

County Council

16 April 2024

Schedule of Business

County Hall, New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND

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Agenda Annex

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING OF COUNCIL – 16 APRIL 2024

SCHEDULE OF BUSINESS

ITEM/TIME	ITEM	PROPOSALS (M = Motion; SEC = Seconded; Am = Amendment S = Statement; Q = Question; REC = Recommendation to be determined)
1 10:30	Minutes To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2024 (CC1) and to receive information arising from them.	
2	Apologies for Absence	
3	Declarations of Interest	
4 10:35 5 mins	Official Communications Ofsted has judged Oxfordshire County Council's Children's Services as 'good' as part of an inspection that took place in February 2024. Ofsted commented that "Strong political and corporate support has continued and has ensured that the children's directorate has received ongoing investment to develop and strengthen services for vulnerable children. Since the last Full Council meeting in February, the Chair has had the following invitations - <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12th March Opening of Edmonds Park Pavilion, Didcot• 16th March South Oxfordshire District Council quiz night, Chalgrove• 22nd March SODC Chair's Civic charity dinner, Chalgrove	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28th March Oxfordshire music theatre production, Abingdon • 5th April Mayor of Henley's Civic dinner, Henley • 13th April Mayor of Thame Civic event, Thame <p>On the 15th of March Cllr Bloomfield held his annual Civic event raising over £3,000 for his chosen charities.</p> <p>Upcoming events are –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16th April Oxfordshire employment and annual celebration event, Oxford • 17th April Blue Plaque meeting, Oxford • 19th April Millstream extension opening • 21st April Faringdon Civic service • 7th May Mayor of Didcot's Mayor making • 14th May Inauguration of the Banbury Town Mayor, Banbury • 17th May Chair of West Oxfordshire District Council charity quiz, Witney 	
5	Appointments	
	To be dealt with under Item 15 Review of Political Balance.	
6	Petitions and Public Address	Petitions
10:40	<i>Any person may address the Council on an item on the agenda subject to the provisions in CPR 10.2 of the Constitution</i>	None
30 mins	Public Address – 3 minutes to speak on this occasion (reduced from 5 minutes at the discretion of the Chair – CPR 10.3)	Public Address <u>Item 9: Annual Report of the Director of Public Health</u> Professor Hugh Montgomery Professor Sir Andrew Haine
		<u>Item 17: Motion by Councillor Reeves</u> Claire Wilding Helen Evans Krista Beighton Clare Nelis

		<p>Helen Evans</p> <p><u>Item 20: Motion by Councillor Gawrysiak</u> Janet Waters Caroline Newton</p> <p><u>Item 21: Motion by Councillor Reeves</u> Kimberly Morgan Tressa Verrier</p> <p>Note that requests were received for Items 25 and 26 but the Chair declined them as those items will not be reached.</p>
<p>7.</p> <p>11:10</p> <p>5 mins</p>	<p>Questions from Members of the Public</p> <p>See Annex 2 for questions and responses. One supplementary question allowed for each.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. District Councillor Paul Barrow. 2. Janine Bailey 3. Anne Spares 	<p>Cllr Gant Cllr Levy Cllr Gant</p>
<p>8</p> <p>11:15</p> <p>30 mins</p>	<p>Questions with Notice from Members of the Council</p> <p>See Annex 3 for questions and responses. One supplementary question allowed for each.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ford to Sudbury 2. Cherry to Gant 3. Snowdon to Gant 4. Phillips to Sudbury 5. Van Mierlo to Saul 6. Reynolds to Gant 7. Reynolds to Gant 8. Reeves to Howson 9. Elphinstone to Gant 10. Elphinstone to Gant 11. Pressel to Gant 12. Pressel to Sudbury 	

	<p>13. Pressel to Gant 14. Povolotsky to Gregory 15. Povolotsky to Gregory 16. Bartholomew to Gant 17. Bartholomew to Sudbury 18. Bartholomew to Roberts 19. Reeves to Gregory 20. Reeves to Sudbury 21. Saul to Levy 22. Ford to Roberts 23. Ford to Gant 24. Waine to Gant 25. Corkin to Gregory</p>	
<p>9 11:45 40 mins</p>	<p>Annual Report of the Director of Public Health (Pages 7-76)</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>The full Council is RECOMMENDED to note the Director of Public Health Annual Report and to take every opportunity to support actions and initiatives that will progress related work.</p>	<p>M Ley SEC Leffman S O'Connor S Edosomwan S Lygo S Pressel S Ley S Leffman S Gant S Howson S Sudbury S Miller</p>
<p>10 12:25 5 mins</p>	<p>Dispensation from Attending Meetings (Pages 77-78)</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>The Council is RECOMMENDED</p> <p>a) To grant a dispensation to Cllr Yvonne Constance from the statutory requirement to attend a meeting of the Council within a six-month period from the last noted attendance due to illness.</p> <p>b) To approve that the dispensation last up to and including 30 November 2024</p>	<p>M Reeves SEC Leffman</p>
<p>11 12:30 30 mins</p>	<p>Cabinet Report (Pages 79-102)</p> <p>Leader (Liz Leffman) Pg 79: Item 1</p>	<p>Q Baines Q Hicks Q O'Connor Q Elphinstone</p>

		Q Enright Q Pressel
	Item 2	Q Phillips
	Adult Social Care (Tim Bearder) Pg 80: Item 3	Q Pressel
	Community & Corporate Services (Neil Fawcett) Pg 80: Item 4	Q Pressel Q Cherry
	Pg 81: Item 5	Q Phillips
	Item 6	Q Pressel Q van Mierlo
	Item 7	
	Item 8	Q Phillips Q Baines
	Infrastructure & Development Strategy (Judy Roberts) Pg 82: Item 9	Q Enright
	Finance (Dan Levy) Pg 82: Item 10	Q Baines
	Pg 83: Item 11	Q Baines
	Item 12	
	Item 13	Q Baines
	Item 14	Q Bartholomew
	Pg 84: Item 15	Q Baines
	Item 16	
	Pg 85: Item 17	Q O'Connor Q Brighthouse Q Bartholomew
	Item 18	
	Item 19	Q Baines
	Item 20	Q Enright Q Elphinstone Q Cherry

	Scrutiny Reports Pg 86: Item 21	Q Baines Q Pressel
13:00 30 mins	LUNCH	
12 13:30 10 mins	<p>Review of Arrangements for Dealing with Complaints against Members (Pages 87-120)</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>Council is RECOMMENDED to approve and adopt the revised arrangements for dealing with Code of Conduct complaints against members attached to this report together with annexes 1 to 5.</p>	M Smith SEC Baines S Brighthouse
13 13:40 10 mins	<p>Audit & Governance Committee Terms of Reference - Whistleblowing Policy (Pages 121-122)</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>Council is RECOMMENDED to amend the terms of reference for the Audit and Governance Committee to include the following addition: 'To monitor whistleblowing arrangements and to approve the Whistleblowing Policy'.</p>	M Smith SEC Baines
14 13:50 10 mins	<p>Further Draft Recommendations re Electoral Arrangements for Oxfordshire County Council (Pages 123-128)</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>The Council is RECOMMENDED to support the further draft recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) relating to the division boundaries for the Cherwell District and Vale of White Horse District and to submit a</p>	M Gawrysiak SEC Mallon S Baines

	response to the further LGBCE consultation confirming this position.	
15 14:00 15 mins	Review of Political Balance (Pages 129-137) Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2 Council is RECOMMENDED a) To note the review of political balance of committees to reflect the formation of a new political group 'The Independent Voice of Oxfordshire (TIVOO)' comprising three members: Cllr Stefan Gawrysiak, Cllr Damian Haywood (Deputy Group Leader) and Cllr Sally Povolotsky (Group Leader). b) To appoint members to the committees of the Council listed at Annex 1. A fully populated list with nominations from the political groups for the vacant seats will be circulated ahead of the meeting. c) To remove the Corporate Parenting Committee from the list of Council committees.	M Chair SEC Vice-Chair S Leffman S Sudbury S Middleton
	EXEMPT ITEM 16 will be taken in private session.	
16 14:15 20 mins	Proposed Leadership Restructuring Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2	M Leffman SEC S Baines S Brighthouse S Fawcett S Sudbury
17 14:35 15 mins	Motion by Councillor Eddie Reeves Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2	M Reeves SEC Corkin Am Gregory SEC Howson

	<p>This Council regrets the way its retendering of services to neurodiverse families, children and young people was handled, leading to Autism Family Support Oxfordshire (AFSO) having funding for its youth groups and family support work cut from 1 April 2024.</p> <p>The decision means that only funding for AFSO’s Easter and Summer holiday activities will now be funded.</p> <p>This Council further regrets the minimal oversight of such decision afforded to elected members and underscores the importance of democratic accountability in decisions taken in respect of services for vulnerable residents.</p> <p>Specifically, one would have expected such a change to have been taken with the approval of the Leader of the Council, relevant Cabinet member and/or with pre-scrutiny of such decision having been taken on a cross-party basis. In the latter case, this did not occur.</p> <p>The effect of such an arbitrary decision by this Council is that, from 1 April 2024, two well-qualified members of AFSO’s team will be made redundant. Given that AFSO has provided cost-effective support for children and young people from diagnosis up to the age of 25 for over a decade – managing a caseload of 4,500 families – it is reasonable to assume that cutting its services will make matters worse for families.</p> <p>Given that the annual cost of maintaining these services is only £90,000, this Council requests that Cabinet review the decision and recommends that a paper be taken to the Education and Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee explaining the chronology and governance surrounding it.</p>	
<p>18</p> <p>14:50</p> <p>15 mins</p>	<p>Motion by Councillor Mark Cherry</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p>	<p>M Cherry SEC Baines S Levy</p>

	<p>Council requests Cabinet to consider approving the Councils for Fair Tax declaration.</p> <p>This commits Councils to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead by example and demonstrate good practice in our tax conduct, right across our activities. • Ensure IR35 is implemented robustly and contract workers pay a fair share of employment taxes. • Not use offshore vehicles for the purchase of land and property, especially where this leads to reduced payments of stamp duty. • Undertake due diligence to ensure that not-for-profit structures are not being used inappropriately by suppliers as an artificial device to reduce the payment of tax and business rates. • Demand clarity on the ultimate beneficial ownership of suppliers, UK and overseas, and their consolidated profit & loss position, given lack of clarity could be strong indicators of poor financial probity and weak financial standing. • Promote Fair Tax Mark certification especially for any business in which we have a significant stake and where corporation tax is due. • Support Fair Tax Week events in the area, and celebrate the tax contribution made by responsible businesses that are proud to promote responsible tax conduct and pay their fair share of corporation tax. <p>Council also requests the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer supporting calls for urgent reform of UK procurement law to enable local authorities to better penalise poor tax conduct and reward good tax conduct through their procurement policies.</p>	
<p>19 15:05</p>	<p>Motion by Councillor David Rouane</p>	<p>M Rouane SEC Ley S Roberts</p>

<p>15 mins</p>	<p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>Pride in the appearance of the public realm is important to our residents. Ensuring that streets and pavements are accessible, level, without hazards, clear of weeds and vegetation is essential for preventing long term damage to the footways, improving accessibility for all, visibility, reducing the chances of accidents, and also allowing people to have pride in their neighbourhood.</p> <p>Council resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the difficulties in maintaining weed clearance to a high standard in view of the expanding network of highways, and in the context of over a decade of budget cuts; and 2. Acknowledge the justified phasing out of glyphosate and herbicide-based methods based on health and environmental grounds; and 3. Recognise that the Council has a statutory duty to keep pavements free of weeds and hazards; and 4. Request the Cabinet Member for Transport Management to consider options for alternative methods of weed removal, and scheduled maintenance that are both cost-effective and environmentally friendly, including supporting the work of towns and parishes, local groups and individuals, that can be developed and trialled around the county, and for ongoing consideration of other methods. 5. Request that the Cabinet Member for Finance give due consideration to the findings of this report as part of the 2025/26 budget setting. 6. Embrace collection of green matter from weeding and grass cutting and 	<p>S Gant</p>
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	ask the Cabinet Member for Climate Change Delivery and Environment to consider the feasibility of a county owned Anaerobic digester facility.	
20 15:20	<p>Motion by Councillor Stefan Gawrysiak</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>In December Oxfordshire County Council removed 7 beds from the Chiltern care home. These beds were removed without any consultation with the GP's who run them, Henley Town Council and the community of South Oxfordshire and Henley. This lack of consultation by the Council is unacceptable.</p> <p>These beds were originally provided as NHS beds.</p> <p>Following FOI requests to the Integrated Care Board Buckinghamshire Oxfordshire Berkshire West (ICB BOB) and the Council we have firmly established that these beds are NHS Beds funded by ICB, the Council and Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust and cannot be closed without consultation.</p> <p>Dr Broughton interim Chief Executive of the ICB BOB states 28th February 2024</p> <p>"The beds have not 'lost NHS funding', "The beds continued to be overseen by the Oxford University Hospital Hub team."</p> <p>These beds are NHS beds which cannot be removed without consultation.</p> <p>This Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deplores the removal without consultation 2. Believes these beds which serve a population of 140,000 of South Oxfordshire should be reinstated. <p>This Council requests that Cabinet:</p>	M Gawrysiak SEC Povolotsky

	<p>3. Asks partners to seek to reinstate the 7 Chiltern Court Beds serving South Oxfordshire.</p> <p>4. Conduct a consultation if they still wish to remove the beds.</p>	
21	<p>Motion by Councillor Eddie Reeves</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>This Council restates its commitment to improving its Children's Services following its Extraordinary Meeting almost six months to the day on 13 October 2023.</p> <p>Services provided by the Local Area Partnership have not been good enough in recent years and last year's Ofsted-Care Quality Commission report makes it clear that local challenges stand to be recognised and addressed.</p> <p>At the time of writing, the Council awaits the determination of its Inspecting Local Authorities' Children's Services (ILACS) inspection.</p> <p>Mindful of the improvements that are needed in its Children's Services in any event, this Council resolves to ensure that there is full and proper consideration of the outcome of the ILACS inspection by elected members, with the Cabinet members for Children's Services and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Improvement meeting with the Chairs of the Education & Young People and People Overview & Scrutiny Committees to ensure that there is proper cross-party scrutiny both of the contents of the report and subsequent improvements arising therefrom.</p>	<p>M Reeves SEC Simpson Am Howson SEC Gregory S Brighthouse</p>
22	<p>Motion by Councillor Donna Ford</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p>	<p>M Ford SEC Champken-Woods S Coles</p>

	<p>Councillors note the increasing number of vacant bank and building society buildings on our high streets, which are largely the result of technological change. The loss of community banking services is of concern to many residents, especially older constituents and those with disabilities and adaptive needs.</p> <p>Buckinghamshire Council has set up a Banking Hub in Buckingham library for people to access banking services in the town centre.</p> <p>Established in partnership with Buckinghamshire Council through its Buckingham and Villages Community Board, with the support of Buckingham Town Council and community representatives, the temporary Banking Hub provides local people with access to banking services. This offers a counter service operated by the Post Office, where customers of all major banks and building societies can carry out regular cash transactions. It also offers a Community Banker service where customers can talk to their banking provider about more complicated issues. Community Bankers work on rotation, with a different bank or building society available on each day of the week, to ensure fair and equitable access to major banking and building society customers.</p> <p>Council requests the relevant Cabinet Member for Community and Corporate Services and the Cabinet Member for Finance to take a lead from forward-thinking colleagues at Buckinghamshire Council and, working with its Town Council, and District Council partners, invite banks and building societies that have left – or are due to leave – our high streets to explore opportunities to work with this Council to set up similar banking hubs within appropriate Council libraries.</p>	
23	Motion by Councillor Eddie Reeves	M Reeves

	<p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>This Council recognises that the voice of small and medium-sized enterprises ('SMEs') have, too often, been overlooked.</p> <p>This Council resolves to request the Leader of the Council to appoint a Small Business Champion to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide a single point of contact for local businesspeople, including those running co-operatives, and • advise Members attending Cabinet and relevant scrutiny committees of the impact of Council policies on the county's SMEs. 	<p>SEC Snowdon Am Baines SEC O'Connor</p>
<p>24</p>	<p>Motion by Councillor Freddie van Mierlo</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>The adopted Local Transport and Connectivity Plan aims to make walking, cycling, public and shared transport the natural first choice. The Director of Public Health's Annual Report states such initiatives have benefits for both physical and mental health – directly through increased physical activity and indirectly through cleaner, less polluted air.</p> <p>To achieve this important shift, walking and cycling must be made safer. In January 2022, the government introduced new rules on the 'hierarchy of road users', clarifying that pedestrians and cyclists going straight ahead at a junction have priority over traffic waiting to turn into or out of a side road, unless road signs or markings indicate otherwise.</p> <p>Unfortunately, no funds were given to implement these new rules and few alterations have been made to the road network to reflect these changes on our roads in the past year and a half. This council</p>	<p>M van Mierlo</p>

	<p>resolves to ask the Cabinet Member for Transport Management, in conjunction with the Director of Highways and Operations, to consider the formulation of a plan to gradually migrate the signs and lines to mirror the new guidance at the same time that regular planned line refreshes are taking place.</p>	
25	<p>Motion by Councillor Charlie Hicks</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>This Council believes that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Council needs to do more to increase public involvement of Oxfordshire communities on decisions around the future of transport. Too many residents feel that their views and experiences have been ignored. 2. To bring the public into the room, we need a public deliberative process to empower residents to shape the future of transport in Oxfordshire. This is now possible thanks to the 2024/25 budget amendment by Oxfordshire Labour. <p>Council requests Cabinet to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Deliver a Citizens' Panel, made up of a representative group of local people, picked by an independent organisation using a fair and transparent process, to be a direct public accountability function to the Cabinet for the traffic filter trial. The Panel should first meet before the traffic filters are implemented and again multiple times through the traffic filter Experimental Traffic Regulation Order trial period, conducting a deliberative process with input from a range of stakeholders. It should be focused on whether the traffic filter trial is working and should make recommendations to Cabinet on what changes should be made during the trial, whether the filters should be made permanent or not, and next steps regarding "core schemes". 	M Hicks

	<p>This process will ensure that the lived experiences of residents are directly factored into future decisions about the traffic filters. To bring the whole public along with the process, it should be publicised widely (e.g. via Youtube) and the wider public should have the ability to provide input.</p>	
26	<p>Motion by Councillor Sally Povolotsky</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p>	M Povolotsky

In September 2023, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission declared their judgment post inspection that the Local Area Partnership (LAP) had multiple systemic failures.

Despite the Priority Action Plan (PAP), the Council is failing to meaningfully engage with and capture the voice of the user, our young people.

Council calls on Cabinet to consider;

1. Meaningfully involving young people and youth organisations throughout all policy-making processes within SEND improvement and the PAP. Co-management and co-creation structures are the best way to ensure direct participation.
2. Any consultations or engagement with young people by this council must have a visible public follow-up to the outcomes.
3. All Council policies and frameworks that affect young people, must include an impact assessment, and ensure there are mitigation measures in place for those youth groups that might be negatively impacted by a new policy or framework.
4. Ensuring all future events, in person/online, run by or funded by OCC, especially those related to the PAP, LAP, and SEND improvement, are open to all young people with the attendance of their parent or carer.
5. Launching a rapid task force for the voice of the young person and SEND users, and task them to create a framework for a Youth Forum within 3 months of this meeting date.
6. **The leader to appoint a SEND Champion to enable seldom heard**

	<p>voices in the SEND community to feed into SEND improvement and services, and that person to sit on the SEND Improvement board.</p>	
27	<p>Motion by Councillor Ian Middleton</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>In 2018 this council passed a motion stating that it was opposed to the licensing of a badger cull in Oxfordshire.</p> <p>When DEFRA announced that badger culling would be phased out by 2025, many people believed that the cull had ended. Sadly, culling in Oxfordshire intensified, seemingly with the intent of shooting as many badgers as possible before the deadline. Over 50% of the county is in the killing zones.</p> <p>A new DEFRA policy now allows epidemiological culling or 'epi-culling', which involves killing up to 100% of badgers across a large area in response to a new cluster of herd breakdowns. Epi-Culling was first introduced in Cumbria, and has been adopted on a trial basis in parts of England over the past five years. Oxfordshire is now being considered by DEFRA for future epi-culling programmes.</p> <p>A recent scientific report shows that epi-culling is ineffective as a control measure. However, DEFRA, Animal and Public Health Agenda, the bTB Hub/NFU and British Cattle Veterinary Association, continue to advocate its use.</p> <p>This council therefore :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Re-affirms our opposition to badger culling and condemns the introduction of epidemiological culling which has been shown to be an ineffective control measure for bTB. 	M Middleton

	<p>2. Asks the cabinet to consider a specific policy that badger culling will not be permitted on council owned land.</p> <p>Requests that the leader writes to DEFRA making clear our continued opposition to the cull and any extension of it in size and scope, especially with regard to epidemiological culling.</p>	
28	<p>Motion by Councillor Ian Middleton</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>Many people in Oxfordshire who live in flood prone areas watch the skies with trepidation. In some communities even moderate amounts of sustained rainfall can cause significant flooding that overwhelms outdated flood relief infrastructure. This is often poorly maintained and constructed with no central plan for water management. Sewers are also regularly overwhelmed with infiltration from surface water, causing sewage to leak: putting public health at risk as well as properties.</p> <p>As the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), the Council has a responsibility to respond to these risks and work with other local authorities to develop flood management plans. We also assess how any new developments will impact on flood prone areas. That role is now more crucial as climate change increases the likelihood and frequency of heavy downpours and flooding across the county.</p> <p>In the face of these urgent pressures, our powers of intervention are limited by out of date and inadequate guidelines set by central government. These include developers only having to prove that they won't make flooding worse, rather than helping to alleviate the problem in known flood risk areas.</p> <p>Council calls on the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and other responsible agencies to work with us to :</p>	M Middleton

	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Urgently review national planning guidance and legislation on flood prevention.2. Provide more powers to LLFAs to prevent or limit developments in known flood risk areas3. Require developers to contribute to reducing existing risks in flood prone areas as part of any new development.	
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Amendments for Council 16 April 2024

Amendments to Item 17 – Motion by Councillor Eddie Reeves

Amendment 1 from the proposer and seconder of the motion:

This Council regrets the way its retendering of services to neurodiverse families, children and young people was handled, leading to Autism Family Support Oxfordshire (AFSO) having funding for its youth groups and family support work cut from 1 April 2024.

~~The decision means that only funding for AFSO's Easter and Summer holiday activities will now be funded.~~

This Council further regrets the minimal oversight of such decision afforded to elected members and underscores the importance of democratic accountability in decisions taken in respect of services for vulnerable residents.

Specifically, one would have expected such a change to have been taken with the approval of the Leader of the Council, relevant Cabinet member and/or with pre-scrutiny of such decision having been taken on a cross-party basis. In the latter case, this did not occur.

The effect of such an arbitrary decision by this Council is that, from 1 April 2024, two well-qualified members of AFSO's team will be made redundant. Given that AFSO has provided cost-effective support for children and young people from diagnosis up to the age of 25 for over a decade – managing a caseload of 4,500 families – it is reasonable to assume that cutting its services will make matters worse for families.

Notwithstanding the 11th hour announcement of an as yet unquantified “one off grant”, ~~G~~given that the annual cost of maintaining these services is only £90,000, this Council requests that Cabinet review the decision and recommends that a paper be taken to the Education and Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee explaining the chronology and governance surrounding it.

Amendment 2a proposed by Councillor Kate Gregory to the original motion:

This Council regrets the **anxiety caused to families who receive family support from** ~~way its retendering of services to neurodiverse families, children and young people was handled, leading to Autism Family Support Oxfordshire (AFSO) and~~ **were told with short notice that the service would not continue beyond** ~~having funding for its youth groups and family support work cut from 1 April 2024.~~

The Council further regrets that in 2017, a health provider removed funding from AFSO and the Council had to step in on that occasion to fund this provision from the Short Breaks budget. This funding was always going to be a time limited level of support.

The funding for Short Breaks has a legal definition that budget must be spent on the direct provision of activity for children. It does not include parenting or family support and could therefore not be included in the recommissioning of Short Breaks.

~~The decision~~ **This** means that only funding for AFSSO's Easter and Summer holiday activities will now be funded.

This Council further regrets the minimal **foresight and oversight of such decision afforded to elected members and by the previous administration on their incorrect use of funding and it** underscores the importance of democratic accountability in decisions taken in respect of services for vulnerable residents.

~~Specifically, one would have expected such a change to have been taken with the approval of the Leader of the Council, relevant Cabinet member and/or with pre-scrutiny of such decision having been taken on a cross-party basis. In the latter case, this did not occur.~~

~~The effect of such an arbitrary decision by this Council is that, from 1 April 2024, two well-qualified members of AFSSO's team will be made redundant. Given that AFSSO has provided cost-effective support for children and young people from diagnosis up to the age of 25 for over a decade — managing a caseload of 4,500 families — it is reasonable to assume that cutting its services will make matters worse for families.~~

The Council welcomes the news that Autism Family Support Oxfordshire (AFSSO) has received a one-off grant from Oxfordshire County Council to allow it to continue providing vital parenting support to families.

Given **the anxiety this process has caused families** ~~that the annual cost of maintaining these services is only £90,000, this Council requests that Cabinet review the decision and recommends that a paper be taken to the Education and Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee~~ **by the Director of Children's Services** explaining the chronology and governance surrounding it.

Amendment 2b if the proposers' amendment is accepted, then the amendment from Councillor Gregory becomes as follows:

The funding for Short Breaks has a legal definition that budget must be spent on the direct provision of activity for children. It does not include parenting or family support and could therefore not be included in the recommissioning of Short Breaks.

This Council further regrets the minimal **foresight and oversight of such decision afforded to elected members and by the previous administration on their incorrect use of funding and it** underscores the importance of democratic accountability in decisions taken in respect of services for vulnerable residents.

~~Specifically, one would have expected such a change to have been taken with the approval of the Leader of the Council, relevant Cabinet member and/or with pre-~~

~~scrutiny of such decision having been taken on a cross-party basis. In the latter case, this did not occur.~~

~~The effect of such an arbitrary decision by this Council is that, from 1 April 2024, two well-qualified members of AFSSO's team will be made redundant. Given that AFSSO has provided cost-effective support for children and young people from diagnosis up to the age of 25 for over a decade—managing a caseload of 4,500 families—it is reasonable to assume that cutting its services will make matters worse for families.~~

The Council welcomes the news that Autism Family Support Oxfordshire (AFSSO) has received a one-off grant from Oxfordshire County Council to allow it to continue providing vital parenting support to families.

~~Notwithstanding the 11th hour announcement of an as yet unquantified “one off grant”,~~ **Given the anxiety this process has caused families** ~~that the annual cost of maintaining these services is only £90,000, this Council requests that Cabinet review the decision and recommends that a paper be taken to the Education and Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee~~ **by the Director of Children’s Services** explaining the chronology and governance surrounding it.

Amendment to Item 21 – Motion by Councillor Eddie Reeves

Amendment proposed by Councillor John Howson

This Council restates its commitment to improving its Children’s Services following its Extraordinary Meeting **about SEND services** almost six months to the day on 13 October 2023.

Services provided by the Local Area Partnership have not been good enough in recent years and last year’s Ofsted-Care Quality Commission report makes it clear that local challenges stand to be recognised and addressed.

~~At the time of writing,~~ **The Council awaits the determination of its Inspecting Oxfordshire Local Authorities; Children’s Services (ILACS) inspection has resulted in an overall Good grading; improving on the previous 2018 inspection outcome.**

Mindful of the improvements that are needed in its Children’s Services ~~in any event~~ **in order to reach a judgement of ‘outstanding’**, this Council ~~resolves to ensure that there is~~ **welcomes the** full and proper consideration of the outcome of the ILACS inspection by elected members, **with an all member briefing in addition to scrutiny by** ~~with the Cabinet members for Children’s Services and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Improvement meeting with the Chairs of the Education & Young People and People Overview & Scrutiny Committees~~ to ensure that there is proper cross-party scrutiny both of the contents of the report and subsequent improvements arising therefrom.

Amendment to Item 23 – Motion by Councillor Eddie Reeves

Amendment proposed by Councillor Brad Baines

This Council recognises that the voice of **Co-operatives and** small and medium-sized enterprises ('SMEs') have, too often, been overlooked.

This Council resolves to request the Leader of the Council to appoint a **Co-operatives and** Small Business Champion to provide a single point of contact for local businesspeople, including those running Co-operatives, and advise members attending Cabinet and relevant scrutiny committees of the impact of Council policies on the county's **Co-operatives and** SMEs.

Questions from Members of the Public

Questions are listed in the order in which they were received.

1. PAUL BARROW

I am District Councillor for the seven villages immediately west of Wantage, a very rural ward and which receives much of its water from the Downs immediately to the south.

We have had a huge amount of rain in the last few months which has led to extensive localised flooding. Flooding on the A417 west of East Challow lasted 10 weeks and badly affected several businesses on the W&G Estate and Mellor's garage with losses of several thousands of pounds and Mellor's coming close to closure as a result of financial loss. The X35 bus between Wantage and Faringdon stopped for a while which caused problems for some residents in Faringdon who I know don't have their own transport.

The local flooding here is largely the result of neglect of maintenance of roadside drains, ditches and stream culverts. Some of this is certainly the result of landowners not fulfilling their responsibilities over several decades. However, some of it can certainly be placed at the door of county council administrations over many years from lack of maintenance of such basic infrastructure. Shrinking budgets increasingly limit what can be done but this itself is very concerning. Clearly this is not sustainable for the future.

Several years ago, I encouraged some of our spring line villages to get road drainage grips cut by a contractor because

COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT.

In addition to engaging with Highways on these issues, it would be beneficial to contact the Flood Risk Team. There are several opportunities for working together on these issues where highway infrastructure is not the only issue and this team have recently reached out to Parish Councils for expressions of interest for small scale flood resilience work in their areas. All expressions of interest will be reviewed and allocated as funding allows. If these parish councils have not already done so they can contact the team on floodmanagement@Oxfordshire.gov.uk for further information.

We also provide a Flood Toolkit which includes standard letters that Town and Parish Councils are able to send to landowners that are not maintaining their watercourses, and support Town and Parish Councils to involve volunteers in drain clearance work via the Oxfordshire Together scheme. More information is available via the [Oxfordshire Together](#) and [Volunteer for highways and your community](#) pages on the council's website. For insurance reasons there are limits to the extent of the types of work volunteers can be involved in however, we welcome all opportunities to engage with Parish Councils to best use resources.

Additionally, we are currently running a trial volunteer flood warden pilot scheme. This involves volunteers being the eyes

<p>the county officer told me “that they are lucky if they get it done every 10 years”. Lack of maintenance of these grips continues to lead to flooding in parts of these villages and to depositing silt into the Letcombe Brook. Is there any way that parish councils could engage more effectively with Highways in future to take on board some of the minor maintenance work which Highways may regard as lower priority as budgets continue to shrink?</p>	<p>and ears on the ground and we will be deciding in the next 2 or 3 months whether this will be continued and expanded.</p>
<p>2. JANINE BAILEY</p> <p>Why has the lease deal between Oxford United Football Club and Oxfordshire County Council not been concluded, particularly given the contractual documents (the lease option agreement, the lease and the collateral agreement) have been negotiated and officers have provided advice that the Seven Strategic Priorities have been met. Can he also give an indication of when he intends to conclude these, given the pressure the club is under?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAN LEVY, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE</p> <p>The council is in ongoing dialogue with the club as regards heads of terms. As I am sure you will appreciate, projects of this kind are very complex and there is a lot of detail to work through to make sure we secure the best possible outcome for both the club and residents. However, good progress has been made and we hope to make a formal announcement shortly.</p> <p>We fully recognise the pressure the club is under and we are doing everything we can to help the club achieve a long-term home in the county.</p> <p>In addition to agreeing heads of terms, the lease of land at the Triangle comes with a number of conditions, including the club securing planning permission from Cherwell District Council, who are the local planning authority. The county council is a statutory consultee in this planning application in our role as local highways authority and our officers are scrutinising the club’s plans in detail.</p>

3. ANNE STARES

What is the total of the revenues for all ANPR in the Cowley area for the last 12 months?

COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT

Officers have checked our records for ANPR in the Cowley area. The only ANPR PCNs issued over the past 12 months are for two bus lane cameras which could be considered to be in Cowley. These are Cornwallis Road and Bartholomew Road. From 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 the total revenue received is £120,661. No other ANPR PCNs have been issued.

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QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Questions are listed in the order in which they were received. The time allowed for this agenda item will not exceed 30 minutes. Should any questioner not have received an answer in that time, a written answer will be provided.

1. COUNCILLOR DONNA FORD

A recent report in The Times refers to Oxfordshire County Council as having a 'do as we say, not as we do' attitude on the environment, reporting:

"Outside the capital, [Oxfordshire county council](#), which claims to be "leading the way" on the environment by seeking to become net zero by 2030, consumed 66 per cent more gas than neighbouring Buckinghamshire, which is sticking to the national target of net zero by 2050."

Is The Times' report correct and, if not, why not?

COUNCILLOR PETE SUDBURY, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to debunk this sloppy journalism. At the time of writing, I believe three Councils mentioned (including Hackney, OCC and Bucks) have written to The Times, objecting to the gross misuse of data, about which our Estates department briefed them in full prior to publication.

Looking at objective benchmarking data. We have two sets, one in the public domain, the other a shadow benchmark.

The first is Climate Emergency UK, which used a broad range of benchmarks including Buildings & Heating, Transport, Planning and Land Use, Governance and Finance, Biodiversity, Collaboration and Engagement, Waste Reduction and Food.

The highest score, 63%, was the GLA.

Our total Score, 53%, Put us Top out of 21 County Councils (average score, 34%). It would have put us 16th out of 186 single tier authorities (like Bucks), 5th out of 164 Districts, 3rd out of 10 Combined Authorities, and 21st overall out of 381 authorities in Great Britain. However, comparisons across authority type are not valid.

The Second benchmark is the Carbon Disclosure Taskforce, <https://www.cdp.net/en/climate> an international benchmarking system with scores ranging from A to D-. We were rated A-, which puts us above over 2/3 of European and 3/4 of global participants.

Returning to the tabloid article: it is a cherry-picking exercise finding single datasets to support a false hypothesis. It compares varied organisations on a fallacious "like for like" basis irrespective of type of authority, population served

	<p>(our population is 1/3 larger than Bucks'), number of employees (20% larger), varied or additional responsibilities (of which the fire service is one example), the types of buildings they own and whether they bulk buy on behalf of schools (a third of our energy use), or for how many schools. If you're after sensible information, this is as useful as comparing apples, pears and coconuts.</p> <p>However, we are not where we would want to be with decarbonising our estate, scoring just below the mean for County Councils. There might have been more capital available if the previous Conservative administration had not left behind a £38 million backlog of building repairs and maintenance, plus £16 million of remedial work putting right schools built under their useless Carillion contract, presumably without adequate monitoring by that administration.</p> <p>That notwithstanding, please be assured that our decarbonisation plan fits with our 2030 net zero target, and we fully intend to hit it.</p>
<p>2. COUNCILLOR MARK CHERRY</p> <p>Would the Cabinet Member for Transport Management, Councillor Gant, urgently look at solving the issue of the storm drainage at 49 Fairway Road by the bus stop? Highway officers inform me that this is an issue between Oxfordshire County Council and Thames Water, but as the storm drainage has been overwhelmed by flooding 5 times in 2024, this is also a major inconvenience for people using the StageCoach B5 bus service, as they have the chance of getting drenched when cars drive by whilst waiting for the bus service.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>Officers have confirmed that the surface water drainage at this location is a shared system with Thames Water. I can confirm that Oxfordshire County Council have checked and cleansed the assets that we are responsible for. We will contact Thames Water and impress upon them the need to get this matter resolved.</p>

<p>3. COUNCILLOR IAN SNOWDON</p> <p>The Council makes a lot of its aspiration to reduce car journeys by one in four in its press releases. However, most residents, businesspeople and public sector leaders in Oxfordshire have no idea how this policy aim is to be measured? What is the baseline for this objective and how, by implication, can we measure the Council's success against its progress?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>Car trips were not previously monitored and there is not an available data source. Therefore, working with the Council's Innovation team, we developed a bespoke methodology. The methodology was included in the LTCP monitoring report that went to cabinet in October 2023. The monitoring report is published on our website here and includes the methodology in appendix 2 (p40-42).</p> <p>It is a complex measure and the monitoring report highlights that it is a proxy rather than an absolute measure of the number of car trips. The methodology allows us to understand the percentage change from a sample of car trips but does not provide an overall countywide figure. The 2022-23 monitoring report used a 2019 baseline, due to the impacts of COVID-19 in 2020 and 2021, and compared 2022 data.</p> <p>We are continuing to work to refine our methodology and increase data sample sizes in future. There will also be the opportunity to review the baseline years used in the 2023-24 LTCP monitoring report.</p> <p>Separately, alongside our car trip monitoring work, we have been working on a pilot countywide travel behaviour survey. This data will provide further insight about the type of trips in the county and reasons for travel behaviour change.</p>
<p>4. COUNCILLOR GLYNIS PHILLIPS</p> <p>In response to a planning application affecting my division, officers noted that the 'network of 7 Household Waste Recycling Centres provided by the County Council is no longer fit for purpose...analysis shows that all sites are</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR PETE SUDBURY, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS</p> <p>Thank you for this question. We are aware of the challenges facing our Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC's) which is one replicated in many places nationally. To help address this a new Household Waste Recycling Centre Strategy 2023-2043 was approved by Cabinet In September 2023 a</p>

currently 'over capacity' at peak times and many sites are nearing capacity during off peak hours. Population growth linked to new housing developments will increase the pressure on the sites.'

Given the number of new housing developments in the county, what are the plans to meet the increased demand on these services?

copy of which can be found on the council's website here: [HWRC Annex 1.pdf \(oxfordshire.gov.uk\)](#)

Our new strategy offers the overarching framework for managing the service for the next 20 years and sets our approach to try and ensure that the HWRC network it is not just fit for purpose but is a key component in delivering the Council's climate and sustainability ambitions, encouraging Oxfordshire residents to produce less waste and recycle more.

The new Strategy aims to maintain a network of 7 HWRCs, by securing and expanding (or relocating where this is not possible) existing HWRC sites to manage the expected population increases, legislative requirements, and support climate ambitions, whilst being mindful of local government budgetary constraints. It lays the foundation that enables the following:

- (a) Securing S106 and CIL contributions,
- (b) Make maintenance, planning, lease, and investment decisions with a longer-term perspective,
- (c) Plan how we will deal with population growth/lack of HWRC capacity,
- (d) Develop the HWRC service to meet future legislative requirements,
- (e) Help to meet the Council's carbon objectives and enable the transition to a circular economy,
- (f) Increase Oxfordshire's reuse and recycling rates.

Officers have a wealth of data and analysis on our network of HWRC's and keep this under regular review, whilst also keeping abreast of emerging and best practices nationally with regards to operation and capacity around HWRC sites. Where further improvements or adjustment can be seen to make a discernible difference and can be justified, we will seek to adopt those.

We always welcome feedback and suggestions on the services we provide. For the HWRC service we do regular customer satisfaction surveys which have

	<p>delivered excellent satisfaction levels over recent years, and of course we consulted on our DRAFT HWRC strategy before finalising it. However, for any other comments and suggestions residents can always contact us through the council's Complaints and Comments page Complaints and comments about Oxfordshire County Council Oxfordshire County Council, and we will be happy to respond and/or take on board suggestions for our future service delivery where we are able to do so.</p>
<p>5. COUNCILLOR FREDDIE VAN MIERLO</p> <p>An important consultation took place on the planning application for the Watlington Relief Road. However, residents have reported that they find the OCC consultation page confusing. In particular that responses from statutory consultees are mixed in the list of documents with the consultation documents. An additional concern is that only responses from statutory consultees are made public and not those from other respondents. What action will be taken to improve the user experience of the website to better support engagement?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR GEOFF SAUL, CHAIR OF PLANNING AND REGULATION COMMITTEE</p> <p>The list of documents on the Oxfordshire County Council planning application portal does not separate application documents and consultation responses. We appreciate the concerns however, this is how the system works at the present time. It does not have the option to separate out these items. To avoid confusion, the Planning Team ensure that consultation responses are clearly labelled as such. It is also correct that we do not publish representations made by members of the public on our website for data protection reasons. However, we take them all into account in making a decision and a redacted compilation of representations can be provided to anyone requesting it, at the end of the consultation period. Given the ongoing concerns we are also raising this with our planning system provider to see if we can address this with an upgrade.</p>
<p>6. COUNCILLOR GEORGE REYNOLDS</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member assure me that the 2 yard stretch of fenced off kerbing at the top of Constitution Hill, B4035 Broughton Road in Banbury will be mended before the third crop of annual wild flowers turns it into a permanent wild</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>A works instruction has been raised to repair the kerbing at the top of Constitution Hill, B4035 Broughton Road in Banbury. It is expected the works will be carried out within the next 3 months and I confirm that it will continue to be kept safe in the intervening time.</p>

<p>life area, as at present it is dangerous and very untidy.</p>	
<p>7. COUNCILLOR GEORGE REYNOLDS</p> <p>Following the highway department reorganisation which has seen at least 3 members of staff leave, meaning Fix-my-Street is every bodies' main source of contact with OCC. Will the Cabinet Member ensure that not only are contacts acknowledged but regular follow ups are given. At present Fix-my-Street is very good for street light defects but a black hole for virtually everything else from which nothing emerges.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>I'm aware a number of highways officers have left the organisation, however, this was due to retirement and not as a result of the department reorganisation.</p> <p>As part of the Highway Maintenance transformation, a Highway Engagement Team has been introduced. If you have any concerns regarding Fix my Street reports, please reach out to them directly through highwaysengagement@oxfordshire.gov.uk .</p> <p>I can confirm since the implementation of the Highway Maintenance transformation on 1 of November 2023, Oxfordshire County Council have received 21,589 enquiry reports via Fix my Street and have raised over 23 thousands highway related defects. As part of this process, a standard response is provided to each individual site assessment. Bearing this in mind, if you have any examples where this hasn't occurred, please let me know and I will arrange for this to be followed up with the appropriate teams.</p>
<p>8. COUNCILLOR EDDIE REEVES, LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION</p> <p>How many members of staff and governors have left Woodeaton Manor School or tendered their resignation (i.e. are presently working their notice period) since 1 January 2023?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES</p> <p>16 governors have left Woodeaton Manor since 1 January 2023, of which, 4 were staff members who also left their employment. In the same timeframe 25 members of staff left of which 9 gave no reason, and 8 resigned to move to a different position.</p>

<p>9. COUNCILLOR TRISH ELPHINSTONE</p> <p>Please can the Cabinet Member for Transport Management conduct an urgent review of the operation hours of the Littlemore Road filter ANPR cameras to cease operation outside of peak and school travel hours, with exemptions for blue badge holders and carers; and consider Littlemore and Greater Leys, as areas of higher transport poverty, as trial locations for a new demand responsive bus service in 2024/25?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>A review of the ANPR exemptions and timings will take place at the same time as the review of the traffic filter exemptions/timings. In the meantime, funding has been allocated for this new financial year to undertake a study into a new demand responsive trial bus service. This work has not yet started but will consider Littlemore and Greater Leys. Littlemore and Greater Leys are both priority areas for the Community Active Travel outreach project, (COATs). Through Active Oxfordshire the county is funding a range of active travel interventions in the area. A list of the projects funded is as follows:</p> <p>Oxford: Achieve Oxford - Cycling proficiency sessions in Blackbird Leys. Asylum Welcome - Bikes for asylum seekers. Aiming to reach a minimum of 250 people Black women bike -Training black women leaders to lead black women bike groups (Abingdon and East Oxford) Broken Spoke – “Dr Bike” sessions, bike mechanic training and learn to ride in Blackbird Leys and Rosehill. People Place and Participation (Florence Park Community Centre) – and Walk, talk and tea. People Place and Participation (Florence Park Community Centre) - Bike racks and training for parents and families JoyRiders - Cycle training in Littlemore and Barton</p>

	<p>Oxfordshire Asian Women's Voice - Walking group for socially isolated Asian ladies</p> <p>Oxfordshire Mind - Walking for wellbeing (Oxford and Banbury)</p> <p>Active Future South Oxfordshire CIC - After school Bike Club (Abingdon and Didcot and Littlemore).</p>
<p>10. COUNCILLOR TRISH ELPHINSTONE</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member for Transport Management describe the progress to use the Anti-Congestion Fund (2025L&CO16) and Vision Zero fund to redesign junctions, such as Newman/Oxford Road, The Original Swan, Brasenose Driftway, Horspath Driftway and the Corner House roundabout to improve traffic flows and reduce tailbacks?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>There has been a review of the road safety improvements for cyclists that can be implemented at the junction of Horspath Driftway, and Aldi. As with all Vision Zero schemes, this scheme has been developed to improve road safety, and has not developed as a scheme to improve traffic flows or reduce tailbacks. The scheme is currently with our Contractor Milestone for finalisation of the costings and implementation timetable.</p> <p>The process and prioritisation for allocating the Anti-Congestion Fund has not been fully agreed yet but will be shared with all County Councillors. We have asked officers to prepare a proposal for the prioritisation as we are aware that there are potentially many calls on this funding, including the other junctions referred to which do not fall within the remit of the Vision Zero fund. The future reporting of the progress on these schemes will be carried out through our normal council reporting routes and political group leaders meeting.</p>
<p>11. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>Cornmarket Street and Queen Street are possibly the most prominent and heavily-used streets in the County, at least by pedestrians. They are in a shameful state. When will they be properly resurfaced?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>Extensive repair works are planned for both Cornmarket Street and Queen Street in this financial year. Works are expected to take place in the summer, starting on Queen Street. The project duration will be between 9 – 12 weeks depending upon conditions and external factors. However, start dates are</p>

	<p>dependent on delivery of specialist materials from abroad and it is not yet possible to provide a confirmed date.</p>
<p>12. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>There is widespread outrage about the greatly increased dumping of sewage in our rivers and streams by Thames Water. The Tories should hang their heads in shame at the catastrophic privatisation they were responsible for. As if this wasn't bad enough, there is an even greater source of pollution in our poor waterways -- agricultural run-off. Freshwater species have declined by a whopping <i>84% since 1970</i>, so action is urgently needed now. What are we doing to persuade farmers to change their practices to reduce harmful run-off?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR PETE SUDBURY, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS</p> <p>We agree that the pollution of our watercourses through sewage and agricultural runoff is unacceptable and having a devastating impact on nature. The Environment Agency are the body with both the responsibility and the powers for monitoring and managing the quality of our water courses including these types of pollution, and for working with relevant organisations, landowners, or people to stop that pollution, including taking formal enforcement action where appropriate.</p> <p>The increasing incidence of both heavy and prolonged rainfall tends to worsen agricultural runoff, but renders riverside fields increasingly unviable for (especially arable) farming. It also raises the importance of landscape scale flood control measures, such as re-establishing riparian flood meadows and woodlands, which reduce nutrient and other runoff. We are working with the charity that runs the Long Mead wildflower meadow to extend that form of land management (which also produces very high-grade animal feed) along the river on land that OCC owns. Separately I am told by the local NFU representative that numbers of farmers are considering "farming water" on floodplain fields, opening up opportunities to extend this.</p> <p>That links directly with OCC's work with a wide variety of partners to protect and enhance biodiversity in our county including as part of the Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership to engage with the farming clusters. We are the Responsible Authority leading on the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) which will identify and map out the priority areas for</p>

	<p>urgent action for nature recovery. It is already clear from the early engagement undertaken that river health is a major concern for people across Oxfordshire, including farmers. The LNRS will highlight locations where people and organisations across Oxfordshire could carry out habitat improvements including the improvement of river and freshwater habitat health. Defra are then expected to use these LNRSs (which are currently being created across all of England) to increase the opportunities for funding in those areas. LNRSs are expected to publish in spring - summer 2025.</p>
<p>13. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>Every Saturday and Sunday much of Oxford City Centre is gridlocked for hours, because traffic is queuing to get into the Westgate car park, even when it is full up. Residents in my division are utterly fed up with this state of affairs. The traffic filters may well make it even worse, since some people will use their free day passes to get to the Westgate car park and others will continue to access it via Botley Road. Please can you tell me what you are going to do about this?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>It is actually quite possible that the trial traffic filters will help tackle the negative impacts of Westgate car park traffic queueing on Oxpens Road. This is because we expect the filters to reduce traffic overall in the city centre. Indeed, a lot of the traffic held in the queue on Oxpens Road approaching the car park entrance isn't destined for the car park. It is carrying on past the car park and through the site of the proposed Thames Street traffic filter. So at least some of the traffic queuing on Oxpens won't be there in the future thanks to the traffic filters.</p> <p>We also expect the filters to make non car alternatives for accessing the Westgate and wider city centre to become much more attractive – buses will be quicker and more reliable and walking and cycling safer and more convenient. This of course includes park & ride. Along with the continuation of the combined parking and bus fare deals for the city's park and rides, this will ensure driving is much less of a default option for people wanting to visit the city centre. We will, of course, be monitoring the traffic filters very carefully during the trial.</p>

	<p>Furthermore, we naturally continue to work closely with the Westgate Centre to minimise the impact of car park traffic on the highway network.</p>
<p>14. COUNCILLOR SALLY POVOLOTSKY</p> <p>The SEND improvement board is a closed shop, why isn't this meeting broadcast / in public, and / or why aren't minutes of these meeting been circulated to all members and why aren't more stakeholders engaged in the board / task forces? This council's administration makes constant reference to its openness and transparency, why aren't we seeing these values imparted into the SEND Improvement process?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR KATE GREGORY, CABINET MEMBER FOR SEND IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>The SEND Improvement Board has been set up to provide accountability to the DfE, and to meet the requirements for monitoring and technical work in respect of the formal SEND Improvement Notice.</p> <p>The Board brings together a wide range of stakeholders including schools, parent carers, statutory agencies, service agencies (most of whom are responsible and accountable for delivering operational services), and importantly, broad elected member representation. Key stakeholders are involved in task and finish groups. They are operational and technical working groups for service delivery involving those with direct responsibility for delivery.</p> <p>The meeting is not a public or council committee and would not be broadcast in public.</p> <p>A regular blog summarising the content of the meeting is provided publicly by the Independent Chair, Steve Crocker. In May, a summary plan-on-a-page will be published and updated regularly to show key milestones and changes over time.</p> <p>The board members have established a positive and collaborative working relationship that is evident from action being taken and willingness of all parties to make things better.</p>

<p>15. COUNCILLOR SALLY POVOLOTSKY</p> <p>At some recent OxPCF events around Co-Production, a “adopted definition” for what OCC sees as Co-Production was presented to the audience. How was this statement of Co-Production reached and what engagement of service users and associated professionals / parents and carers fed into that creation?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR KATE GREGORY, CABINET MEMBER FOR SEND IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>The ‘adopted definition’ of co production is not what OCC sees as co-production but one agreed in partnership. A significant piece of work was undertaken on the definition of co-production pre covid 2017-19 with partners and parents including the PCF. Given the significance of this work already undertaken the definition was sense checked and adopted. Given that it was imperative to have a working definition and in recognition of the previous co-production work, a working definition has been produced.</p>
<p>16. COUNCILLOR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW</p> <p>Government has issued councils strengthened guidance on setting 20mph speed limits, reminding them to reserve such measures for sensible and appropriate areas only – such as outside schools. It is not a model this council has followed. I have repeatedly submitted Questions on Notice asking for data to validate this council's county-wide, multi-million-pound expenditure on the 30mph to 20mph sign-changing exercise but you have not been able to produce any data other than an 18-month-old report for Cuxham and one for Long Wittenham. When I challenged that at Full Council in December you said that such data was unnecessary as the scheme saved lives. Please be specific and state how many lives have been saved and what your source of the information</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>The County Council’s approach to, and criteria for introducing 20mph speed limits as a part of the Transformation Programme has always been clear, transparent, and dependent on appropriate environmental factors being present. Those requirements are publicly available on our webpage.</p> <p>Before any scheme is pursued it requires the support of the local town / parish council, and each one follows the ordinary process of advertisement and consultation, all of which is subject to public record.</p> <p>It is not reasonable, or possible, to state a specific number of the lives that have been saved by the scheme, especially at this early stage.</p> <p>The Welsh government press release which cites the 4mph speed reduction you refer to also says <i>“Research shows a strong link between lowering speeds and decreasing the number of collisions and people injured. On urban roads with low average speeds, there is average 6% reduction in collisions per 1mph reduction in average speed.”</i> This means that the 4.1mph reduction would reduce the number of collisions by approximately 25%. Which is significant.</p>

<p>is. Please do not answer with generalised information about the comparative effect on pedestrians of 30mph speeds compared to 20mph speeds as this is meaningless unless the ACTUAL range of 'before and after' speeds at sites is known.</p> <p>(Note that Transport for Wales measured speed from 3.4 million vehicles across nine new 20mph locations in Wales over a two-week period at the end of November and start of December. It found on average speeds dropped by just 4mph. This is broadly consistent with the limited data available from OCC.)</p>	<p>The number and severity of recorded traffic collisions resulting in personal injury will be monitored across the county in areas where a 20mph limit has been introduced under the transformation programme. This will be done by analysing data of such instances, as is provided to the Council from the Police, over the 3-year period before and after the scheme's introduction.</p>
<p>17. COUNCILLOR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW</p> <p>At your 'Cabinet Member Decisions Meeting' on 22 February, you made the decision to cease late-night summer opening at Household Waste Recycling Centres on Thursdays from 1 April 2024. This measure saves £27,000 per year. Meanwhile, the council is currently recruiting an 'Employer Brand and Marketing Specialist' on £40,000 per annum with 30 days holiday plus Bank Holidays, who only needs to come into the office two to four days per month. Please explain to residents why it is more important for the council to promote its 'brand' and market</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR PETE SUDBURY, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS</p> <p>Despite regular promotion, the one day a week late night summer opening was a little used additional service, which did not provide the value for money we seek, with sites seeing less than 10 visits per hour on many occasions. In addition to the financial saving there are operational benefits from this change around logistics and working hours. This is a very small seasonal reduction. At present our sites, compared to some other council areas, continue to provide a full, generous, and comprehensive Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) service to our residents. Even after this small adjustment all our 7 sites remain open 9 hours per day, 7 days per week 362 days of the year. The only exception being slightly early closing on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. I am also proud and pleased to state that this much valued service continues to perform extremely well, with market leading recycling performance</p>

<p>itself rather than receive residents' waste at HWRCs.</p>	<p>of over 70% of the wastes received, as well as maintaining customer satisfaction levels of greater than 90% across all sites.</p> <p>Following recent Government changes, both in terms of legislation for handling and disposal of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POP's), and the reduced ability to make charges and recover costs for DIY wastes at our HWRC's, waste management costs have risen by around £1m per annum. As we as an authority try to provide a balanced budget to cover all services, the waste management service is, quite rightly, not exempt from any cuts and efficiencies to its services. The reduction in Household Waste Recycling Centres' operational hours was one of a much wider and necessary list of service efficiency savings across the authority and cannot and should not be directly linked/compared to a specific non comparable cost elsewhere.</p>
<p>18. COUNCILLOR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW</p> <p>This council has announced that the Oxford city Zero Emissions Zone pilot generated £702,940 income from charges and fines over its first full financial year of operation, thus the scheme is a policy failure but a financial success. The forthcoming Expanded Zero Emissions Zone is projected to generate £25m over a five-year period by the council's consultants. I can see why you welcome this tax-grab that helps you balance the books, but please explain how this fund-raising, 'pay to pollute', policy is compatible with the administration's environmental objectives.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR JUDY ROBERTS, CABINET MEMBER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY</p> <p>The income figure of £702,940 from charges and fines for the scheme's first full financial year of operation (April 2022 to March 2023) is gross income. The overall costs incurred by the scheme for the same April 2022 to March 2023 period are approximately £410,000. Income generated by the scheme must be used in the first instance to pay for scheme operating costs and after that will contribute to an element of scheme development costs. By law, any remaining net proceeds must be spent on schemes and measures that facilitate the achievement of the county council's local transport policies.</p> <p>There is no projection of income yet from a potential expanded ZEZ as this will depend on future decisions made about the scheme, which is at an early formative stage.</p>

The ZEZ is a longstanding county council commitment that aims to improve air quality, cut carbon emissions, and move towards zero emission travel in the city.

We are encouraged by the findings of the [ZEZ Pilot monitoring report](#) that was published recently and which found a substantial reduction in use of polluting vehicles in the ZEZ Pilot area since the scheme became operational. These findings, when comparing 2022 data to 2021 data in the 12-month period that included the launch and subsequent operation of the scheme, include:

- overall vehicle movements in the ZEZ reduced during the scheme's operating hours (7am to 7pm) by approximately 28%. This figure includes vehicles exempt from ZEZ charges such as buses, taxis and emergency vehicles;
- overall vehicle movements in the ZEZ excluding exempt vehicles reduced during the scheme's operating hours by approximately 37%;
- vehicle movements in the ZEZ outside of the 7am to 7pm operating hours have reduced overall, although by less than the reduction within the 7am to 7pm period;
- there has been an overall shift towards the use of vehicles in the ZEZ with less polluting engines and with lower CO2 emissions.

Additionally, the monitoring report noted that:

- air pollution levels decreased overall in the ZEZ in 2022 by more than the average decrease across Oxford;
- the scheme has encouraged adoption of zero and low emission vehicles;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the proportion of vehicles used that are zero emission is higher in the pilot area than in other areas of Oxford. <p>These findings show that the ZEZ scheme is helping deliver our aspirations for environmental improvements particularly regarding improving air quality and reducing vehicle-related CO₂ emissions.</p> <p>Early indications from more recent monitoring are that these benefits are being maintained.</p> <p>Furthermore encouraging findings published by Oxford City Council show an increase in footfall in summer 2023 and a reduction in business vacancy rates in the city centre.</p>
<p>19. COUNCILLOR EDDIE REEVES, LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION</p> <p>Since the start of the financial year 2021/22, how many SEND cases have gone to tribunal each year and at what expense to the public purse?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR KATE GREGORY, CABINET MEMBER FOR SEND IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>For consistency, tribunal figures are calculated on a calendar year. The figures for Oxfordshire are as follows: 2021 - 193 cases were taken to Tribunal of which 29 were heard. 2022 - 276 cases were taken to Tribunal of which 20 were heard. 2023 - 347 cases were taken to Tribunal of which 29 have been heard. So a total of 816 cases of which 78 have been heard.</p> <p>The average cost of legal support for a Tribunal is £2,500. So the cost for those heard are as follows: 2021 - £72,500 2022 - £50,000 2023 - £72,500 Total - £195,000</p>

<p>20. COUNCILLOR EDDIE REEVES, LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION</p> <p>Since the introduction of the new booking and charging regime at the county's recycling centres, what adverse impacts, if any, have there been on fly-tipping and complaints-handling rates?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR PETE SUDBURY, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS</p> <p>The impact of the new booking and charging system on complaints has been negligible (single figures) and mainly relating to technical issues rather than policy. We have seen some increases in calls to the Customer Service Centre, since the introduction, however, nothing significant has come from this.</p> <p>As expected from National data, there is no evidence of any correlating increase in fly tipping since the introduction of the new system.</p> <p>In general, the new service has been well received with residents now being able to dispose of small amounts of DIY waste for free. It should also be noted that bookings are only needed for the free DIY allocation, no restrictions or bookings are required for additional DIY wastes which remain chargeable.</p>
<p>21. COUNCILLOR GEOFF SAUL</p> <p>The buried remains of a Romano-British Settlement have been scheduled as an Ancient Monument on land that had been designated to form part of the <i>East Chipping Norton Strategic Development Area</i>. The County Council is the largest landowner on this site which was earmarked in total for 1,200 homes plus associated infrastructure. Can the Cabinet Member for Finance please provide an update on the County Council's revised plans for the</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAN LEVY, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE</p> <p>As you know, Oxfordshire County Council has been working with CALA Homes to promote the East Chipping Norton Strategic Development Area for the provision of new homes.</p> <p>Historic England's report was just regarding the land owned by CALA Homes. CALA Homes is seeking clarification from West Oxfordshire DC (WODC) regarding the full implications of the site's scheduling and the future use of the whole site south of the A44.</p> <p>Following the outcome of this feedback, Oxfordshire CC will review the impact on the land it owns and whether it will continue working alongside CALA</p>

<p><i>Strategic Development Area</i> or alternatively let us have a timescale for such a review to take place?"</p>	<p>Homes. The site to the north of the A44 is also owned by Oxfordshire CC and was always seen as the second phase of the development. There is ongoing discussion with the planning team at WODC to establish whether the development of this site can be considered separately to the site south of A44 or whether part of the southern site can be developed how the two sites should be delivered.</p> <p>Once the scheduling of part of the site is clarified, further meetings with the planning team will be arranged.</p>
<p>22. COUNCILLOR DONNA FORD</p> <p>How many accidents have occurred in the vicinity of the Banbury Road since the installation of 4 way lights?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR JUDY ROBERTS, CABINET MEMBER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY</p> <p>There is no definitive record of traffic collision frequency. Only those which are attended by the Police and where the Police record an instance of personal injury are formally recorded. Even in those circumstances the reports are typically received from the Police several months after the actual incident. Collisions which do not have Police attendance, and/or where no personal injury occurs, are not recorded. Any concerns about road safety at that location, or at any other location in the County can be raised with Officers who will be pleased to discuss them.</p>
<p>23. COUNCILLOR DONNA FORD</p> <p>Can you explain why this Council seems determined to refuse to consult with the public before allowing 2-way cycling in Sheep Street, Bicester?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>The results from the initial consultation into the introduction of an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) to permit two-way cycling throughout Sheep Street, Bicester will be presented at the Cabinet Member for Transport Management delegated decisions meeting on 25 April 2024. The initial consultation took place over four weeks from 12 February to 11 March 2024. During this period, stakeholders were engaged through various</p>

	<p>channels to gather feedback on the proposal to allow cycling in Sheep Street, Bicester.</p> <p>Stakeholders including Bicester Town Council, Cherwell District Council, Bicester Vision, Bicester Friday Market, Bicester Bike Users' Group (BBUG) and other cycle groups, Local Councillors, emergency service operators, public transport operators, and Unlimited Oxfordshire were contacted to participate in the initial consultation process. To ensure comprehensive community engagement, 223 drop-in letters were distributed to properties along Sheep Street and Market Square, inviting residents and businesses to provide their input on the proposed changes.</p> <p>Should the ETRO be approved on 25 April 2024, the ETRO can run for a maximum duration of 18 months. During the first six months of the trial views of the public and stakeholders will be sought based on their lived experience of the scheme. This consultation will be reported back to the Cabinet Member for a formal decision and whether to make cycling permanent in Sheep Street, amend the times/days that cycling is permitted or return the street to 'no cycling'. Monitoring of cycling levels in Sheep Street will be conducted during the ETRO period in order to understand the levels of change in cycling.</p>
<p>24. COUNCILLOR MICHAEL WAINE</p> <p>During my time as a County Councillor, we have enjoyed a positive working relationship with our local highways officers. Unfortunately since the 'transformation' of the service last autumn, this appears to have broken down. Is this by design or by accident?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>All Members of the Council have been briefed on the highways service changes post-transformation and have been informed of how to contact and engage with the service.</p> <p>That contact should primarily be via the new Engagement Team and not directly to Officers, many of whom have been assigned different or more focussed roles.</p>

	<p>The Engagement Team will only be able to function effectively and provide the service as intended though if Members start to work with them and positively adopt this new way of working.</p> <p>The Engagement Team can be reached by emailing highwaysengagement@oxfordshire.gov.uk .</p>
<p>25. COUNCILLOR IAN CORKIN</p> <p>The recent announcement by the charity, Autism Family Support Oxfordshire (AFSO) that this council has defunded the Parent Support Team, prompting the loss of this essential service and the redundancy of two very experienced practitioners, has caused widespread consternation amongst parents, carers, and young people. So far, almost 1100 people have signed an online petition, many sharing their experience of the service.</p> <p>Following the announcement, I have received many emails, as well as having the opportunity to discuss the impact with parents face to face at the recent Oxfordshire Parent Carer Forum’s excellent Better Together Event. The following is a small sample of the feedback I have had:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talking of the support they have received from AFSO: <i>“That could be the difference between a young person able to take</i> 	<p>COUNCILLOR KATE GREGORY, CABINET MEMBER FOR SEND IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>I have also received many emails and spoke to parents and carers at the Better Together Event, and it is clear that the Parenting Support provides a vital service to many families, and I am sorry that the announcement by the charity has caused anxiety and distress for those families impacted.</p> <p>Commissioning and procurement rules mean that commissioned contracts are only time-limited before they are required to be recommissioned and retendered. This is to allow fairness to all other providers to bid for Council and taxpayer money. It is also required to ensure that the provision of service is adaptable to changing needs across the County.</p> <p>A decision to recommission and retender short breaks contracts was approved in November 2022 in the run up to the known end date of the contracts in March/ April 2024. Short breaks is a legal definition which means that money should be spent on the direct provision of activity for children. It does not include parenting support. This does not mean that the work by AFSO is not valued, but that it cannot be included in a short breaks definition and there were gaps for direct provision for children.</p>

their place in the world of work in a few years' time and one who cannot"

- Writing of her lived experience as a neurodiverse parent of a neurodiverse child:

"There have been times when I have doubted whether I could continue to parent my son, on my own and with little support. AFSO supported me through this.

There have been times when I felt my son would be better off without me. AFSO supported me through this.

There have been times when I felt I could no longer live in the situations we were living in. AFSO supported me through this.

There have been times when I felt I could no longer live, full stop. AFSO supported me through this.

Where would I be now if it weren't for AFSO? And my son? I don't like to even think about that."

- Talking of the impact on a parent's own health: *"thank you for your reply and for trying to help with this situation. It has sent my mental health into a spiral and I'm in touch with other autistic parents*

Prior to my time and to this Cabinet, a decision was made around 2017 to provide AFSO with money because they had not had their service recommissioned by a Health provider.

The Council stepped in on that occasion to help the charity because they had insufficient funding. It was always going to be a time limited level of support.

In May, June, and November 2023 it was made clear to the charity that they could not bid for short breaks funding to provide parenting support. However, they were successful in bidding for short breaks money that provided direct support and fitted with the purpose of short breaks funding.

The commissioning and procurement process was compliant with procedures and regulations and addressed gaps in provision. The matter of award of contracts was not discussed directly with me as Cabinet Member and Member's cannot influence commissioning and procurement awards.

Parents and carers working with the PCF were consulted on the types of provision and localities for the direct provision they thought were needed under the definition of short breaks. The consultation had 121 responses/ feedback. The council provided additional finances to ensure there was a wider spread of direct activities by location and to meet different needs for children. The parents were not asked to directly make a choice between short breaks or parenting, as parenting is not within the definition of short breaks.

who are also struggling massively because of all this. I am truly fearful for the future wellbeing of families like mine”

- Talking of the lack of transparency in the consultation process: *“We are also appalled by the response by OCC in the press that is blaming the parents for not saying we needed it. Something clearly went wrong with the re-tendering process because we had no idea that the short breaks consultation was also covering family support. If it had been, there is no doubt that parents would have had it at or near the top of their lists of priorities.”*
- Finally a parent talking of their relief at finding an ally for the first time in AFSSO: *“That’s when we first had contact with AFSSO. It was incredible. I cried the first time I had a one-to-one meeting with BL. Tears of sheer relief. She just got it. She was incredible. It is so very rare to find people who immediately understand. And who have the strategies and insight to help you reach and teach your child. They have ideas and advice for everything. Not to mention the skills to pick you up from your dark place and give you the strength to keep going”*

In response to the announcement, the [Oxford Mail](#) reported

“An Oxfordshire County Council spokesman said: “A re-commissioning process commenced last year for AFSO with involvement from parents, carers, current providers, other professionals, and social workers. Questionnaires, and a variety of events were used to ensure that any new contracts met the needs of children using the services. Parents and carers overwhelmingly told us that they wanted greater choice for their children. They said they wanted the new offer to provide care for children rather than parenting support.”

So, my question is:

- What was the exact timeline of the re-commissioning process?
- At what point were elected members involved
- Was the impact of the re-commissioning, i.e. the loss of the Family Support Service, discussed with any elected members, if so who and what was the outcome?
- Please provide a copy of the questionnaire with the answer, as well as details of the

number of respondents and the analysis of the data used to justify defunding the Family Support Service.

- Please provide any evidence you have that “*They [parents and carers] said they wanted the new offer to provide care for children rather than parenting support.*” and that this would be at the expense of the Family Support Service.