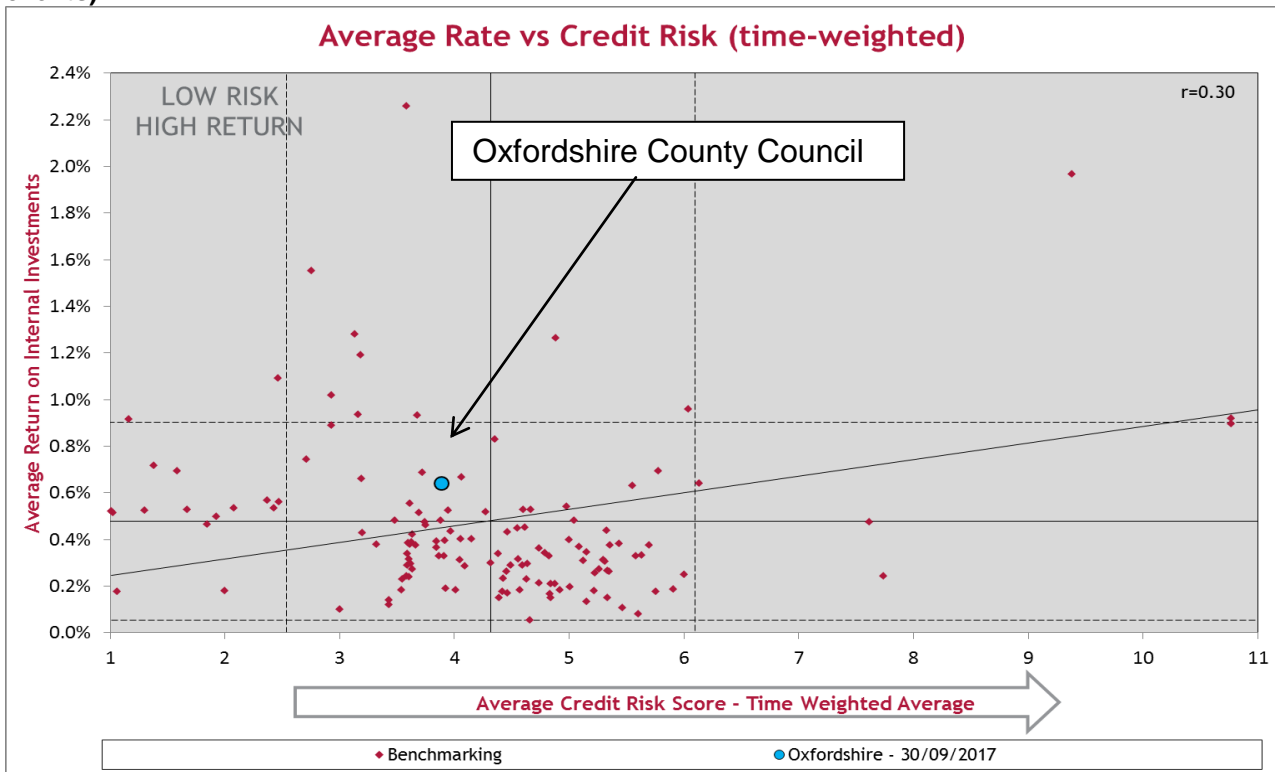
	Limit %	Actual %
Under 12 months	0 - 20	9.75
12 – 24 months	0 - 25	7.64
24 months – 5 years	0 - 35	11.86
5 years to 10 years	5 - 40	14.76
10 years +	50 - 95	55.99

Value weighted average (all clients)



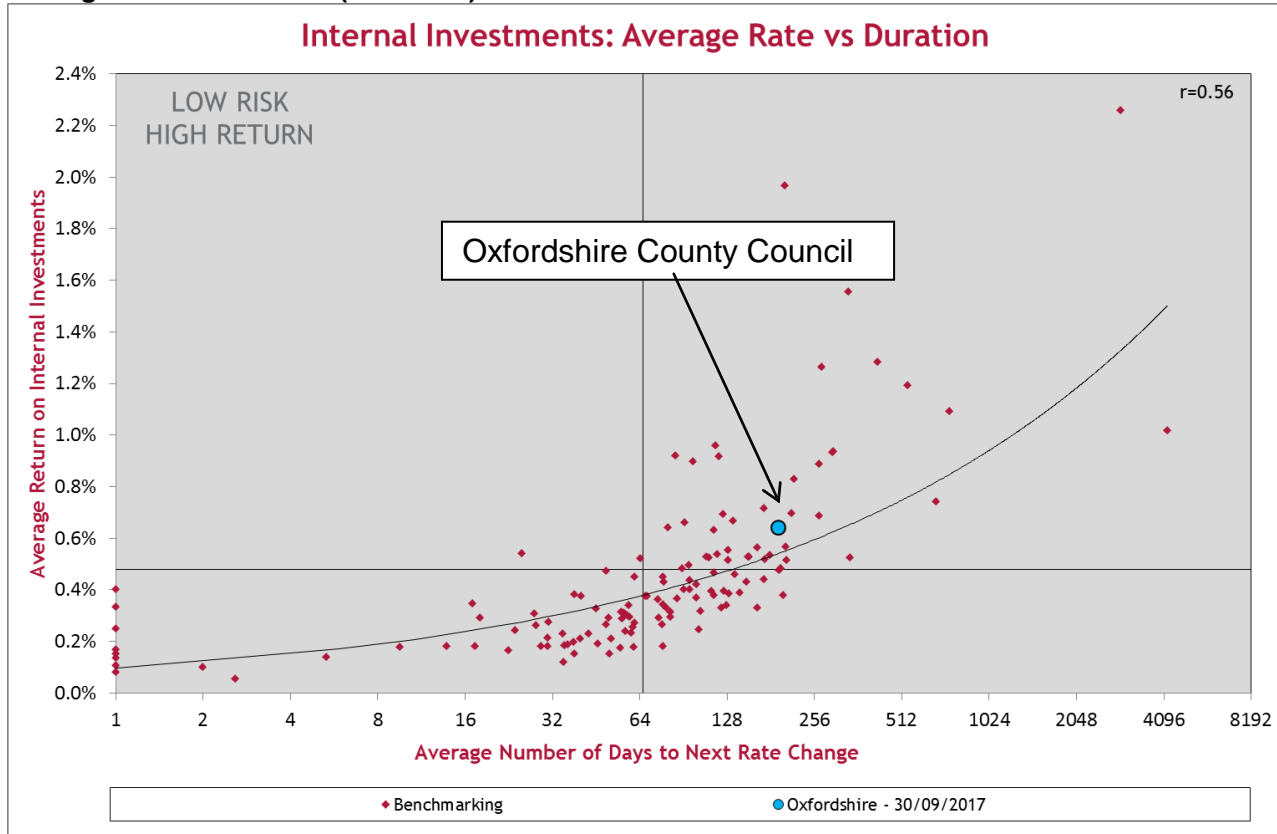
This graph shows that, at 30 September 2017, Oxfordshire achieved a higher than average return for lower than average credit risk, weighted by deposit size.

Time weighted Average (all clients)



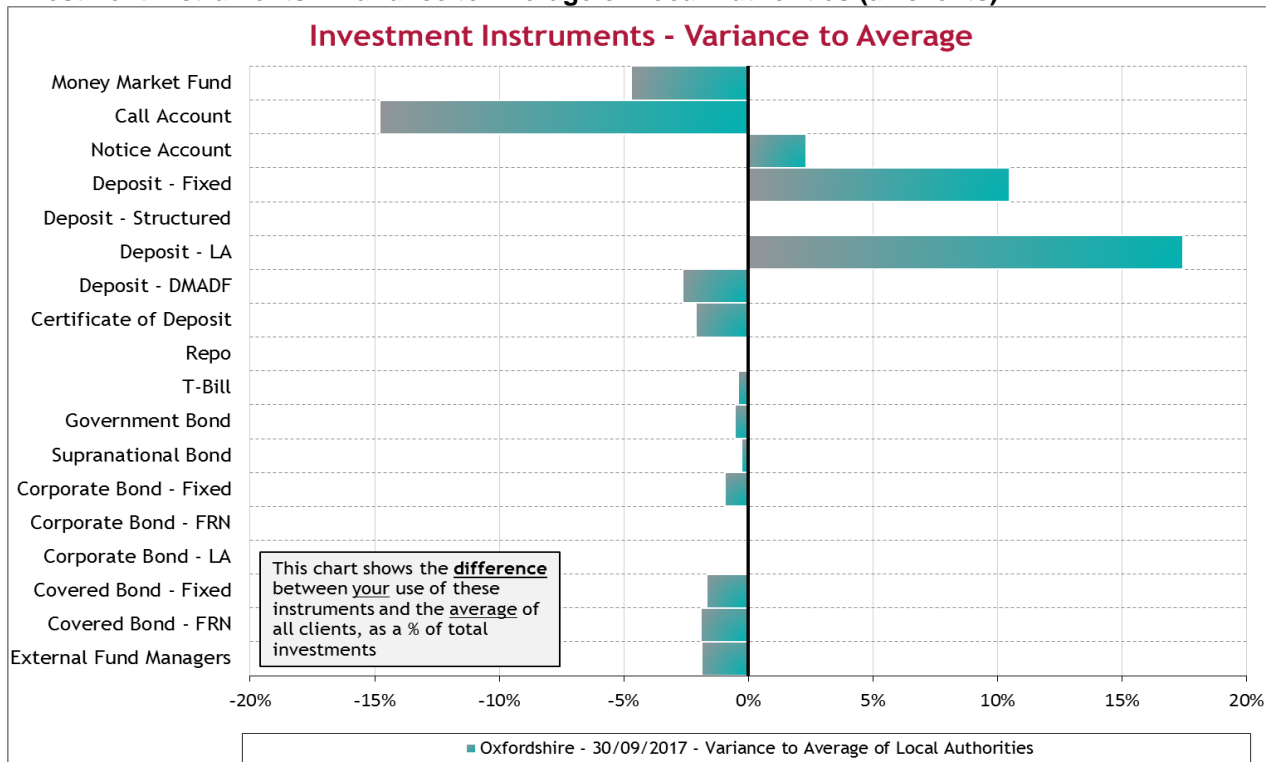
This graph shows that, at 30 September 2017, Oxfordshire achieved higher than average return for lower than average credit risk, weighted by duration.

Average Rate vs Duration (all clients)



This graph shows that, at 30 September 2017, Oxfordshire achieved a higher than average return by placing deposits for longer than average duration.

Investment Instruments – Variance to Average of Local Authorities (all clients)



This graph shows that, at September 2017, Oxfordshire had notably higher than average allocation to external funds, fixed and local authority deposits when compared with other local authorities. Oxfordshire also had notably lower exposures to money market funds and call accounts.

Amended Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2017/18 – Appendix C

Specified Investments

Investment Instrument	Minimum Credit Criteria	Use
Debt Management Agency Deposit Facility	N/A	In-house and Fund Managers
Term Deposits – UK Government	N/A	In-house
Term Deposits – Banks and Building Societies	Short-term F1, Long-term BBB+, Minimum Sovereign Rating AA+	In-house and Fund Managers
Certificates of Deposit issued by Banks and Building Societies	A1 or P1	In-house on a buy and hold basis and Fund Managers
Money Market Funds with a Constant Net Asset Value	AAA	In-house and Fund Managers
Other Money Market Funds and Collective Investment Schemes ⁴	Minimum equivalent credit rating of A+. These funds do not have short-term or support ratings.	In-house and Fund Managers
UK Government Gilts	AA	In-house on a buy and hold basis and Fund Managers
Treasury Bills	N/A	In-house and Fund Managers
Reverse Repurchase Agreements - maturity under 1 year from arrangement and counterparty is of high credit quality (not collateral)	Long Term Counterparty Rating A-	In-house and Fund Managers
Covered Bonds – maturity under 1 year from arrangement	Minimum issue rating of A-	In-house and Fund Managers

⁴ I.e., credit rated funds which meet the definition of a collective investment scheme as defined in SI 2004 No 534 and SI 2007 No 573.

Non-Specified Investments

Investment Instrument	Minimum Credit Criteria	Use	Max % of total Investments	Max Maturity Period
Term Deposits – other Local Authorities (maturities in excess of 1 year)	N/A	In-house	50%	3 years
Term Deposits – Banks and Building Societies (maturities in excess of 1 year)	Short-term F1+, Long-term AA-	In-house and Fund Managers	50% in-house; 100% External Funds	3 years
Structured Products (e.g. Callable deposits, range accruals, snowballs, escalators etc.)	Short-term F1+, Long-term AA-	In-house and Fund Managers	50% in-house; 100% External Funds	3 years
UK Government Gilts with maturities in excess of 1 year	AAA	In-house and Fund Managers	50% in-house; 100% External Funds	5 years in-house, 10 years fund managers
Bonds issued by Multilateral development banks	AAA	In-house and Fund Managers	50% in-house; 100% External Fund	5 years in-house, 10 years fund managers
Bonds issued by a financial institution which is guaranteed by the UK Government	AA	In-house and Fund Managers	50% in-house; 100% External Fund	5 years in-house
Supranationals	N/A	In-house and Fund Managers	50% in-house; 100% of External Fund	5 years in-house, 30 years fund managers

Investment Instrument	Minimum Credit Criteria	Use	Max % of total Investments	Max Maturity Period
Money Market Funds and Collective Investment Schemes ⁵ but which are not credit rated	N/A	In-house and Fund Managers	50% In-house; 100% External Funds	Pooled Funds do not have a defined maturity date
Sovereign Bond Issues	AAA	In-house on a buy and hold basis. Fund Managers	50% in-house; 100% External Funds	5 year in-house, 30 years fund managers
Reverse Repurchase Agreements - maturity in excess of 1 year, or/and counterparty not of high credit quality.	Minimum long term rating of A-	In-house and Fund Managers	50% in-house; 100% External Funds	3 years
Covered Bonds	AAA	In-house and Fund Managers	50% in-house; 100% External Funds	20 years
Registered Providers	As agreed by TMST in consultation with the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Finance	In-house	50% In-house	5 years

The maximum limits for in-house investments apply at the time of arrangement.

⁵ Pooled funds which meet the definition of a collective investment scheme as defined in SI 2004 No 534 and SI 2007 No 573.

Division(s): N/A

COUNCIL – 12 DECEMBER 2017

Annual Partnerships Update

Report by the Assistant Chief Executive

Introduction

1. Oxfordshire County Council is engaged in a range of local partnerships, some sitting within a statutory framework, others locally designed. The objective of each partnership is to facilitate join up across the public sector and with other local partners, and to add our perspective and organisational effort to that of other local bodies to address particular challenges.
2. Those partnerships recognised as particularly important to the overall outcomes for Oxfordshire report annually to Council, within a light touch framework which enables them to set out some of the key activities over the past year, and their aims and challenges for the year ahead.

The partnership landscape

3. The partnership landscape in which we operate is complex and becoming increasingly important with the growing move towards more collaborative, cross-organisational approaches to meeting the needs of Oxfordshire residents. The existing partnership infrastructure in Oxfordshire brings together key public, private, voluntary and community sector organisations to collaborate on health and wellbeing, safeguarding, safer communities and economic growth. The key partnerships are:
 - Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board (statutory)
 - Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (statutory)
 - Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board (statutory)
 - Safer Oxfordshire Partnership
 - Thames Valley Emergency Services Collaboration (statutory)
 - Oxfordshire Stronger Communities Alliance
 - Oxfordshire Strategic Schools Partnership Board
 - Oxfordshire Early Years Board
 - Oxfordshire Growth Board
 - Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership
 - Oxfordshire Environment Partnership
4. Underpinning these formal partnerships is a network of informal and formal working relationships, sub-groups / working groups and contractual agreements that help to deliver services in line with partnership strategies and priorities.

5. There are also a number of key strategies developed by the various partnerships listed above, which focus on their specific areas of responsibility. These include (but are not limited to) the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Children's Plan, Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy, Oxfordshire Strategic Environmental Economic Investment Plan and various annual business plans.

Annual update report

6. This report provides an update on the Oxfordshire-wide partnerships and their key activities over the last year. Each partnership report provides the following information:
 - The current focus for the Partnership;
 - The personnel (Chairman and supporting staff) of the Partnership
 - The Partnership's governance arrangements;
 - The Partnership's key achievements in the last year;
 - The aims for the Partnership in the year ahead;
 - The key challenges for the Partnership and how these will be addressed going forward.
7. Since the last partnerships report a new Thames Valley Emergency Services Collaboration has been established under the Policing and Crime Act in 2017 and information about this is included. This collaborative arrangement brings together Fire, Police and Ambulance services operating across the Thames Valley in the interests of greater efficiency and effectiveness.

RECOMMENDATION

8. **Council is RECOMMENDED to note the report.**

MAGGIE SCOTT

Assistant Chief Executive

Contact Officer: Katie Read
Katie.Read@oxfordshire.gov.uk 07584 909530

Background Papers: Nil

November 2017

Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board

Date of completion	26 October 2017
Chairman	Councillor Ian Hudspeth
OCC Lead Member	Councillor Ian Hudspeth
OCC Lead Officer	Jonathan McWilliam
Last Meeting Date	13 July 2017
Next Meeting Date	09 November 2017
Website Address	https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/health-and-wellbeing-board
Governance Arrangements	The Health and Wellbeing Board is a committee of the Council by virtue of the Health & Social Care Act 2012 and the Local Authority (Public Health, Health & Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013. The terms of reference ¹ set out the requirement to produce a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy plus additional responsibilities.

Current Focus of the Partnership

The Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) meets 3 times a year and conducts business in the following main groups:

1. **Core business** includes the development of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Oxfordshire, which sets out the latest information on the population's health including: population change; a view of the determinants of health; inequalities issues; levels of disease; leading causes of death; and information on service use. This analysis is used by the Board to agree strategic priorities that are set out in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and is updated every year. The Strategy sets out ambitious targets which demonstrate progress in delivering priority work and which are monitored at every meeting.
2. There are **3 partnerships** that report to the Health and Wellbeing Board. Each of these partnerships leads on delivery of some of the priorities in the Joint HWB Strategy. The current focus for these partnerships includes
 - a. **The Children's Trust**
 - i. Revising the Children's Plan for Oxfordshire;
 - ii. Delivering the priorities set out in the Joint HWB Strategy;
 - iii. Working on the themes of Early Help and Early Intervention: Educational Attainment for vulnerable children and young people; Managing transitions into adulthood.
 - b. **The Joint Management Groups, overseeing the Better Care Fund and Adults of a Working Age pool**
 - i. Revising the Older People Strategy;
 - ii. Integration of the workforce in health and social care;
 - iii. Delivering Better Care Fund priorities to reduce transfers of care from

¹ https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/sites/default/files/folders/documents/socialandhealthcare/health-and-wellbeing-board/Health_and_Wellbeing_BoardTOR.pdf

hospital.

c. The Health Improvement Board

- i. Driving the focus on Prevention initiatives by all partners;
- ii. Developing work on improving health through planning healthy housing developments, building on the learning from the Healthy New Towns in Barton and Bicester;
- iii. Ensuring that work is targeted to reduce health inequalities wherever possible.

3. **Overseeing delivery of the recommendations** made by the Health Inequalities Commission. There were 60 recommendations which highlight the need to focus on improving outcomes for particular groups of people within Oxfordshire.

<p>Key achievements in the last year</p>

The Children's Trust

The Children's Trust reported many achievements in 2016-17, including:

- Our aspirational target for breastfeeding rates is 63%. Current performance is 62.2%;
- High coverage rates for immunisations, including over 95% of children receiving their first dose of MMR vaccine (though some districts remained below 94%);
- A 34% increase in referrals to Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). Waiting times improved in the year and are better than the national figure;
- All secondary schools have a health improvement plan covering smoking, drug and alcohol initiatives, as well as access to school nurses;
- Pupils between key stage 1 and 2 for whom English is an additional language (EAL) make more progress than the same cohorts nationally;
- The number of young carers identified and worked with has substantially increased;
- Children's social care services are rated as "good" by OFSTED;
- The OFSTED Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) of multi-agency response to abuse and neglect in Oxfordshire (2016), judged that Oxfordshire now has "a highly developed and well-functioning approach to tackling exploitation";
- Child Protection activity across all agencies including police, children's social care, and health has increased in Oxfordshire as well as nationally;
- At the end of March 2016, 87% of Oxfordshire schools were 'good' or 'outstanding' compared to 86% nationally. Over 76,500 young people attend good or outstanding schools, an increase of 9,000 since August 2013;
- Early years outcomes are now above the national average;
- In new performance measures for key stage 4, Oxfordshire performs above the national average.

The Joint Management Group

The Joint Management Group reported many achievements in 2016-17, including:

- Better Care Fund national requirements for closer working of health and social care in 2016/17 have been supported by the joint commissioning of reablement programmes, dementia support and services for carers;
- Oxfordshire is hitting national targets in terms of access and waiting times,

recovery rates for talking therapies, and for access to early intervention in psychosis;

- Oxfordshire has a range of services that support the management of mental health needs in the acute care pathways (Street Triage, ambulance triage, extended hours of psychiatric support in Emergency Department) and there has been a reduction in the use of police cells to assess people detained under the Mental Health Act;
- The number of people with severe mental illness in work or settled accommodation has increased;
- The percentage of the expected population with dementia with a recorded diagnosis has increased. The Dementia Support Service is working with practices to ensure all people with a diagnosis are known to the service.

The Health Improvement Board

The Health Improvement Board reported many achievements in 2016-17, including:

- The completion and return of tests from people are eligible for bowel screening nearly met the national target of 60%. In Oxfordshire, the latest figures show 59.1% people completed the screening (Q1 in 2016-17). Death rates from bowel cancer in Oxfordshire are similar to the national average;
- Targets were met for the number of people invited for NHS Health Checks and a steady increase in uptake was noted throughout the year. Latest figures show poorer uptake in the City and NE Oxfordshire;
- Estimated prevalence of smokers in Oxfordshire is now down to 15.5% (2015) but fewer people are quitting using the commissioned services. It is thought that use of e-cigarettes has had an impact on this. There are still twice as many smokers in “routine and manual” occupations than in the Oxfordshire population as a whole;
- Less than 8% of women are recorded as smoking during pregnancy, less than the national figure of over 10%;
- The numbers of people successfully completing treatment for drug use has improved markedly. Oxfordshire is now above the national rate;
- Between 2014-15 and 2015-16, the prevalence of obesity in Oxfordshire increased in reception year and declined slightly in year 6. In reception year, obesity increased from 6.6% to 7%, and in year 6, declined from 16.2% to 16%. There is variation in the percentages of children who are overweight or obese, with higher rates in some minority ethnic groups and in more disadvantaged communities.
- Oxfordshire continues to have high numbers of people who are physically active and the proportion that are inactive has fallen;
- The number of households in temporary accommodation fell by 29, to 161 from 190 in 2016-17;
- There were 3057 households presenting at risk of being homeless that were prevented from being homeless because of the efforts of district councils (compared to 2992 cases in 2015/16);
- The number of rough sleepers fell to 79 (from a figure of 90 in 2015/16);
- New contracts are to be let for housing related support based on a joint commissioning arrangement and pooled budget.

Aims for the Partnership in the year ahead

The details of the aims of the HWB are set out in the performance framework of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy includes 60 separate indicators. Each of these is reported at every HWB meeting and the responsibility for delivery lies with the 3 partnership boards as described above.

Some of the high level aims in addition to the details set out in the Joint HWB Strategy include:

- Development of a new Children and Young People Plan;
- Revision of the Older People Strategy;
- Delivering the Better Care Fund priorities;
- Developing a framework for Mental Wellbeing that illustrates the contribution of all partners;
- Delivering the recommendations of the Health Inequalities Commission;
- Reviewing the governance of the HWB in the light of potential change in the

Key challenges going forward

health and social care system.

The challenges to the HWB include the following:

- The growing and aging population of Oxfordshire and the pressure on services as a result. This issue is highlighted in the Director of Public Health Annual report and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. Detailed information about the population enables partner organisations to respond to the challenge.
- The importance of preventing long term conditions and ill health so that the whole population can enjoy a good quality of life into older age. Embedding prevention initiatives into all partner plans is addressing this issue.
- Development of the health and social care system which are being driven nationally, such as discussion about Accountable Care Systems and the delivery of Sustainability and Transformation Plans. A review of governance to ensure the HWB can meet these challenges is to be proposed at the November meeting.

Overall, these challenges are addressed by building on the relationships and joint working arrangements that already exist. The Board benefits from a regular rhythm of needs assessment, priority setting, and performance management while also remaining flexible to address emerging issues. This is largely through the work of the partnership groups that report to it, and which cover a very wide range of issues between them.

Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB)

Date of completion	31 October 2017
Chairman	Paul Burnett, Independent Chair
OCC Lead Member	Cllr Steve Harrod Cllr Hibbert-Biles
OCC Lead Officer	Tan Lea
Last Meeting Date	28 September 2017
Next Meeting Date	4 December 2017
Website Address	www.oscb.org.uk
Governance Arrangements	<p>The Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB) is led by an Independent Chair and includes representation from all six local authorities in Oxfordshire, as well as the National Probation Service, the Community Rehabilitation Company, Thames Valley Police, Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, schools and Further Education colleges, the military, the voluntary sector and lay members.</p> <p>The Board meets 4 times per year and is supported by an Executive Group that meets 4 times per year.</p> <p>There are three area groups to ensure good communication lines to frontline practitioners. There are a further six themed subgroups.</p>

Current Focus of the Partnership

The OSCB remit is to co-ordinate and ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each agency on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Oxfordshire. This is done in two ways.

1. Co-ordination of local work by:
 - Developing robust policies and procedures;
 - Participating in the planning of services for children in Oxfordshire;
 - Communicating the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and explaining how this can be done.

2. Ensuring the effectiveness of that work by:
 - Monitoring what is done by partner agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children;
 - Undertaking serious case reviews and other multi-agency case reviews and sharing learning opportunities;
 - Collecting and analysing information about child deaths;
 - Publishing an annual report on the effectiveness of local arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Oxfordshire.

Additionally, the OSCB aims to fulfil its appropriate role within the partnership geography of the County. It is in essence, a scrutiny and challenge body and seeks to work alongside the relevant Scrutiny Committee to evaluate safeguarding performance.

The Independent Chair is a member of the Children's Trust is also responsible for:

- Attending two meetings of the Health and Well-Being Board;
- Ensuring appropriate alignments with Community Safety Partnerships to secure alignment between their strategic commissioning and operational delivery roles;
- Driving safeguarding improvements and effectiveness.

Underpinning this work is the aim to secure reciprocal scrutiny and challenge across these partnerships.

Key achievements in the last year
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Partnership work: The partnership can demonstrate a range of good work. The OSCB meets all the statutory requirements of Working Together. Significant work has taken place to improve access to early help, and to support for families and professionals including a new threshold of needs matrix and early help assessment. To support this toolkits and resources have been collated in preparation for an online portal.

Serious case reviews have driven practice improvements that include a template for chronologies for children subject to child protection planning. Procedures have also been developed to ensure that professionals meet and consider cases without parents, if necessary, to try and clarify why and develop a plan accordingly. With respect to child sexual exploitation, partners have developed a new simpler risk assessment tool, introduced local champions and worked to secure successful prosecutions against perpetrators of child sexual exploitation.

Training: In 2016/17 the OSCB delivered over 150 free safeguarding training and learning events as well as online learning. The training reached over 9000 members of the Oxfordshire workforce. The OSCB delivered termly newsletters to over 4000 members of the multi-agency workforce and e-bulletins to educational settings across the county. Work has taken place to renew the set of online procedures to make them simpler and more accessible.

Learning and improvement: The OSCB has run four events over the course of the year. Each time, approximately 150 delegates have attended. They have covered:

- Safeguarding risks online;
- Relationships and identity;
- Working with children with disability;
- Working with neglect.

Communications: The OSCB website was kept updated and was used to promote key messages. The OSCB delivered termly newsletters to over 4000 members of the multi-agency workforce, an increase from last year. The OSCB Safeguarding in Education subgroup released termly e-bulletins for early years, educational and further education settings.

Safeguarding procedures: Work has taken place to update the online manual. It has a new look, making it easier to access and navigate.

Scrutinising the effectiveness of services: The OSCB reviewed the work that is

done to support vulnerable groups and held lead officers to account with respect to:

- Education, Health and Care plans for disabled children;
- Domestic abuse;
- Working with neglect;
- Children at risk of CSE.

Whilst there is much to celebrate, the Board remains concerned about the rise in the numbers of children with child protection plans and the number of those in care. In 2016/17 there was also a reduction in the numbers of children and families referred for early help and support. There has been a welcome increase in the numbers being referred for early help and support in the early part of 2017/18, but the Board remains vigilant and proactive in seeking to sustain the increase in the numbers accessing early help while reducing the numbers in protection and care.

Aims for the Partnership in the year ahead

The OSCB has the following three aims for 2017/18:

1. **Improving the effectiveness of the Board** by collaborating with Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board (OSAB) and engagement with local communities including the voluntary and community sector;
2. **Improving practice** in tackling neglect and safeguarding adolescents at risk of exploitation;
3. **Taking robust action** following learning to ensure continuous improvement and to assess risk and capacity across the partnership.

The annual report presents the following objectives for multi-agency work going forward:

- Ensuring good understanding of thresholds;
- Being vigilant to emerging pressure points and concerns (safety online; self-harm; modern slavery; transgender young people and the potential radicalisation of children);
- Managing and improving change (transitions) for young people;
- Long-term planning for children in a multi-agency context.

All challenges are identified in the Business plan. Board business is tightly driven through processes such as an action log, challenge log, risk register and exception reporting against the Business plan.

The Chair has developed local strategic relationships to ensure that safeguarding risks in the child protection partnership are understood and managed effectively at the highest level. A Safeguarding Summit held in partnership with the Adults Safeguarding Children Board will take place in November 2017.

The Board has set a clear schedule of reporting to ensure that key safeguarding issues are challenged and practice is improved. Partners must persist with addressing long term issues of neglect and better protect vulnerable adolescents at risk of exploitation. The workforce needs to know how to work effectively with families experiencing domestic abuse, parental mental health, and drug and alcohol issues. Going forward, partners need to keep a tight grip across the partnership on what is working well, where challenges are emerging, and ensure targets are monitored for improvement.

The Board has a quality assurance programme in place led by a sub-group that tests how well learning from case reviews is embedded into practice across the safeguarding system via multi-agency audits, and also scrutinises how well partner agencies' safeguarding arrangements can show change. This year will focus on disabled children, neglect and perpetrators of crime.

Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board (OSAB)

Date of completion	2 November 2017
Chairman	Pamela Marsden (Independent Chair)
OCC Lead Member	Cllr Lawrie Stratford
OCC Lead Officer	Kate Terroni
Last Meeting Date	28 September 2017
Next Meeting Date	14 December 2017
Website Address	www.osab.co.uk
Governance Arrangements	<p>The Board includes members from all statutory agencies, including: Oxfordshire County Council (Adult Social Care, Public Health, Trading Standards and Fire & Rescue), Thames Valley Police, NHS England, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, the National Probation Service, and the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group. There are also members from CQC, AgeUK, Healthwatch, and the Oxfordshire Association of Care Providers.</p> <p>The Board has working relationships with other Boards and partnerships across the County detailed in the Joint Working Protocol covering the Health & Wellbeing Board, the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board and the Community Safety Partnerships (district and county level). Safeguarding Adult Boards became statutory bodies on 1st April 2015 following the implementation of the Care Act 2014.</p> <p>Within OCC the Annual Report goes to Performance Scrutiny, the Health & Wellbeing Board, and an annual briefing for all Councillors. From 2018 it will also go to Cabinet.</p>

Current Focus of the Partnership

The purpose of the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board is to create a framework within which all responsible agencies work together to ensure a coherent policy for the protection of vulnerable adults at risk of abuse and a consistent and effective response to any circumstances giving ground for concern/formal complaints/expressions of anxiety.

The OSAB aims to ensure that all incidents of suspected harm, abuse or neglect are reported and responded to proportionately, and in doing so:

- Enable people to maintain the maximum possible level of independence, choice and control;
- Promote the wellbeing, security and safety of vulnerable people consistent with their rights, capacity, and personal responsibility, as well as prevent abuse occurring wherever possible;
- Ensure that people feel able to complain without fear of retribution;

- Ensure that all professionals who have responsibilities relating to safeguarding adults have the skills and knowledge to carry out this function;
- Ensure that safeguarding adults is integral to the development and delivery of services in Oxfordshire.

There are six sub-groups which report to the Safeguarding Adults Board and have the following responsibilities:

- **Policy and Procedures:** To oversee the development, implementation and review of local policies and procedures that ensure:
 - the abuse of vulnerable adults is identified where it is occurring;
 - there is a clear reporting pathway;
 - there is an effective and coordinated response to abuse where it is occurring;
 - the needs and wishes of the vulnerable adult are central to the adult protection process.
- **Training:** To provide a comprehensive multi-agency programme to support single agency training in the areas of prevention, recognition and responsiveness to abuse and neglect. This is shared with the Children’s Board
- **Safeguarding Adult Review.** To provide assurances to the OSAB that recommendations and learning from all relevant serious case reviews (with multi-agency characteristics) have been considered, and that the relevant learning and recommendations are being implemented.
- **Performance, Information & Quality Assurance:** To receive data on agencies’ performance and to undertake audits to establish agencies’ effectiveness in safeguarding adults at risk.
- **Vulnerable Adults Mortality Panel:** The formation of this group was in response to the concerns raised through the Mazars Report (and supported by central government) regarding how deaths of adults living with a learning disability were scrutinised. The group’s first meeting was in Autumn 2016 and the role of the group is two-fold. First, the group will review the deaths of those with a learning disability that occurred between April 2011 and March 2015. Second, the group will act as the ongoing scrutiny panel for any new deaths of those with a learning disability, much the same as the Child Death Overview Panel operates in the Children’s Board.
- **Executive Group:** This is made up of the statutory partners and meets between Full Board meetings to drive forward the work agreed at the Full Board meetings. It also has an oversight function of the work of the sub-groups and is presented with information from other partnership groups, such as the OSCB or the CSPs, which may have relevance to the Adult Safeguarding agenda.

<p>Key achievements in the last year</p>

Peer Review

A Local Government Association (LGA) peer review was held in 2015 and set a number of recommendations reported in last year’s Annual Report (2015-16). In January 2017, the Peer Review team returned to Oxfordshire to assess our progress against the actions agreed. The review took place against a background of change

for the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board.

Progress against findings

Progress has been made against all the key findings. Of note were:

- The development and agreement of new Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board (OSAB) joint policies;
- The on-line referral process;
- The greater links between commissioning and contracting; and
- More involvement by all partners sharing leadership roles.

The Peer Review Report Conclusions

“The OSAB should be congratulated for the significant improvements that have been made across all areas of activity in a relatively short time...The Team felt this demonstrated that Oxfordshire has the key building blocks of clear leadership, commitment and energy to make improvements for the benefit of its population.”

The actions from the Peer Review Challenge Session have been incorporated into the Strategic Plan for 2017-18.

Multi-agency Training

The OSAB has launched multi-agency safeguarding training (bookable via the OSAB website). Though it is new, it appears that the training has a positive effect on the safeguarding concerns coming into the system. All courses are led by a Safeguarding Social Worker/Practice Supervisor so that professionals working at the frontline benefit from the vast experience and knowledge held by the Safeguarding Team members. Feedback from the courses has evidenced this view and satisfaction levels are currently above 98%.

The OSAB website is now in its second year and has added a training page to book the multi-agency training mentioned above. The Board’s website continues to host direct links to the Safeguarding Concerns Forms for professionals and members of the public. The thresholds and procedures documents are easily located. Feedback from professionals has been positive and responses to improvements have all been actioned in a timely fashion.

Aims for the Partnership in the year ahead

The Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board is a partnership committed to working together to ensure local safeguarding services are effective. Its remit is to lead the strategic development of adult safeguarding and to hold agencies to account for their safeguarding work. As such, the OSAB’s vision for Oxfordshire is as follows:

“Oxfordshire is a place where safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility, where the OSAB partners work together to recognise and prevent abuse so that adults at risk from harm feel safe and empowered to make their own life decisions.”

Principles and Values

The Principles and Values of the OSAB include:

- **Prevention:** All organisations will have the necessary culture and structures in place to work to prevent abuse from occurring and that takes all concerns seriously, working transparently and enabling swift proportionate interventions at an early stage. There is active engagement with all sections of the local community so that everyone is well informed about safeguarding and related

issues.

- **Proportionality:** All staff and volunteers, in whatever setting, have a key role in working towards preventing abuse or neglect from occurring, and in taking prompt, proportionate action when concerns arise. All staff and volunteers will have the appropriate level of skills, knowledge and training to safeguard adults from abuse.
- **Empowerment:** Any intervention and support provided is person-centred and focused on the outcomes identified by the individual. People must be supported with dignity and respect and be in control of decision making as much as possible. This includes enabling individuals to safeguard themselves from harm and to be able to report any concerns that they have.
- **Governance:** There is a robust outcome focused process and performance framework so that everyone undergoing safeguarding procedures will receive a consistently high quality service that is underpinned by multi-agency cooperation and continuous learning. The Board and its partners are accountable for what agencies do and learn from local experience and national policy.

Following the principles and values above, the Board has agreed the following priorities for 2017-18:

Prevention - It is better to take action before harm occurs

- Developing a prevention and early intervention strategy

Proportionality - Proportionate and least intrusive response

- Championing the multi-agency approach to safeguarding

Empowerment - Presumption of person led decisions and informed consent

- Running Stakeholder events (including public, service users, grass roots organisations and staff);
- Gaining feedback from users of safeguarding services and involving them in the strategic development of safeguarding and at OSAB meetings.

Governance - Ensuring the Board is fit for purpose and working effectively

- Ensuring Making Safeguarding Personal is fully implemented across the partnership;
- Ensuring the data collected by the Full Board provides a full picture of safeguarding activities and issues;
- Ensuring that all partners are encouraged and enabled to take on a leadership role;
- Reducing the paperwork associated with the Board;
- Reviewing the operational changes within Oxfordshire County Council's safeguarding service.

Joint Working – working together with the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board to ensure people are protected from birth until end of life

- Ensuring the work done with children transitioning to adult life is exemplary and offers them the best possible life chances, optimising opportunities;
- Ensuring domestic abuse services within Oxfordshire are fit for purpose and support victims and their dependents while ensuring high levels of prosecution of perpetrators;

- Ensuring the workforce within Oxfordshire undertake high quality safeguarding training that meets the needs of staff and volunteers, giving them the skills to work with safeguarding issues.

Key challenges going forward

In the context of significant organisational change, shrinking public sector budgets, the fact that several the issues are equally relevant to safeguarding vulnerable adults with care and support, and to reduce duplication, it was agreed that OSCB and OSAB would undertake an annual joint Impact Assessment on current pressures and activity by each member agency. Each agency would undertake this from a strategic perspective across their organisation and not as an individual member of either or both Boards. To ensure focus on the top priorities, each agency was asked to list their top three pressures. The key points raised by the impact assessment report were:

- **Managing Risk:** Individual agencies are effectively managing safeguarding risks within their service; however, in the current working context (greater demands, reduced budgets, recruitment and retention of staffing difficulties, and consequent levels of organisational change), we need to reinforce the agreed multi-agency approach to managing risk which views safeguarding collectively through the journey of the person rather than the response of the individual organisations. Where more than one agency is involved, risk levels should be assessed and managed collectively and not by an individual agency.
- **Rise in demand for services and activity pressure:** agencies identified three distinct increases in demand: 1) there are more safeguarding cases coming forward; 2) cases are more complex; and 3) there are greater expectations both from members of the public and from organisations themselves as they continue to learn more lessons about safeguarding. Many agencies indicated a rise in demand for particular client groups and in adult safeguarding concerns in particular.
- Most departments and organisations have **time-related targets** for dealing with different aspects of the safeguarding process which are increasingly difficult to achieve given this rise in demand. In the case of NPS (National Probation Service) - they need timely responses from CSC (Children's Social Care) in respect to same day reports to Magistrates and Crown Courts to ensure safe sentencing. In the case of OUH (Oxford University Hospitals), pressure to stick to the 4-hour emergency department rule can impair the quality of assessment in Emergency Departments. OHFT (Oxford Health Foundation Trust) also mention significant delays in authorisation of DOLs (deprivation of liberty safeguards) due to capacity pressures with potential adverse consequences for individuals. More complex cases are now being held in universal and non-statutory services, including the voluntary and community sector, as well as city and district councils.
- **Resources, staffing and restructure pressures:** Having a stable workforce is seen as an important safeguard for vulnerable people and families; however, most respondents talked about the staffing pressures that they were facing and the difficulty in recruiting and retaining suitably qualified staff. At least 8 of the 11 respondents also cited budget pressure or lack of resources as a key pressure on

safeguarding adults and children.

- **Workforce development and support:** In the context of changing roles and different organisations holding more complex cases, there is a need for more training and support for staff.
- **Housing:** Two distinct issues were identified relating to housing and homelessness. The first related to homelessness among children and families, including migrant families. The second related primarily to adults, the reduction of funding support, and the implications for people who do not meet the thresholds for social care.
- **Multi-agency responses and interdependency:** The responses to question 5, 'What do you need from your partners to address these pressures?', highlight the need for multi-agency involvement in the development and implementation of strategies for dealing with particular aspects of safeguarding. In particular, this includes attendance at joint meetings and, most importantly, sharing information in a timely fashion. Partnership engagement was also a key theme. For example, the Thames Valley Police described this as a willingness to provide evidence about domestic abuse perpetrators and of increased involvement of housing teams (South & Vale) in service redesign. OHFT also suggested full integration of Children's and Adults Boards with one work programme across safeguarding (with some sub-groups) to save time and maximise senior input. As we learn more lessons, there is increasing pressure to monitor more areas which takes time away from direct service provision.

In response to these challenges, the following actions were agreed:

- **Both Boards require rigorous scrutiny of activity:** Each Board to review its own arrangements to ensure that the appropriate mechanisms are in place to check that partnership working remains effective and strong in the light of the increased activity, pressure on budgets, and limited pool of workers and levels of organisational changes.
- **Workforce Development and Support:** The Boards need to be reassured that training and support is robust and that partners are engaged with it as the complexity of cases, expectations, and activity levels all increase. As organisations and roles change, more complex cases are held in universal services and more support and training is needed for these services.
- **Housing and Communities:** The Boards need reassurance that the work of the Health Improvement Board and the Housing Support Advisory Group are picking up the issues related to both adults and children's homelessness, and that the housing action identified in the 2015 Impact Assessment has been followed up.
- **Frequency of Impact Assessments:** The Boards are recommended to continue to request an annual update of the Impact Assessments whilst these pressures remain across the partnerships and in the light of the rapidly changing landscape.

Safer Oxfordshire Partnership (SOP)

*Formerly the Safer Communities Partnership

Date of completion	November 2017
Chairman	Cllr Kieron Mallon
OCC Lead Member	Cllr Kieron Mallon
OCC Lead Officer	Chief Fire Officer Simon Furlong
Last Meeting Date	25 July 2017
Next Meeting Date	25 January 2018
Website Address	https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/safer-oxfordshire-partnership
Governance Arrangements	<p>The Safer Oxfordshire Partnership consists of an elected member-led Oversight Committee which provides support and challenge to an officer-led Coordination Group. The partnership delivers the statutory community safety requirements at the county level. The Oversight Committee meets twice a year, and the Coordination Group meets six times a year. Organisations represented on Safer Oxfordshire include the county and district councils, health, police, the national probation service, the community rehabilitation company, the prison service and the voluntary sector.</p> <p>The partnership works closely with the four city/district level Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), as well as alongside the other countywide partnerships including the Safeguarding Boards, Health & Wellbeing Board and the Children's Trust.</p> <p>The Chairman of the Oversight Committee attends the Oxfordshire County Council Performance Scrutiny meeting every year with the Chief Fire Officer.</p> <p>The terms of reference for both the Committee and the Coordination Group can be found on the partnership webpage.</p>

Current Focus of the Partnership

The partnership published its annual Community Safety Agreement in July 2017 which sets out the countywide community safety priorities. Partnership activities are prioritised to support the delivery of the *Police and Crime Commissioner's Thames Valley Police and Crime Plan 2017 - 2021*. The partnership receives funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) each year and is the only funding received by the partnership. This year the partnership managed a reduction in funding from the PCC of £85k (from £779k to £694k) so that the PCC could support more Thames Valley wide initiatives for domestic abuse, cybercrime and Female Genital Mutilation.

The current areas of focus for the partnership are as follows:

- Protect vulnerable people by reducing the risk of abuse and human exploitation through developing a draft accountability framework with questions that can be

- asked of any new community safety concern;
- Reduce the risk of radicalisation and hate crime by engaging in a Home Office peer review and by responding to the recommendations in their report;
- Supporting the expansion of the local authority's role in preventing radicalisation through the Channel panel.

On-going activities include:

- Supporting the coordination of domestic abuse prevention activity across the county, including FGM, forced marriage and honour-based violence;
- Preventing crime and Anti-Social Behaviour through the district Community Safety Partnerships;
- Reducing re-offending by supporting the Thames Valley-wide *Reducing Reoffending Strategy*, supporting the delivery of the *Youth Justice Strategy 2016-17*, and other activity to reduce the harm caused by alcohol and drugs misuse, including ex-offenders;
- Developing and delivering the Preventing Radicalisation Agenda across the county.

<p>Key achievements in the last year</p>

Last year, the partnership allocated £778k of funding from the PCC to support the strategic objectives set out in the PCC's Police and Crime Plan. The following highlights some of the activities that were delivered using this funding:

- At the county level, preventing radicalisation was embedded into existing safeguarding processes and over 320 frontline staff (including schools) received face-to-face WRAP (Workshop to Raise the Awareness of Prevent) training. At the district level, each CSP developed and monitored the delivery of their own local Prevent plan. In addition, the Oxford CSP (supported by the countywide Prevent Implementation Group) coordinated a countywide template which provided quarterly updates on progress by all specified authorities (county and district councils, TVP, CCG, NPS, CRC etc) on how they were delivering against the new Prevent duty.
- The partnership has supported a range of domestic abuse activity which has included a strategic review that heard the voices of both adult and child victims, as well as perpetrators, with 9 recommendations now being implemented. In addition, support was provided for 217 high risk victims of domestic abuse and 104 new Domestic Abuse champions were trained (totalling 1135). Two Domestic Homicide Reviews were undertaken in South & Vale.
- Funding was allocated to the Child Sexual Exploitation sub-group to build resilience and reduce risky behaviours by young people vulnerable to CSE. This included outreach work to build resilience amongst at risk young people and confidential spaces for hard to reach boys/young men to discuss challenging issues such as radicalisation, honour based violence, substance misuse and positive families.
- Safety Partnerships delivered a broad range of youth diversionary projects to reduce Anti-Social Behaviour. They also delivered activities to prevent CSE (e.g. Hotel Watch), FGM, domestic abuse, reduce re-offending, as well as to support vulnerable people (e.g. Safe Places scheme) and safer town centres.

Further details can be found in the local CSP Community safety plans which are published on CSP websites.

- In 2016-17, the Drugs and Alcohol Service Commissioners in Public Health was awarded a grant that was spent in 2 areas of work: 1) reducing reoffending; and 2) reducing alcohol related harm. The Reducing Reoffending project supported the Refresh Café (on Cowley Road) which supported 81 ex-offender volunteers (exceeding its target of 35) over the year. In terms of outcomes, 25 completed an accredited Volunteering Training Programme, 10 moved into further training and 15 moved into paid employment. Alcohol Campaigns to reduce alcohol related harm were also funded through the PCC grant in 2016-17 which included supporting Dry January and the design and distribution of Alcohol scratch cards.
- Last year, the rate of reoffending for young people who work with the Youth Justice Service continued to fall. The Youth Justice Partnership promoted effective partnership working with agencies that meet cross cutting agendas,

Aims for the Partnership in the year ahead

such as risk management and victims.

The partnership's priorities for 2017-18 are to:

- Support a strategic and operational response to exploitation;
- Protect vulnerable people through reducing the risk of abuse and human exploitation;
- Reduce anti-social behaviour;
- Reduce the harm caused by alcohol and drugs misuse;
- Reduce the level of re/offending, especially by young people;
- Reduce the risk of radicalisation and hate crime;
- Support a countywide approach to tackle serious and organised crime;
- Provide support and challenge to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Key challenges going forward

The key challenges for the partnership moving forward are:

- **Developing a framework to support the response to exploitation and abuse of vulnerable people** – this is a new area of work which aims to improve our understanding of, and coordination between, the different community safety forums in Oxfordshire in support of the Joint Working Protocol agreed between the strategic partnerships. A framework is being developed to assure partners that there is clarity about how new risks (such as modern slavery, cuckooing, preventing radicalisation etc.) are being managed and promote better coordination at both the district and county levels.
- **Responding to the recommendations coming out of the Home Office Prevent Peer Review**, as well as preparing for the expansion of the local authority role in relation to supporting the Channel Panel. This work is being taken forward by the Prevent Implementation Group.
- **Supporting the response to the Louise Casey Review** on integration through

providing a report on local activity in line with the recommendations of the report to the Chief Executives Group for discussion.

- **Supporting the development of a Thames Valley wide strategy on tackling cybercrime to protect both vulnerable people and local businesses.** There is a need to clarify who will lead on this area of work and the role of the partnership moving forwards.

Thames Valley Emergency Services Collaboration

Date of completion	10 November 2017
Chairman	CFO Jason Thelwell (Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service)
OCC Lead Member	Cllr Judith Heathcoat
OCC Lead Officer	CFO Simon Furlong
Last Meeting Date	20 October 2017
Next Meeting Date	15 December 2017
Website Address	N/A
Governance Arrangements	The work of the Emergency Services Thames Valley Collaboration is overseen by the Thames Valley Collaboration Board who work to an agreed Terms of Reference. These are founded on the intention of all partners to demonstrate compliance with the duty to collaborate under the Policing and Crime Act 2017. Fire and Rescue Collaboration across the Thames Valley is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) created in 2015.

Current Focus of the Partnership

The introduction of the *Policing and Crime Act* in 2017 imposes a duty on emergency services to consider entering collaborative arrangements with other partners where to do so is in the interests of efficiency or effectiveness for those involved. The Emergency Services Thames Valley Collaboration partnership consists of the following bodies:

- Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority;
- Oxfordshire County Council;
- Royal Berkshire Fire Authority;
- Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner;
- South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust.

The *National Police and Fire Service Integration Working Group* has identified their intent, principles and road map going forward. The initial joint statement of intent is focused on: preventing harm; keeping people safe; delivering value for money; and 'thinking nationally, working locally'.

The partnership is focussing on several key projects (covered later in this report) where the greatest benefits from collaboration can be realised. This will build on the existing collaboration and develop collaboration in new areas.

Key achievements in the last year

Co-Responding and Cardiac Arrest

All three Thames Valley Fire and Rescue Services provide an emergency medical response to support ambulances responding to the most urgent calls in certain areas. This provides better outcomes for communities with excellent examples that demonstrate where Fire and Rescue assets have been able to provide lifesaving interventions ahead of initial ambulance attendance. We also provide further

assistance in the form of response to cardiac arrest in all fire station areas. Cardiac arrest is a smaller sub-set of the most urgent calls where a timely intervention with a defibrillator will give a significantly better outcome for the patient when, quite literally, every second counts.

‘Effecting Entry (Breaking In)’ for Ambulance Service

All three Thames Valley Fire and Rescue Services will ‘effect entry’ into a patient’s home for the ambulance service (which was previously provided by the Thames Valley Police). This brings multiple benefits as Fire and Rescue can provide a quicker support to Ambulance crews who need assistance gaining access to the casualty, and potentially incur less property damage because of the equipment carried on fire engines. This reduces demand on the Police, potentially providing other people with a quicker response to more urgent emergencies.

Specialist Capabilities for Multi-Agency Incidents

A project is under way across the emergency services in the South-Central region. This project will assess specialist capabilities across all emergency services to explore innovative ways of resourcing the requirements of incidents attended by all three emergency services (this may range from road traffic collisions to wide area searches). This project is being led by Assistant Chief Constable David Hardcastle.

Safe and Well Visits and Police Community Support Officers

Safe and Well Visits are carried out by the Fire and Rescue service with vulnerable residents. During the visits, firefighters can provide advice and support to reduce any immediate risk from falls, fire, flood, or power cuts. They can also provide advice on health and crime prevention. In some areas, this initiative has been taken up by Police Community Support Officers.

Shared Buildings and Estates

A range of solutions is being adopted to make the best use of existing emergency services’ estates, whether it is as simple as ambulance rest stations or multi-million-pound blue light hubs. This work also includes smaller projects to develop fire stations into joint fire-police facilities that will initially include Chipping Norton and Woodstock.

Emergency Response to fallen trees

Specialist Fire and Rescue crews will now respond to remove fallen trees where the situation is deemed to effect public safety. This means that roads and pathways can be cleared very quickly, reducing the effect on public highways.

Thames Valley Fire and Rescue Services Collaboration Summary

The most significant piece of collaboration is the *Thames Valley Fire Control Service* which deals with emergency calls and the mobilising of fire and rescue assets across the Thames Valley from a single location. It is now in a steady state and providing the technical improvements expected, allowing for further collaborative work. The greatest example of this is the operational alignment work that is supported by the alignment of operational procedures, the procurement of fire engines and alignment of integrated risk management planning.

Completed and ongoing collaborations include:

- Joint emergency response operational guidance and assessment

programme;

- Cross-border assistance when responding to emergencies;
- Fire Investigation and Crime Scene Investigation;
- Shared procurement (most notably the procurement of fire engines across the Thames Valley);
- Technical fire safety guidance and training for Fire Protection Officers;
- Out-of-hours specialist fire protection enforcement advice;
- Joint Emergency Vehicle Driving Centre between Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire.

Aims for the Partnership in the year ahead

The partnership is formalising its governance and programme structure, and will ensure the necessary resources are in place to enable the successful delivery of future collaboration projects. It will explore where existing priorities overlap and then develop a programme of work prioritised on:

- Low complexity, high benefit;
- Low complexity, some benefit;
- High complexity, high benefit.

Six major projects have been identified and project scopes have been completed. The work is currently underway to identify the most suitable people to initiate and lead these projects. The aims of each are described below:

1. **Apprenticeships:** Develop a project to deliver a joint Thames Valley operational recruit course that fits with workforce planning and procurement requirements. New entrants are employed on an apprenticeship model.
2. **Recruitment and Selection:** Develop a single recruitment process for operational personnel across the Thames Valley.
3. **Operational Command – Brigade Manager Rota:** Create a single fire and rescue operational command Brigade Manager rota across the Thames Valley.
4. **Operational Alignment:** Align all operational policies, procedures and practices across the three fire and rescue services of the Thames Valley.
5. **Integrated Risk Mapping and Modelling:** Implement a single risk mapping and modelling methodology across the Thames Valley.
6. **Fire Protection Service:** Improve the service we provide to businesses in the Thames Valley by having a single fire protection function.

Key challenges going forward

As a collaboration, the most significant challenges to the partnership is aligning the priorities of the organisations involved. The framework that has been created will help to build the relationships and trust required to ensure success. Ultimately, this partnership must foster a positive culture of collaboration across all the services involved to ensure the best for the community of the Thames Valley by ensuring an open and honest approach.

It has also been identified that the programme will be challenging and will not be delivered without the correct resourcing. Several roles have been identified to support the partnership and establishing these will reduce this risk.

Oxfordshire Stronger Communities Alliance (OSCA)

Date of completion	October 2017
Chairman	Rt Revd Bishop Colin Fletcher & Cllr Rodney Rose (pre-May) Cllr Mark Gray (post-May)
OCC Lead Member	Cllr Rodney Rose (pre-May) Cllr Mark Gray (post-May)
OCC Lead Officer	Maggie Scott
Last Meeting Date	28 June 2017
Next Meeting Date	26 October 2017
Website Address	https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/oxfordshire-stronger-communities-alliance <i>(Public meetings - minutes are online)</i>
Governance Arrangements	The Oxfordshire Stronger Communities Alliance (OSCA) brings together partners from public sector, voluntary sector support providers, faith groups, representatives of local councils, the NHS, military and police. The aims of the partnership are to build a sustainable voluntary, community and faith sector as well as a stronger and empowered community. OSCA Partnership meetings are held three times a year with the dates published on the website.

Current Focus of the Partnership

The current focus for the partnership has been to:

- Support those communities affected by changes in service provision, such as Children's Centres, Transport, and Day Services;
- Continue to work in partnership across the infrastructure organisations, avoiding duplication and sharing resources to manage capacity (ie. Charity Triage);
- Maintain the momentum of the new county wide Volunteering Strategy and put actions into practice.

This will be supported by Oxfordshire Community Voluntary Action, Community First Oxford and Oxfordshire Community Foundation along with other partners.

Key achievements in the last year

OSCA has continued to build capacity amongst the voluntary and community sector organisations it represents. It has been supporting more organisations that are experiencing financial difficulties and has been working with partners to build sustainability and capacity with a planned review of the Triage system. The past year has focussed on the restructuring of Children's Social Care and the move to an Integrated Children's Service. Many of the infrastructure organisations have been involved in supporting community groups to take on open access provision in their area.

The Children & Young Peoples Forum is proving popular and continues to grow, bringing a wider awareness to the sector, disseminating good practice, and providing

a platform to share each sector's requirements and service provision. The forum has heard from the Chair of the Children's Safeguarding Board and the Director for Children's Services. This has also been a useful forum for discussion around the future of open access Children's Services.

The partnership has been following the changes in relation to supported transport, where possible, helping to identify community solutions, supporting community transport schemes, and volunteer drivers. The review of Day Services provision has placed additional pressure on community transport with the withdrawal of transport services to voluntary and community sector day centres. Over half of the 47 centres were affected. Many of these have now found alternative solutions; however, there are a small number of clients and centres that are still struggling. With the introduction of the county wide Volunteering Strategy a new focus was given to raising the profile of volunteering and to improving the opportunities. Having experienced numerous difficulties with the Do-It system, it was agreed that a new system should be procured. *OxonVolunteers* was launched in September.

The partnership has also been keeping a watching brief on devolution in Oxfordshire and what this might mean for communities.

Aims for the Partnership in the year ahead

The OSCA will focus on the following in the forthcoming year:

- Raising the profile of volunteers and increasing their numbers;
- Evaluating what does and does not work with the sector as a result of service changes, such as Children's Transformation, Transport, and Day Services;
- Building resilience in communities;
- Working in partnership across the infrastructure organisations to better manage demand.

This will be supported by Oxfordshire Community Voluntary Action, Community First Oxford and Oxfordshire Community Foundation. The OSCA members continue to secure the maximum funding available for the county and will continue its strong links with the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), Oxfordshire Community Foundation and other funders. OSCA will continue to be a 'critical friend' to public sector organisations implementing policy changes, providing advice and challenge in

Key challenges going forward

relation to the impact on the sector and the wider community.

Funding streams for the voluntary and community sector are continually being reduced at a time when there is an increasing demand for their services. OSCA will address this challenge by promoting access to new funding streams and closer partnership working.

As the public sector shrinks and the voluntary and community sector increases, demands on the infrastructure organisations' capacity also increase. The partnership will need to prioritise areas either geographically or thematically to avoid spreading resources too thin or failing to achieve outcomes.

Oxfordshire Strategic Schools Partnership Board (OSSPB)

Date of completion	23 October 2017
Chairman	Rebecca Matthews
OCC Lead Member	Cllr Hilary Hibbert-Biles
OCC Lead Officer	Lucy Butler
Last Meeting Date	27 September 2017
Next Meeting Date	November 2017
Website Address	N/A communications through <i>Schools News</i>
Governance Arrangements	The Board provides regular updates to the Schools Forum, to Education Scrutiny committee and to the CEF Directorate Leadership Team.

Current Focus of the Partnership

Oxfordshire's Strategic Schools Partnership Board (OSSPB) brings partners together to promote the development of sustainable school to school support across the county. The Board holds a small budget. Commissions are based on priorities identified by the Board in the context of Oxfordshire's *Education Strategy 2015 - 18* and *Equity and Excellence*, supporting the aspiration that all Oxfordshire schools should be good or outstanding.

After two years of working together, the Board has produced an annual report where several priorities were identified in September 2016. The Board agreed the following would be the focus of work over the first two years:

- Closing the performance gap between vulnerable learners and their peers;
- Improving achievement of those with SEND;
- Improving attendance;
- Supporting effective recruitment and retention;
- Encouraging higher quality alternative provision;
- Reducing fixed term and permanent exclusions;
- Supporting the development of leaders and managers in schools and settings.

It was agreed that the range of these priorities was too ambitious and the Board has not been able to address all of them. In September 2017, the Board will review its priorities for the coming two years once 2017 data is available and focus on a smaller number to ensure greater clarity and achieve robust outcomes.

Key achievements in the last year

The **Operational Group was developed** to promote communication between stakeholders and ensure a coherent and coordinated approach to the provision of support available for Oxfordshire schools. At each meeting, data and information such as Ofsted outcomes, are used to identify schools where support might be needed, in addition to requests for support received directly from schools. All discussions take place within an agreed data-sharing protocol. Potential support

packages are discussed, including identification of who might be best placed to provide the support, and funding streams for the support, are established.

Once the work is undertaken, its impact is assessed and reported back to the SSPB. The Operational Group also considers specific projects and funding opportunities that could benefit Oxfordshire schools. Thus, a number of Oxfordshire schools are benefiting from over £180,000 of funding from successful applications.

The University of Oxford and Oxford Brookes University worked on an SSPB sponsored project to investigate issues around the recruitment and retention of teachers in Oxfordshire. They spoke at the Heads and Chairs briefings about this work and attended the Education Scrutiny committee. This has resulted in:

- More direct collaboration between the universities and the sector in their recruitment of new teachers;
- Understanding the needs of the region;
- The creation of the Oxfordshire Teaching Schools Association Job Board;
- The creation of the OTSA Get Into Teaching Programme;
- A joint OTSA and University of Oxford Secondary Recruitment Fair.

A new project has been launched with the aim to reduce rates of persistent absenteeism in Oxfordshire's schools and academies. It also aims to ensure schools understand the issues and trends of persistent absenteeism, both nationally and locally, and to share effective strategies that have reduced persistent absenteeism.

A new two-year action research project has been commissioned which responds to the priority to reduce fixed-term and permanent exclusions.

Aims for the Partnership in the year ahead

Success from the various commissions detailed above will be monitored to ensure that there is a positive and measurable impact. The Board will also continue to strengthen the ground-breaking work of the Operational Group. Additionally, the OSSPB will continue to prioritise the improvement of communication with the school community. Plans to consider a membership or subscription to the SSPB are under consideration.

Key challenges going forward

The viability and longevity of the Board will depend on the financial model that can be ensured for the future. This is a continuing challenge. The Board initially secured funding through the generous support of the OCC and Schools Forum. The Board's budget is now held by the Vale Academy Trust, which helps to ensure that the funds are protected for the work of the Board. The Operational group secures additional funding for specific projects, but there will be continuing pressures to find funds for commissions and for the small, part-time staff who service the Board.

The changing educational landscape has been a feature of education for many years. The proportion of maintained schools converting to academies continues with some pace in Oxfordshire. There are still 160 maintained primary schools in the county and the outcome of the recent consultation could help to shape the

developing role of the SSPB. The work of the Board supports all schools, regardless of status, but it will be incumbent on the board to be flexible in its approach for the future as the context continues to change.

The work to consider alternative structures for the Board for the future will require a significant investment in time and effort and will be dependent on the Board's determination to seek security for its future work.

Oxfordshire Early Years Board

Date of completion	November 2017
Chair	Sarah Steel
OCC Lead Member	Cllr Hilary Hibbert-Biles
OCC Lead Officer	Sandra Higgs,
Last Meeting Date	February 2017
Next Meeting Date	TBC
Website Address	https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/early-years-board
Governance Arrangements	The Early Years Board provides regular updates to Schools Forum, and to the CEF Directorate Leadership Team. It operates parallel to the Strategic Schools Partnership Board (SSPB).

Current Focus of the Partnership

The Early Years Board is in the process of being reshaped and as such as not met since February 2017. The scheduled meeting in the summer term (May 2017) was cancelled. It was agreed that the Early Years Board would be reviewed following the General Election and the restructure of the Early Years Team (since July there has been a much smaller team of Early Years advisors/officers in place).

Discussions with the Early Years Board in February focused on its core purpose; it was agreed that the refreshed Early Years Board should feature local Oxfordshire providers rather than national Early Years experts, but they could be part of a wider reference group.

Michelle Jenkins, Early Years Lead is working closely with the Nursery Heads and other local Leaders of Early Years to review and reshape the Early Years Board and it is hoped that a new constitution and group will meet in 2018.

Oxfordshire Growth Board

Date of completion	November 2017
Chairman	Chairman: Cllr Bob Price- Leader Oxford City Council Programme Manager: Paul Staines
OCC Lead Member	Cllr Ian Hudspeth
OCC Lead Officer	Bev Hindle
Last Meeting Date	31 October 2017
Next Meeting Date	30 November 2017
Website Address	https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/oxfordshire-growth-board (Public meetings - minutes since 1/7/16 are currently online on Oxford's website. A commitment to develop a dedicated Growth Board microsite is being progressed.)
Governance Arrangements	The Growth Board is a Joint Committee with a core membership (with voting rights) comprising Leaders or Cabinet/Executive Members from each of the six Oxfordshire local authorities. The Board also includes non-voting members such as the universities, the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership and the Environment Agency. It is supported by an Executive of senior officers from the six member local authorities and colleagues from other partners. Growth Board meetings and chairmanship are administered and hosted on an annual rota basis and currently Oxford City Council is the host authority. Terms of reference are available on the Growth Board webpages.

Current Focus of the Partnership

The focus for the partnership at present will be the progression of the Oxfordshire Joint Spatial Plan (JSP). At the last meeting of the Board on 31st October, the Board endorsed a report proposing that all five district councils come together with OCC to develop a JSP. A business case, including a Gantt Chart showing a timeline for the completion of the project, was presented to the Board.

The Growth Board is also involved in discussions with several government departments concerning the possibility of a Place Based Deal between government and Oxfordshire where, in return for growth commitments, government would provide both funding and flexibilities to enable us to deliver our growth commitments. If the deal is agreed, the Board will prepare a delivery plan demonstrating how it will meet its agreed commitments.

Key achievements in the last year

- 1. The completion of the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OxIS), following consultation with the public and Stakeholders:** OxIS is a countywide strategy and evidence base that is designed to act as a supporting document for Local Plans. It does this by providing a collation and summation of growth and infrastructure decisions taken and a county wide base-line from which new growth and related infrastructure decisions could be based. This also allows

OxIS to fully integrate with the proposed development of sub-national planning (ex. the England Economic Heartland of England Alliance). OxIS aims to put Oxfordshire in the best possible position to ensure that its interests are explicit, up to date, presented in a way that is relevant to that sub-national work and with the most potential to influence its outcomes.

2. Alongside the Local Enterprise Partnership, **the continued oversight of the delivery of multi-million-pound City Deal and Local Growth Deal projects** and new Local Growth Fund project proposals, in particular, the potential housing programmes in each district and the strategic transport infrastructure needed to support growth.
3. **The completion of various work streams in the post-SHMA Strategic Work Programme**, where a programme of projects will be designed to identify and assess spatial options for accommodating Oxford's unmet housing needs with a view to agreeing a numerical apportionment of unmet need between the districts that they could then progress through their individual local plans as they deemed appropriate.

Key challenges going forward

The Growth Board publishes a Forward Plan of key decisions and actions and this is published on the Growth Board website, the address of which is at the top of this report.

Aims for the Partnership in the year ahead

The Growth Board will be central to the delivery mechanisms of any agreed deal with government and will need to respond to the challenges this brings. As part of this a review of its governance is planned.

Within this, the delivery of the JSP will present challenges to the Board as the timeline for its completion is challenging, reflecting the high priority the councils attach to this project.

Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP)

Date of completion	14 November 2017
Chairman	Jeremy Long
OCC Lead Member	Cllr Hudspeth
OCC Lead Officer	Bev Hindle
Last Meeting Date	12 September 2017
Next Meeting Date	05 December 2017
Website Address	http://www.oxfordshirelep.org.uk/
Governance Arrangements	OxLEP became a Company Limited by Guarantee on 1 April 2015. Cllr Hudspeth is a non-executive director of OxLEP limited. Oxfordshire County Council remain the accountable body for OxLEP.

Current Focus of the Partnership

The Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) is focussed on leading, championing and developing the Oxfordshire economy. Its primary objective is to deliver the Oxfordshire vision:

'The Vision for Oxfordshire is that by 2030 Oxfordshire will be a vibrant, sustainable, inclusive world leading economy, driven by innovation, enterprise and research excellence.'

We describe below the current focus of our activities.

Housing & Growth Deal

OxLEP, working together with County and District Council partners through the Oxfordshire Growth Board, have been negotiating with Government to submit an ambitious and comprehensive package of infrastructure, housing, and economic productivity proposals for investment.

The National Infrastructure Commission has highlighted the potential to grow the high-value, knowledge-based economy along the Oxford-Cambridge corridor to enable it to compete on a global stage and boost UK plc. In addition to this, the National Industrial Strategy is developing a focused, place-based approach which has set out the importance of local geographies as being a key ingredient in driving economic success.

In that context, Government invited the partners in Oxfordshire to come forward with ambitious proposals for a Deal to secure investment for infrastructure, housing and economic productivity in return for confidence in the delivery of commitments. We aim to make the Deal the first stage in an ongoing discussion with Government about long term investment in Oxfordshire's potential.

Our priorities

The key priorities which frame our Deal discussions are to:

- Secure the critical investment in physical and community infrastructure that residents and businesses want;
- Ensure growth is sustainable and enhances quality of life;

- Make sure the right types of housing are built and in the right places;
- Keep a firm focus on productivity and skills - we want economic growth through being better and smarter, not just more of it;
- Take a long term strategic view so that individuals, communities, business and Government can engage in honest conversations and be confident about decisions taken.

As this is a deal process, Government will look for firm commitments and offers from Oxfordshire to ensure investments are properly geared towards delivering growth and achieving targets. To that end we can expect to be asked to offer:

- Firm delivery commitments;
- Delivery of a Joint Spatial Plan and shared transport vision for the long-term;
- Collective governance arrangements that bind the Oxfordshire partnership.
- More joint and commercial working (ex. closer working on public sector land and developing new vehicles to accelerate housing delivery);
- Strategic leadership and support for the Oxford Cambridge corridor and delivery of local industrial strategy.

What a Deal would mean?

For our residents, the Deal could secure investment in transport and other infrastructure needed to tackle existing congestion and to support a high quality of life into the future. This would help to ensure that new homes are delivered in the right places to help tackle affordability challenges. It could support investment in skills support for local businesses, thereby ensuring better and broader job opportunities in the future for local people.

For businesses, a Deal could support greater economic gain and unlock new opportunities through linkages established across the Oxford-Cambridge corridor. It could provide greater support for employers (many of which have an international footprint) to break down transport barriers that impact on recruiting and retaining the world-class talent they need.

A Deal could also help boost productivity across all sectors by better aligning businesses with education providers to support emerging sectors, particularly in high-tech areas. This is essential to delivering tomorrow's globally successful businesses, research centres and innovation hubs. This would also deliver improved career pathways for our young people. Crucially, it will also build resilience and enable growth for our local economy in the post-Brexit world.

A Deal would also support the work of the Growth Board on joint spatial planning in the context of the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy through more robust joint planning and delivery.

Negotiations continue with Government and we hope to see announcements in the Autumn Budget Statement, with a commitment to finalise details of the Deal by early new year.

Local Growth Fund

OxLEP was awarded £24.16 million of Local Growth Fund 3 (LGF3) funding on top of the £174 million of City Deal and LGF funding already secured for Oxfordshire.

The new investment enables us to support multiple projects to benefit local people and businesses. Our key focus will be on developing skills to meet the needs of local employers, building on Oxfordshire's strengths in research and development, and opening up new commercial development opportunities. The projects are currently going through due diligence and legal agreement processes. Announcements of detailed projects are expected soon. The focus of the LGF is on maximising government investment into the county alongside ensuring we deliver against our existing c£2bn growth programme.

Sub-Group governance

OxLEP aims to establish and put in place clear governance arrangements for a number of sub-groups that will report to the OxLEP Board on various work streams. This includes: skills; innovation; environment and sustainability; visitor economy; and strengthening communications through a new website and increased social media presence.

Key achievements in the last year

Strategy

Strategic Economic Plan for Oxfordshire 2016

Our updated SEP was launched in March 2017 at the Begroke Science Park.

European Structural Investment Funds

The ESIF programme can be most easily understood as being organised around three headline programmes that are now being delivered:

- **The Business Support Programme (£8.6m)**, which provides an integrated and coherent package of support to business across Oxfordshire to deliver growth through innovation;
- The Labour Market and Community Development Programme (£8.6m), which delivers a series of measures across the county to help our people enter and thrive in the local labour market, and to help local people and communities tackle some of their key economic, environmental and social challenges;
- The Rural Development Programme (£3m), that helps rural businesses develop, grow and increase tourism and local food processing activities.

Business support programme

OxLEP was awarded £1m ERDF (£2m with match) for a business start-up and support programme. The programme, Elevate, was launched in June. The *Elevate* programme will help businesses start-up and scale-up by offering a comprehensive package of measures.

University of Oxford, Cherwell District Council, Oxford City Council, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, and OxLEP (as the lead partner) has been awarded £2.6 million to run the *Innovation Support for Business Programme* (£5.2m with match). This programme is soon to be launched.

The Low Carbon Hub was successful in winning the £1.4m of funding for the low-carbon element of the business support programme. Their project, *OxFutures*, has now launched. The remaining £1.4m ERDF is allocated to projects that seek to support social enterprises in Oxfordshire and to provide support for SME's seeking finance.

Labour Market and Community Development Programme

Activate Learning launched the £1.2m three-year *Building Better Opportunities* programme in August 2016. The project aims to help Oxfordshire's long term unemployed residents access training and employment. As of July, 314 residents have been engaged in the project and 33 of these have gained evidenced jobs.

Back on Track is a £1m project run by *Activate Learning* and other delivery partners to help transform the lives of young people at risk of becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) or who have recently become NEET. There are 2 key workers in place and a project manager. *Activate Learning* have engaged with 26 secondary schools, with 122 referrals from schools and 20 registered on the programme. The team are working closely with OCC's EET team.

The £387,000 *Oxfordshire Community Grants Scheme* is run by Oxford City Council. The project seeks to provide grants from £5,000 to £50,000 to community groups across the county to help residents access training and jobs. The project was launched in October 2016 and will end on June 2018. So far there have been three funding rounds.

Rural development

The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development was launched nationally in January. In Oxfordshire the focus is on:

- Business Development - £747,666
- Tourism- £747,666
- Food processing- £747,666

The grants are for capital items which will help the business grow and create jobs.

Delivery Plans

Sub-groups to take forward the *Strategic Environmental Economic Investment Plan* and the *Creative, Cultural, Heritage and Tourism Investment Plan* have been set up and work is underway to prepare detailed delivery plans that will be launched in early 2018. Details about the sub-groups and their membership will be published on the new OxLEP website.

Community Employment Plans (CEPs)

Community Employment Plans compel developers of strategic sites to provide training and job opportunities to local people. Currently, there are 4 CEPs in place: Westgate and Barton Park sites, NW Bicester Eco Town plus the City Towers. There are 2 imminent CEPs: Botley West Way re-development and Crabb Hill, Wantage. We have worked with all the local planning authorities to include policies for CEPs in their emerging Local Plans.

OxLEP Business

Our £2m *Elevate* programme will help businesses start-up and scale-up by offering a comprehensive package of measures including:

- **Network Navigators** who represent the key business and industry sectors in Oxfordshire, and are experts in their relevant fields. They will help businesses get connected to other key contacts in the relevant sectors or area, as well as showing them the support that is available both locally and nationally;
- New free workshops that will cover a variety of topics to help residents to start

and grow a business;

- Oxfordshire Business Enterprise (OBE), who offer free and impartial advice to help residents start a business. They provide support on a range of business issues including self-employment to forming a company, and from marketing to bookkeeping;
- Grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 to pre-start, start-up and growing businesses.

To the end of October, 22 workshops covering a wide range of subjects have been held.

University of Oxford, Cherwell District Council, Oxford City Council and Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and OxLEP (as lead partner) has been awarded £2.6 million to run the *Innovation Support for Business Programme* (£5.2m with match). This programme will be launched later in 2017 and will support innovative Oxfordshire SMEs by:

- Assisting them to develop and commercialise innovations;
- Enhancing the research and innovation infrastructure in Oxfordshire;
- Promoting business investment in research and innovation; and
- Developing links between businesses and researchers.

Our Inward Investment team has been active in account management with businesses and working with our wider partners in the county and at the Department for International Trade on inward investment opportunities. Key achievements for 2017/18 to date include 95 inward investment enquiries from new or existing investors logged this year. Also:

- There are currently a healthy number of projects progressing through the pipeline with 146 live active enquiries of which 96 are potential Foreign Direct Investment (FDI);
- A total of 53 account management visits in Oxfordshire recorded by OxLEP and partners to date. These have been captured through the sharing of information by EDO's supported by the Evolutive shared CRM database;
- An enhanced collaborative approach to account management across the UKTI, EDO and Network Navigator network has been developed to better align account management intelligence and follow up;
- The OxLEP Business Investment Team have supported 22 inward investment successes to date, supporting 260 jobs (11 FDI of which 7 are higher value);
- Data on the 90 new investments at Westgate and 30 new investments/expansions at Bicester Village are currently being captured.

OxLEP Skills

The updated Oxfordshire Skills Strategy was launched in March 2017 and highlights 5 strategic priorities. OxLEP Skills works to support these priorities, which include training provision, apprenticeships, education business links, graduate retention and employability across all ages. Achievements in the last year include:

- Successful completion of a three-year city deal programme to promote and support apprenticeships;
- There are now 40 Oxfordshire schools signed up to the Careers & Enterprise Company's Enterprise Adviser Network and 28 Enterprise Advisers engaged;
- The Work Experience Service worked with 75% of Oxfordshire secondary schools;

- LGF funded skills capital projects opened (includes STEM Centre and Care Suite);
- Successful completion of Westgate Phase 1 CEP;
- Careers Fest delivered with 1500 students attending and over 50 exhibitors;
- Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards launched.

Aims for the Partnership in the year ahead

- **Maximise investment** into the County through emerging funding opportunities in a post-Brexit world;
- **Ensure delivery against existing funding agreements**, which will be mitigated by the robust performance management framework in place and the strategic oversight role of the Growth Board;
- **Housing & Growth Deal** – conclude the details of the negotiation with Government on each element of the deal (housing, infrastructure, productivity) and establish a clear programme of activity, working with our partners across business, academia and investors;
- **Oxford-Cambridge Growth Corridor** – the National Infrastructure Commission will publish its report into the potential of the Oxford-Cambridge Corridor in the autumn, alongside the budget statement. LEPs will be expected to lead on the development of an economic plan to capitalise on the potential of the corridor and establish proposals that can support key industries, business markets, and attract investors. OxLEP will be working closely with neighbouring LEPs including SEMLEP, BTVLEP and the Greater Cambridgeshire Combined Authority to build a strategic framework and vision to guide investment into the corridor;
- **Industrial Strategy** – the industrial strategy will be launched in the autumn following the budget statement and is an important policy development as it will chart the economic direction of the UK as we leave the EU. LEPs are expected to play a significant leadership role in the delivery of the strategy with the expectation that they will produce Local Industrial Strategies to identify how they will take forward key areas of economic potential and scale up existing strengths that build on their Strategic Economic Plans. OxLEP will aim to bring together our work on the Housing & Growth Deal, alongside our engagement in the Oxford-Cambridge Growth Corridor, to harness the strategic economic assets which are located across Oxfordshire to attract further investment from both government and the private sector to support our infrastructure and business base.

Prepare and launch the:

- **Oxfordshire Energy Strategy**, funded via BEIS and Oxfordshire County Council, led by the Environment & Sustainability Sub-Group, to set out a route map for the transition to a low carbon economy;
- **One Planet Living Oxfordshire Project**, led by the Environment & Sustainability Sub-Group, to provide robust evidence to encourage more sustainable living and working;
- **Oxfordshire Farming Study**, led by the Environment & Sustainability Sub-Group, to position Oxfordshire and its rural economy favourably in a post-Brexit world;

OxLEP Skills future work includes development of a Skills Hub.

Key challenges going forward

- Ensuring delivery against existing funding agreements, which will be mitigated by the robust performance management framework in place and the strategic oversight role of the Growth Board;
- Maximising government investment into an already successful economy, mitigated through continued excellent relationships at senior official and ministerial levels;
- Ensuring we can respond positively and promptly, and be 'strategically opportunistic' as potential future funding opportunities emerge. This will be addressed by ensuring partners and stakeholders are fully engaged and aware of potential opportunities as they arise and by developing, as far as is practicable, a robust suite of business cases in advance of potential funding opportunities;
- Position Oxfordshire so that it takes up the opportunities, and tackles the challenges of a post-Brexit world.

Oxfordshire Environment Partnership (OEP)

*Formerly the Environment and Waste Partnership

Date of completion	07 November 2017
Chairman	TBC – changing in 2018 from Cllr Reynolds, West Oxfordshire District Council to Cherwell District Council
OCC Lead Member	Cllr Yvonne Constance
OCC Lead Officer	Victoria Fletcher/Andrew Pau
Last Meeting Date	03 November 2017
Next Meeting Date	09 March 2018 - TBC
Website Address	N/A
Governance Arrangements	Terms of reference available on request

Current Focus of the Partnership

The Partnership's terms of reference are to help coordinate shared action on Oxfordshire 2030 pledges relating to waste, energy, climate change, biodiversity and flooding, including the monitoring of commitments and actions outlined via:

- Climate Local Commitments;
- The Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy;
- The Flood Risk Management Strategy.

Key achievements in the last year

Updates on the OEP's work on waste, energy, natural environment, and flooding since the last verbal update in July 2017 are found below.

Waste

Waste performance

Oxfordshire has long been one of the lead authorities in household waste recycling and composting. This is particularly important because it is more cost effective to recycle than to dispose of waste through incineration or landfill, and also better for the environment. Previously Oxfordshire has achieved a county wide recycling rate of over 60%. Last year (2016/17) we achieved a county wide rate of over 59%. Most of this decrease was attributable to changes in the way that recycling is measured.

Monitoring for April to August shows that recycling and composting performance has fallen at recycling centres and kerbside. Projecting the current levels of performance forward suggests that a county wide recycling rate of just over 58% will be achieved this year. Tonnages of recycling and composting are both down and the tonnage of residual waste is up. The Oxfordshire Environment Partnership and officers are currently working to better understand the fall in performance and how to address this. New contracts have now started at the recycling centres in West Oxfordshire and the exact impacts of these contracts are yet to be seen.

JMWMS – Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy

Introduced in 2008, The Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy has formalised partnership working between district and county waste teams and helped

Oxfordshire move from a recycling rate of around 30%, to one approaching almost 60%. It has helped us introduce comprehensive kerbside collection schemes, including food waste, and procure innovative county technology to help increase our recycling rate while reducing the amount sent to landfill to under 5%.

The strategy is now approaching its second 5-yearly review, and while we have made great progress, there is still a lot we can do. Recycling rates across the country are stagnating, and waste analysis shows that around 60% of waste in residual bins could be recycled using current systems. Thus, helping residents to use the existing systems better will be a key focus. While difficult to measure, preventing waste from being generated in the first place helps to save residents money as well as reducing the impact on the environment. Campaigns such as 'Love Food Hate Waste' and 'Love your Clothes', along with promoting and enabling furniture reuse will help to lower our waste arisings. 'Circular Economy Principles' will be embedded throughout the document to reinforce our commitment to a different economic and consumption model, aiming to reduce our reliance on virgin resources, increase the amount of waste reused and recycled, and embrace new technology where needed.

OEP members are keen to address these issues. A consultation will be launched in the New Year to gather information from residents. This will be used to develop action plans under the strategy that reflect our ambition, and the resources available. Changes in Government policy – from the introduction of a deposit return scheme for bottles, to the implications of Brexit – will be monitored to determine their influence on Oxfordshire's reuse and recycling activity.

Food Waste Project – a Big Winner!

Oxfordshire authorities and Agrivert won the *Best Food Waste Reduction Award* from the Anaerobic Digestion and Bioresources Association for the collective Food waste project undertaken via OEP. This involved rolling out plastic caddy liners across all districts (except Cherwell, who have a different collection service). These liners are less expensive, are shown to remove barriers to food waste recycling, and make the collection systems easy for people to use. OEP were pleased with the project as it is more user friendly, shows that we've listened to the feedback from the public, and has therefore driven up participation in food waste recycling.

WEEE funding (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment)

OEP in partnership with the CAG project have recently been successful in securing £25,000 to focus on electrical waste reduction, repair and recycling. The funding will be spent through CAG groups across the county, establishing reuse collection points for repair and reuse through organisations such as Bicester Green, 'Repair and Fix' cafés at local swap shops, professional training sessions for volunteer repairers, and the creation of 'how to' videos to guide residents through simple checks and fixes. The project aims to reuse over 9 tonnes of WEEE over the year.

CAGs

The Community Action Groups have had another very successful year. The 62 groups held over 2000 events and engaged with around 80,000 residents. Over £800,000 of funding and income generation was achieved and the groups estimate that activities have saved Oxfordshire residents over £120,000. An infographic on activities and impacts is enclosed in Appendix 1.

Energy

Oxfordshire Energy Strategy

In 2016 Oxfordshire Environment Partnership strongly supported the production of a county-wide energy strategy, looking at how we can take forward our collective low-carbon ambitions, as well as what action is needed to help us achieve our public commitments around energy.

Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) has been awarded £40,000 by the Department for Business, Industry and Energy Efficiency to develop an energy strategy for the county. This work will build on the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy and other influential documents such as the Oxfordshire Low Carbon Economy Report to provide a strategic framework for energy investment across the Local Enterprise Partnership area.

All authorities in Oxfordshire sit on the board of OxLEP, and the strategy will also seek endorsement from the Growth Board. In developing the strategy, OxLEP will work collaboratively with authorities, other key partners, and stakeholders across the county to:

- Understand the energy opportunities and challenges for power, heat and transport across the whole LEP area (including meeting the needs for planned housing and economic growth);
- Set out energy demand and carbon emissions trajectories;
- Identify a pipeline of energy and low carbon projects;
- Assess the economic potential associated with this transformation;
- Determine how it will be delivered, including priorities and actions for the LEP and its partners.

An 'energy inventory' will set out what we already know, what has already happened, and what we have already achieved. A consultant will be appointed to engage stakeholders and draw together the county's wide knowledge base and expertise to identify gaps and future priorities.

By the end of March 2018, we will have a draft strategy which sets the framework for low carbon growth, and just as importantly, a pipeline of projects and investment opportunities. The strategy will be presented on a living web-based platform to reflect Oxfordshire's energy landscape. The project will be overseen by a steering group with representatives from the public, private, academic and community sectors.

Low carbon homes

OEP were particularly concerned about the lack of national policy drivers available to help us build energy efficient and low carbon homes, and are looking at ways that we can help all authorities share challenges and best practice around homes.

DIMES project

An ultra-efficient and ground breaking energy technology could power new homes in the Bicester Garden Town if a new study is a success. The DIMES (Distributed Integrated Multi-Use Energy System) project - a unique project for the UK - is looking at how a high-tech Fuel Cell system could heat, electrically power and provide hydrogen transport fuel for new developments. The Fuel Cell technology would cost effectively heat and power properties, and could bring millions of pounds into the local economy that would further create skilled employment for Bicester workers. It

would also help improve air quality and be part of a low carbon future.

The study has received £60,000 from Innovate UK and aims to show that the technology, potentially the first of its kind at this size in the UK, is a viable and clean energy source. The project is led by Fuel Cell Systems Limited alongside partners from the University of Oxford, Oxfordshire County Council, Cherwell District Council and Metropolitan Infrastructure Limited. The findings of the project will be published in November this year. *Link to press release:* <http://www.4-traders.com/news/Oxfordshire-County-Council-Bicester-energy-project-gains-momentum--25348897/>

Biodiversity & Natural Environment

AONB Management Plans.

There are three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) in Oxfordshire - Cotswolds, North Wessex Downs and Chilterns. Each is required by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 to prepare Management Plans on behalf of local authorities to guide the activities of the AONBs and their partners. Management Plans are reviewed on a five-yearly basis. Whilst the individual AONBs take the lead on developing and reviewing these plans, the local authority partners' contribution is a formal requirement.

We are entering the period when the Management Plans of Oxfordshire AONBs are due for review. The Cotswolds Conservation Board Plan review has been underway for approximately one year and the first preliminary drafts have been circulated for initial consultation. The Chilterns Conservation Board's Plan review will be commencing mid November 2017. The North Wessex Downs AONB partnership's Plan review is likely to commence in approximately 6 months' time. Each Local Authority within an AONB may participate in the review processes. Once finalised, the Plans become a material consideration within the planning process.

Oxfordshire's State of Nature Report 2017

The State of Nature report was launched in March 2017 and has been well received. This gives an overview of national trends in biodiversity. Oxfordshire still has some of the rarest and finest grasslands in the Country. Headlines from the report include:

- Our rivers are much cleaner than they were 30 years ago, which has helped the recovery of local populations of threatened species;
- Long term declines in farmland and woodland biodiversity continue with some associated species in serious risk of extinction; however, the area of woodland recorded over the last 30 years has increased; and
- There is continuing fragmentation and loss of connectivity.

We need to:

- Create larger and more connected areas of high quality habitats ("More, Bigger, Better, Joined");
- Improve practical advice and support for communities and landowners;
- Better plan for blue and green infrastructure; and
- Put sustainable development at the heart of decision making.

Projects - Biodiversity Net Gain

Net gain is where development leaves biodiversity in a better state than before.

Policy support can be found in the National Planning Policy Framework for net gain. There are also some good examples of industry practice in this field (ex. Network Rail take a positive approach with all their development). Net gain approaches however, help to quantify biodiversity losses and gains within developments, and to better consider compensation (i.e. what the impacts of a development are and what can be done to offset this).

Local authorities in Oxfordshire all have access to specialist ecological advice in carrying out their planning functions and to ensure they are following the mitigation hierarchy (Avoid, reduce, mitigate, compensate). OEP strongly supported the principles of Biodiversity Net Gain and encourages its inclusion in local policy and implementation.

Oxford to Cambridge Natural Capital Investment Plan - Pilot Project

Natural Capital is the 'stock' of resources upon which society depends and includes ecological communities, species, soils, land, freshwaters, minerals, sub-soil resources, the atmosphere, and the natural processes that underpin their functioning. Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) have commissioned a partnership of Local Nature Partnerships within the Oxford - Milton Keynes - Cambridge growth corridor to develop an investment plan for the growth corridor's natural capital. Such a plan has not been developed before and this study is regarded as a pilot. The study is relatively small in scale and requires the willing participation of partners across the corridor to provide information and expertise. Oxfordshire does not have an active Local Nature Partnership. In the absence of an LNP, officers from the County Council, City Council and Cherwell District Council have formed the core of a working group that is engaging with the pilot study and are seeking to draw in, as far as resources allow, input from other partners within Oxfordshire. A preliminary local workshop is planned in November/December. The pilot study is expected to conclude its work by the end of March 2018. The report is not expected to have any statutory status but may inform further work on natural capital both locally and in the growth corridor.

Projects - Natural England Newt Pilot

Great crested newts (GCN) are a species that is relatively common in Oxfordshire but under threat nationally and internationally. As such, GCN have special protected status within the planning system. Developments that affect individual animals and populations of GCN require a licence from Natural England. The process of administering licences is complex and expensive for both the licencing authority and developers. In response to this Natural England are piloting several different schemes to streamline the licencing process whilst providing improved outcomes for the species.

In Oxfordshire, there is a pilot scheme that is being developed in conjunction with the Environment Bank and other commercial and conservation partners. This is known as the South Midland Great Crested Newt Project. The participating local authorities are South Oxfordshire District, Vale District, Oxford City Council and Oxfordshire County Council. In broad terms the scheme aims to identify and protect the most important populations of GCN and create new habitat for GCN in places where this is likely to be most successful rather than focusing on the protection of individual animals and small populations where habitats are less optimal. The pilot has reached the stage where population modelling for GCN in the study area is now well

advanced and attention is being given to the structures necessary to operate the licencing system locally.

Projects - Oxford's Swift City

Oxford has become the first 'Swift City' working in partnership with the RSPB to improve habitats for Swifts. During the construction of developments and renovations, new habitats will be built in (ex. there will be 20 new swift boxes for each of the 4 tower blocks currently being renovated). The project was formally launched in May to coincide with the arrival of the Swifts in the UK. Oxford are also assessing trees in the city to identify what value they provide (i.e. carbon benefits).

Local Flood Risk Management

Flood Toolkit

The Oxfordshire Flood Toolkit is online and is being used successfully by a range of stakeholders. The Flood Toolkit was created using a partnership approach and used experiences of other authorities. For example, Northamptonshire had grant funding and invested heavily in the development of a system to create a visually appealing website, giving easy access to information on what to do in advance of, during, and after flood events. This includes a rolling RSS feed to display real time news information.

OEP were given a demonstration of the website and the information available on it such as maps, flood alerts, 'How to' guides including how Communities can build their flood prevention and resilience, and what funding is available. The website provides a good source of information relating to the relationship between planning and flooding. The website promotes self-help, good guidance, and provides information which is commonly requested by the public.

Local Flood Risk Management Plan

OEP monitors the implementation of actions under the Local Flood Risk Management plan. The completion of the website means that all actions contained within the plan for local authorities are complete; a refresh of the plan is being considered for 2018.

<h3>Aims for the Partnership in the year ahead</h3>
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Priorities for 2018 include:

Energy

- GHG emissions report for 16/17 & monitor local authority measures implemented;
- Workshop on low carbon homes;
- Electric vehicles in public sector fleet.

Waste

- Progressing the JMWMS refresh, including waste reduction strategy;
- Developing waste in planning guide;
- Continue to monitor waste performance, work in partnership and seek new initiatives.

Natural Environment

- Engaging on AONB management plan refreshes;
- Monitor uptake of biodiversity net gain approaches;

- Monitor implementation of the natural capital work along the Oxfordshire to Cambridgeshire Growth Corridor.

Flooding

Key challenges going forward

- Potential refresh of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

The following have been identified as the key challenges of OEP:

- The partnership remains without dedicated officer support, which presents resource challenges for the hosting authority;
- The partnership has no website;
- Air quality is rapidly moving up local and political agendas, and discussions are likely to be needed as to how Oxfordshire Authorities can coordinate action, and the best forum for that.

Appendix A

Oxfordshire Environment Partnership – Infographic: Activities and impacts of CAGs in 2016-17

The Community Action Group Oxfordshire Project Annual Report 2016-17

Best Community Project, OCVA Awards 2016

