



# County Council

## 14 September 2021

### Agenda

If you wish to view proceedings, please click on this [link](#). However, that will not allow you to participate in the meeting.

Places at meetings are limited. If you still wish to attend this meeting in person, you must contact the Committee Officer by 9am on Wednesday 8 September 2021 and they will advise if you can be accommodated at this meeting and of the Covid-19 safety requirements for all attendees. Requests to speak should be sent to Deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk. You will be contacted by the officer regarding arrangements for speaking.

**Please note that in line with current government guidance *all* attendees are strongly encouraged to take two lateral flow tests in advance of the meeting, one on the morning of the Meeting if possible.**

## 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](mailto: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, 14 September 2021 at 10.30 am**

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



Yvonne Rees  
Chief Executive

September 2021

Committee Officer: **Deborah Miller**  
Tel: 07920 084239; E-Mail: [deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

In order to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, notice is given the meeting 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.

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***A buffet luncheon will be provided***

## **AGENDA**

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. 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.

**3. Minutes (Pages 1 - 14)**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2021 (**CC1**) and to receive information arising from them.

**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 15 - 18)**

Report of the Cabinet Meeting held on 20 July 2021 (**CC9**).

**10. Treasury Management 2020/21 Outturn (Pages 19 - 32)**

Report by Director of Finance (**CC10**).

The report sets out the Treasury Management performance in the financial year 2020/21 in compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice. The report includes Debt and Investment activity, Prudential Indicator Outturn, Investment Strategy, and interest receivable and payable for the financial year.

***Council is RECOMMENDED to note the Council's Treasury Management Activity in 2020/21.***

**11. Review of Political Balance on Committees (Pages 33 - 42)**

Report by Director for Law & Governance (**CC11**).

The Council is required by the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 to review the political balance on its committees on an annual basis and then in any circumstances set out in Regulations under the 1989 Act. Following the May 2021 elections and the subsequent formation of political groups on the Council, the political balance was formally reviewed at the Annual Council Meeting on the 18 May. Since that time, Cllr Mark Cherry has been confirmed as the duly elected member for the Banbury

Ruscote Division. As a result, the Monitoring Officer has formally received notification from Cllr Cherry and from the Leader of the Labour & Co-operative Party Group, that Cllr Cherry has become a member of that Group.

Following the addition to the Labour & Co-operative Party Group, a further review of political balance now needs to occur to reflect the relative proportion of each Group with regards to seats on the Council, and given that more than a month has elapsed since the last review of political balance. This review also reflects that the Conservative-Independent Alliance Group now has one fewer member than previously.

***The Council is RECOMMENDED:***

- (a) ***to note the revised political balance on committees shown in Annex 2 to the report;***
- (b) ***to make the consequential appointments to the Committees named in paragraph 11 and as listed in paragraph 13 and Annex 3 (to follow), to give effect to the wishes of the respective Group Leaders.***

## **12. Dispensation from Attending Meetings (Pages 43 - 44)**

Report by Director of Law & Governance (**CC12**).

Under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 85 (1), councillors who do not attend a meeting of the Council during a six-month period will cease to be a member of the Council unless the Council has approved a dispensation before the expiry of that period. Council is asked to grant such a dispensation to Cllr Alison Rooke who, for reason of ill-health, is unlikely to be able to attend a meeting of the Council prior to April 2022.

***Council is RECOMMENDED to:***

- (a) ***approve a dispensation for Cllr Alison Rooke from the statutory requirement to attend a meeting of the Council within a six month period from the last noted attendance;***
- (b) ***approve that the dispensation last up to and including 30 April 2022.***

## **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***

## **13. Motion by Councillor Andrew Gant**

“Council notes and approves that there has been a general move away from gender-specific job titles in recent decades. This has taken different forms in different contexts, but a common thread is that where a simple alternative to a gender-specific nomenclature exists, it has been widely adopted. Such an instance is the replacement of “Chairman” with “Chair”.

Council notes and approves that the vast majority of other councils have made this change, either formally or by natural evolution and habit.

Council regrets that its own working practices haven't kept up with this shift, making it appear old-fashioned, reactionary, exclusive, out of touch and showing a damaging lack of awareness of changes in society as a whole. Council also believes it will be easier and more efficient for officers to work to one standard in preparing meeting agendas, etc

Council therefore:

Resolves that with immediate effect the chairs of council and all committees and other bodies will be referred to in writing and verbally as "Chair". The word "Chairman" will not be used.

Resolves to ask the Monitoring Officer to incorporate this change in the constitution at the earliest opportunity and to change the currently in-use painted board in the Council Chamber at the earliest convenient opportunity (but not to alter the other, completed boards, which are a historical record).

#### **14. Motion by Councillor Donna Ford**

"This Council recalls the new administration's flagship policy document entitled '*A Fair Deal for Oxfordshire – Shaping our priorities*' ('the Policy Document') that was approved by Cabinet on 20 July, having been considered at an extraordinary meeting of Performance Scrutiny on 16 July.

This Council notes that the administration has been in place for four months and notes the aim of the Policy Document as a statement of intent in respect of its prospective policies relative to those of the outgoing administration.

Accordingly, this Council resolves that the administration reports to members by the date of its next meeting with a schedule of policies under active consideration and/or implementation by the previous administration that have since been:

1. Continued in their entirety by the new administration without amendment or qualification.
2. Continued substantively but varied to reasonably reflect the incoming administration's own aims and objectives.
3. Changed substantively by the new administration, but reflecting the outgoing administration's original aims and objectives; and
4. Discontinued altogether.

This Council resolves to keep such schedule reasonably up-to-date during the new administration's term of office and further requests that the administration report to members by the date of this Council's next meeting with a clear set of key performance indicators in respect of its priorities in the Policy Document to ensure that there is reasonable ongoing scrutiny of its performance and delivery of election promises."

## **15. Motion by Councillor Hannah Banfield**

“Oxfordshire County Council condemns the use of ‘Fire and Rehire’ by any employers in the County of Oxfordshire and calls upon the Members of Parliament representing Oxfordshire’s residents (Anneliese Dodds, John Howell, Layla Moran, David Johnson, Robert Courts and Victoria Prentis) to support Barry Gardiner’s Private Member’s Bill and do all in their power to make this practice unlawful.

Oxfordshire County Council resolves not to procure any goods or services from companies that have sought to gain commercial advantage by using or threatening to use this unscrupulous practice.”

## **16. Motion by Councillor Eddie Reeves**

“This Council notes that public services – locally and nationally – have been impacted immensely by the pandemic.

This Council acknowledges that the Government has spent more public money than any in the nation’s history to secure the livelihoods of hard-working people, and the futures of the public, private and voluntary sector organisations who employ them. Without prejudice to any outcome, this Council recognises that local government reform may be considered again in due course. In Oxfordshire, members can either work together to shape that reform or have it imposed from Whitehall.

This Council notes that analyses have been commissioned from EY (2016), PwC (2017) and Grant Thornton (2016-7) by local authorities across Oxfordshire in addition to options appraisals conducted by Councils themselves.

This Council further notes that a Government White Paper on devolution is expected imminently, pursuant to which more power and control of public finances may be tied to reform.

This Council restates its aim for Oxfordshire to be a beacon of local government excellence irrespective of its political leadership and notes that members have historically worked well together in the interests of residents.

Accordingly, this Council resolves to ask the Cabinet set up a Cabinet Advisory Group to review the evidence of recent years and, without prejudice to its findings, put forward a preferred view to the Leader should local government reform be mandated by Government, or the new administration wish to secure further powers and public money from Government that are contingent on reform.”

## **17. Motion by Councillor Glynis Phillips**

“Local Government has endured central government cuts of more than 50% since 2010. Oxfordshire County Council staff have been at the forefront of continuing to provide a range of services and support during the COVID pandemic. Our staff have worked to keep our communities safe, our schools open, cared for vulnerable and

older people and continued to safeguard children.

A 1.75% pay increase (2.75% for those on the lowest pay point) is not enough and with inflation at 3.8% this is real terms pay cut.

This Council asks the Leader of the Council to write to all Oxfordshire MPs requesting that they contact the Chancellor of the Exchequer to provide the necessary funding for a substantial and fairer pay offer.”

## **18. Motion by Councillor Brad Baines**

“Oxfordshire County Council believes planning works best when developers and the local community work together to shape local areas and deliver necessary new homes; and therefore, calls on the Government to protect the right of communities to object to individual planning applications.

Oxfordshire County Council also calls on the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to ask them to uphold this vital principle.”

## **19. Motion by Councillor Kieron Mallon**

"This Council notes that Banbury FM wishes to secure a licence to provide a locally run radio station dedicated to North Oxfordshire.

This Council supports the need especially in times of emergency, to provide a genuinely local news outlet dedicated to an established geographical location and conurbation.

Whilst not pre-empting who the provider may be this council supports the aspiration for a local provider to operate the local DAB multiplex and secure a truly local FM community radio licence when they become available.

This Council requests that the leader of the Council writes to Ofcom and the Secretary of State for Digital, Cultural, Media and Sport (DCMS) to convey our support for a local provider to persuade Ofcom of the need for a community minded radio station in the Banbury and North Oxfordshire catchment area."

## **20. Motion by Councillor Jane Hanna**

“Government planned reforms to integrate health and care by April 2022 are being implemented across Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB) ahead of the Health and Care Bill 2021 and there are many non-elected new decision-makers and groups in place.

We believe Oxfordshire County Council must have freedom to work with partners to respond to the needs of our people, most especially as inequalities have worsened through the pandemic. County councillor democratic involvement at each local and regional level of decision-making is vital as well as ensuring local authority standards



of accountability apply to new non-elected bodies.

Oxfordshire statutory committees of Health and Wellbeing and JHOSC are well established Oxfordshire committees. Their role must be core to understanding and tackling inequalities and helping build back sustainable local communities.

New decision-making powers for health and care above Oxfordshire as place must be compelling and accountable. Proposed new powers for ministers to intervene in any local change need to be removed from the Bill.

If joint health and care plans are to succeed locally government needs to deliver now on national workforce planning and on it's failed pledges in 2017 and in 2019 to deliver a social care settlement fit for the 21st century.

Council calls on and supports the Chair of Wellbeing Board and Chair of HOSC writing to all Oxfordshire MPs seeking their active support for this Council's position in Parliament and to seek wider support with local partners with view to influencing improvements to reforms."

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### **Pre-Meeting Briefing**

There will be a pre-meeting briefing at County Hall on **Monday 13 September 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, 13 July 2021 commencing at 10.30 am and finishing at 12.20 pm.

### **Present:**

Councillor John Howson – in the Chair

### Councillors:

Juliette Ash	Donna Ford	Jane Murphy
Brad Baines	Andrew Gant	Michael O'Connor
Hannah Banfield	Stefan Gawrysiak	Michele Paule
David Bartholomew	Andy Graham	Glynis Phillips
Tim Bearder	Kate Gregory	Susanna Pressel
Robin Bennett	Jane Hanna OBE	Eddie Reeves
Liz Brighthouse OBE	Jenny Hannaby	G.A. Reynolds
Kevin Bulmer	Damian Haywood	Judy Roberts
Nigel Champken-Woods	Charlie Hicks	David Rouane
Andrew Coles	Tony Ilott	Geoff Saul
Yvonne Constance OBE	Bob Johnston	Les Sibley
Ian Corkin	Liz Leffman	Nigel Simpson
Imade Edosomwan	Nick Leverton	Roz Smith
Duncan Enright	Mark Lygo	Ian Snowdon
Mohamed Fadlalla	Kieron Mallon	Dr Pete Sudbury
Arash Fatemian	Ian Middleton	Bethia Thomas
Neil Fawcett	Freddie van Mierlo	Michael Waine
Ted Fenton	Calum Miller	Richard Webber
Nick Field-Johnson		

*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.*

### **37/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

(Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Felix Bloomfield, Councillor Nathan Ley, Councillor Sally Povolotsky, Councillor Alison Rooke, Councillor Jayne Strangwood and Councillor Liam Walker.

### **38/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

(Agenda Item 2)

Councillor Andrew Coles declared a non-pecuniary personal interest in Agenda Item 9 by virtue of his position as an employee of Stagecoach and a founder member and volunteer of West Oxfordshire Community Transport.

Councillor Liz Leffman declared a non-pecuniary personal interest in Agenda Item 9 by virtue of her position as a founder member and shareholder of West Oxfordshire Community Transport.

Councillor Andy Graham declared a non-pecuniary personal interest in Agenda Item 9 by virtue of his position as an Arts Practitioner.

Councillor Duncan Enright declared a non-pecuniary personal interest in Agenda Item 9 by virtue of his position as a founder member and shareholder of West Oxfordshire Community Transport.

### **39/21 MINUTES**

(Agenda Item 3)

The minutes of the Meeting held on 18 May 2021 were approved and signed as an accurate record, subject to the following correction:

Minute 35/21 – Councillor Pressel seconded the appointment of Liz Leffman as Leader.

(3) The Office of Leader of the Opposition RESOLVED: to note ~~that~~ Councillor Eddie Reeves' **position** as the Leader of the Opposition.

#### Matters Arising

In relation to Minute 33/21 (Constitution Changes to Reflect Return to Physical Meetings), the Chairman reported that due to the Government Announcement being moved to July 19 and to keep business to a minimum, he had taken the decision not to report back on this item at this time, but to report to the September Meeting instead.

### **40/21 OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS**

(Agenda Item 4)

Council congratulated the Lord Lieutenant on his award of KCVO from the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2021.

Council congratulated Ian Hudspeth on his OBE and all other Oxfordshire residents who had received honours from the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2021.

Council paid tribute and held a minute's silence in memory of Former Councillor Richard Farrell.

## **41/21 APPOINTMENTS**

(Agenda Item 5)

**RESOLVED:** Council noted that under Cabinet Procedure Rule 12.2.2 the Leader of the Council had given notice of the following change to the Cabinet Scheme of Delegation. The Change came into effect on 22 June 2021:

Cabinet Member for Public Health & Equality - Councillor Mark Lygo

## **42/21 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS**

(Agenda Item 6)

Council received the following Petition and Public Address:

A Petition from Mr Canio Santoliquido requesting an urgent review of Oxfordshire County Council's Adult Social Care Contributions Policy.

Council referred the Petition to the Corporate Director Adults and Housing Services for response.

Ms Carole Thomson, spoke in relation to Agenda Item 10 (Review of Scrutiny Arrangements) as the Chair of the Oxfordshire Governors' Association, OGA, which had been established in 1995, and had been useful to the council since then for liaison purposes and as a conduit for appointing governors to various consultative groups and panels, some statutory, others not, that had facilitated the work of the council.

From 1995 onwards apart from a short gap, the County Council recognised the Governors' Association through a non-voting position on the Committee dealing with education. In 2001 legislation introduced Parent Governor representatives onto Scrutiny committees, whose role was to represent parents but not governors. In 2013, the committee dealing with education changed from Children's Services to Education Scrutiny Committee, due to the high workload for the committee. She was therefore surprised at the proposed structure to have a single People committee with such a large area of responsibility, incorporating not only all of Children's Services, but also adult services. Acknowledging that it was a decision for Council to make, she made the following points which she hoped would inform the discussion.

Alongside the Governors' representation there had been a representative of the Council of Teachers' Organisations' or COTO on the Scrutiny committee with responsibility for education, this representation had provided useful information about the reality of working on the front line in a school. COTO believed that previous minutes had demonstrated that not only had this been an important part of the democratic process but had also ensured that all continued to work collectively for the best educational outcomes for our children.

The Committee had not been short of work or debate as an education specific committee and also she believed that constraints on officer time had created some challenges for the work of the committee, so she hoped the

necessary support to help prioritise such a wide range of legal and moral responsibilities had been comprehensively considered in developing this proposal.

One amongst many major education challenges the council currently faced related to the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant, which was neither balancing the books nor providing universally good levels of support for the Oxfordshire children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, even before one considered the long term impact of the pandemic and the massive disruption to the education and well-being of children in schools across Oxfordshire.

She urged Council to ensure that whatever structures and committees were agreed; that the educational needs of the majority of children and young people were not overlooked in addressing the needs of the highly important, but relatively small groups of children that were particularly vulnerable.

In Annex 2 of the Additional Papers at Paragraph 3 there was reference to additional voting members of the committee, from which Councillors might assume that the role of COTO and OGA would seem superfluous. She pointed out that none of those roles have been filled in recent years, there had been no diocesan representative since May 2017. Similarly, there had not been a single parent governor representative for the past twelve years, apart from a short interlude of less than 18 months between 2016 and 2018. In practice it was always very difficult to find parents who could attend daytime meetings when they were already juggling domestic responsibilities and working lives, particularly as no mechanism existed for them to consult the parents they were supposed to represent. The academisation agenda has introduced additional challenges for the county council in meeting their responsibilities for all children and has reduced significantly the pool of potential parent governor candidates.

She urged the Council to consider continuing to invite Governors' Association and COTO representation to relevant discussions that impact all the schools in Oxfordshire.

#### **43/21 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

(Agenda Item 8)

6 questions with Notice were asked. Details of the questions and answers and supplementary questions and answers will be set out in the Annex to the minutes.

In relation to question 1 (Question from Yvonne Constance to Councillor Duncan Enright) Councillor Enright undertook to provide Councillor Constance with a written reply detailing who sits on the steering group and the exact locations of the trial sites.

In relation to question 2 (Question from Councillor Yvonne Constance to Councillor Duncan Enright) Councillor Enright undertook to provide

Councillor Constance with a written reply detailing the membership of the group who will be meeting with Highways England.

#### **44/21 REPORT OF THE CABINET**

(Agenda Item 9)

Council received the report of the Cabinet.

In relation to paragraph 21 of the report (Question from Councillor Robin Bennett to Councillor Duncan Enright) Councillor Enright undertook to provide a written answer regarding whether a carbon impact assessment had been undertaken for HIF1, including what the emissions will be from the construction and from the vehicles that use it once constructed.

In relation to paragraph 22 of the report (Question from Councillor Freddie Van Mierlo to Councillor Duncan Enright) Councillor Enright undertook to provide a written answer regarding the Watlington Edge Road Scheme and whether it is on track to be approved at Cabinet in September.

#### **45/21 REVIEW OF SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS**

(Agenda Item 10)

At the Annual Meeting, Council re-appointed the Education and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committees that had existed under the previous administration. This enabled the work of these committees to continue pending a review of scrutiny arrangements. Council had before it a report (CC10) which proposed that the arrangements be reviewed and that a broader set of overview and scrutiny committees be established in place of the two current overview and scrutiny committees. This was to enable a greater range and depth of scrutiny activity inclusive of a wider range of members of the Council. Council was invited to consider establishing three committees and their terms of reference and, if established, to make appointments to them on the basis of political proportionality.

Councillor Leffman moved and Councillor Phillips seconded that the recommendations set out in the report be adopted. Following debate, the Motion was put to the vote and was carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** (unanimously) to:

- (a) approve the draft terms of reference (at Annex 1) and the allocated subject areas (at Annex 2) for three new overview and scrutiny committees, namely:
  - (i) Place
  - (ii) People
  - (iii) Performance and Corporate Services
- (b) agree that these committees be appointed to replace the current overview and scrutiny committees (Education and Performance), effective from September 2021;

- (c) make appointments to the three committees based on political proportionality as set out in paragraph 9 and at Annex 3;
- (d) request the Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer to amend the Constitution to reflect these changes;
- (e) authorise the Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer to determine and confirm the dates of meeting for the three committees for the remainder of the 2021/22 Council Year.

**46/21 SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT**

(Agenda Item 11)

Council had before it the Scrutiny Annual Report (CC11) which highlighted the key work undertaken by the Council's scrutiny committees to address current and emerging issues including the delivery of improved services for the residents of Oxfordshire. The report 2020-2021 was presented to full Council, having been considered by the Performance Scrutiny Committee on 3 June 2021.

Councillor Brighthouse moved and Councillor Reeves seconded that the recommendation set out on the face of the Agenda be adopted. Following debate, the motion was put to the vote and was carried nem con.

**RESOLVED:** (nem con) to receive the report.

**47/21 AUDIT & GOVERNANCE ANNUAL REPORT**

(Agenda Item 12)

Council had before it the Audit & Governance Annual Report which set out the role of the Audit & Governance Committee and summarised the work that has been undertaken both as a Committee and through the support of the Audit Working Group in 2020/21.

Councillor Roz Smith moved and Councillor Brad Baines seconded that the recommendations set out on the face of the Agenda be adopted. Following debate, the motion was put to the vote and was carried nem con.

**RESOLVED:** (nem con) to receive the report.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing .....



## QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Questions	Answers
<p><b>1. COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE</b></p> <p>The Council Budget agreed for 2021/22 included £200,000 secured by the previous administration to develop a process to introduce 20mph speed limits for all Town and Parish Councils wanting safer speeds. Can the Cabinet member please report any developments towards such a process, and what progress we can report to our Parish Councils who wish to prepare for this opportunity?</p> <p>Page</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR DUNCAN ENRIGHT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRAVEL AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY</b></p> <p>The project is progressing, and we have held our first 20mph steering group.</p> <p>The expectation is that a report setting out the council's new policy and countywide approach for 20mph will be presented to Cabinet for a decision in the Autumn.</p> <p>We are working with 20-is-plenty, who are on the steering group, as one route of connecting with the many parish councils interested in the county council's new approach and commitments.</p> <p>Five trial locations to look at the impact of signage only and different potential traffic management measures are being delivered as part of the programme.</p>
<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</b></p> <p>Thank you for the written answer and I am relieved to see confirmation that this project will proceed as the Liberal Democrat/Greens voted against our budget in February this year we did not know the status of this project in the new administration. Can we know please who sits on this Steering Group; which 5 locations have been included in the trial and how every parish council will be assured of an opportunity to be included in the project and to be considered for whatever standards are established?</p>	<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</b></p> <p>Yes, thank you Councillor Constance and may I say as well thank you for your service to this County as well as a former Cabinet Member in this very portfolio and it is rather intimidating to be questioned by your predecessor at your first opportunity to answer questions.</p> <p>I am very pleased to say that we have made significant progress on the Steering Group. The three councillors who are from the Cabinet, are members of the Environment &amp; Place team which is myself. Cllr Sudbury and Cllr Bearder and we are working with officers on a toolkit which will allow 20mph limits to be established right across this County and talking about ways in which we can accelerate the work in this area. We believe this to be important, we know there is a great deal of demand from parishes across the County for this measure, so we are acting with urgency to bring this about and we will be working very closely with the City, districts and parishes and town councils across the County in order to bring this about.</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>The five trial locations I will have to get back to be you on, but the ones that I know are four in the area around Wallingford and one in Kirtlington.</p>
<p><b>2. COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE</b></p> <p>Our neighbour Swindon Borough Council has embarked on an 18-month programme to enlarge 2 major roundabouts on A420 near their border with Oxfordshire. At the same time OCC has started work to construct a new roundabout on A420 near Highworth Road and any traffic management has not been effective, so traffic is diverting through the villages and residents are complaining about numbers of vehicles, especially HGVs, and the speed of vehicles through their streets.</p> <p>Can the Cabinet member please report what planning was undertaken with Swindon Borough Council before this major disruption to a major route between Swindon and Oxford? Was any plan agreed under the Statement of Common Ground between the two authorities? What better management can be introduced now to relieve the villages of some of this traffic? Is it possible to divert all through traffic, HGVs included, to M4 and A34 which is the intended 'strategic route' for all traffic in OCC current Local Transport Plan?</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR DUNCAN ENRIGHT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRAVEL AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY</b></p> <p>I can confirm that liaison with colleagues at Swindon Borough Council regarding the refurbishment of the roundabouts on the A420 just over the border took place. Swindon installed traffic management to allow for the controlled passage of vehicles through the site.</p> <p>Unfortunately, at the same time, Highways England have been operating night-time closures of the M4 and diverting traffic along the strategic diversion route of the A420 and A34.</p> <p>Both sets of works are causing delays on the approaches to the roundabout and these are being controlled by manually operated traffic lights.</p> <p>There should be no roadworks currently on the A420 junction with Highworth Road, although we did grant a permit for some limited works within March 2021, but these are now completed. We have no Permits pending in the system for works for a roundabout in the system for Highworth Road (Shrivenham) and the A420, but we have had some very preliminary conversations with Carla Homes representatives about the potential works. It is understood that these works would not start until 2022, at the earliest.</p> <p>Decisions to grant future roadwork Permits in this area will take into account other works on the A420 and the network management team will seek to co-ordinate and mitigate to minimise further disruption as far as possible.</p> <p>The Statement of Common Ground between Oxfordshire County Council and Swindon Borough Council is in relation to the Swindon Borough Local Plan 2016 Examination and does not refer to ongoing or proposed roadworks.</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>A meeting between officers at the County Council and Highways England to look at the Strategic Diversion Routes within the County is in the process of being arranged. We do have to recognise that currently the A420 (Swindon to Oxford) is part of the strategic diversion network and is part of the County Councils Freight Strategy for Oxfordshire as a link between large towns. We are however reviewing this as part of the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan work.</p>
<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</b></p> <p>Thank you for the answer on the question on the management of the traffic on the A420. Traffic lights do not of course divert traffic away from the villages that are taking the burden of these works, there is of course a rather inconsistent position on the A420 in the Local Transport Plan (the current one), Local Transport Plan 4, the strategic routes for all traffic from Swindon are the M4 and A34, but I note in the officer's response that A420 is somehow designated a freight route. That is considered in the new Local Transport Plan and we know that that will happen. Meanwhile, could I ask which colleagues met to decide the current Transport Plan or Traffic Plan that is doing nothing for the villages, the local member was not included nor informed. Could you note this. Could we ask officers to state exactly what the Traffic Plan that has been introduced requires and what it is intended to achieve?</p>	<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</b></p> <p>Yes, thank you very much. I don't know about the membership of that group, but I will certainly ask/consult officers and get back to you. Thank you as well for giving me an opportunity to tee-up the important work which the Council is about to undertake or is in the process of undertaking on the new Local Transport and Connectivity Plan. This is crucial to the future of our County taking into account the climate emergency, the traffic situation across our County and urge all members to play a part in making sure that that is the best possible plan we can have as a follow up to LTP4.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p data-bbox="91 165 956 204"><b>3. COUNCILLOR EDDIE REEVES</b></p> <p data-bbox="91 284 956 466">Further to the petition tabled by Simon Ruff to Full Council on 23 March, will the Cabinet member undertake to prioritise implementation of residents' parking schemes for market towns such as Banbury including, notably, the town centre streets mentioned in Mr Ruff's petition?</p>	<p data-bbox="956 165 2143 236"><b>COUNCILLOR TIM BEARDER, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p data-bbox="956 284 2143 577">You may be aware that towards the end of this year it is planned for parking enforcement in South, Vale and Cherwell district areas to transfer from the Police to the County Council as part of the Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) project. In Oxford City, the authority has a successful track record of implementing and running permit parking schemes, which can benefit residents and their visitors in areas where extraneous parking causes a problem. A key factor of their success is enforcement, and the delivery of this project will open opportunities for new resident parking schemes to be considered.</p> <p data-bbox="956 619 2143 833">At present the priority to ensure the successful delivery of Civil Parking Enforcement powers, of which there is a lot to do. We are therefore not currently actively working on proposed schemes at this time, but officers continue to collate requests of this nature. As part of our preparations, we will be ensuring we have the right levels of resource to manage the likely number of new parking related requests and scheme that are possible following the implementation of CPE.</p> <p data-bbox="956 874 2143 1088">The consideration of new Controlled Parking Zones will be dependent on a number of factors including strategic objectives, potential funding, levels of local support and officer resources to deliver schemes. Such policies will be developed as CPE evolves. A Councillor steering group with representatives from each authority is proposed to consider such issues, similar to the arrangements already operating within the Oxford City boundary.</p>
<p data-bbox="91 1129 956 1168"><b>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</b></p> <p data-bbox="91 1209 956 1353">Yes, I do Chair not least because I don't understand the heavily manicured answer that I have been given. My supplementary is very simple will Banbury be a priority for CPE roll-out – yes or no?</p>	<p data-bbox="956 1129 2143 1168"><b>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</b></p> <p data-bbox="956 1209 2143 1279">I think that was made clear in the answer already provided, we are not prioritising anywhere at the moment.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p><b>4. COUNCILLOR EDDIE REEVES</b></p> <p>Given the Liberal Democrats' and Greens' opposition to housing targets across rural Oxfordshire during the election campaign and the newly formed administration, will the Leader now commit to working with the Deputy Leader and her colleagues on Oxford City Council to ensure that we increase the supply of social and (genuinely) affordable housing within the City?</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR LIZ LEFFMAN, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</b></p> <p>Yes, we are happy to work with the Deputy Leader and her colleagues on Oxford City Council to support increasing the supply of social and (genuinely) affordable housing within the City. Although the provision of affordable housing is a City rather than County matter, we are fully supportive of the City's policies to increase the supply of affordable housing.</p>
<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</b></p> <p>Yes, I am very grateful for this answer. My supplementary is very simple - is Oxford City Council doing enough on housing – yes or no?</p>	<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</b></p> <p>Thank you, Councillor Reeves. It is not for me to judge what Oxford City Council is doing regarding housing that is their business. But obviously we are supportive of any measures that might go forward to improve availability of affordable housing wherever it is across this County and we will support any of our districts in finding suitable land for doing that.</p>
<p><b>COUNCILLOR EDDIE REEVES</b></p> <p>How many LTNs have (i) been implemented by this Council, (ii) how many more are planned and (iii) will the Leader ensure that the three Cabinet members with an interest in this policy area listen to residents' concerns following the recent protests in Cowley and elsewhere?</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR TIM BEARDER, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>Three low traffic neighbourhoods have been implemented in Cowley – in Church Cowley, Temple Cowley and Florence Park. Each area is implemented under an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order, which has a statutory six-month public consultation period running alongside it. The public consultation dates and link are as below:</p> <p><a href="https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/Cowley_ExperimentalLowTraffic">https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/Cowley_ExperimentalLowTraffic</a></p> <p>Church Cowley ETRO went live 1 March 2021  Florence Park ETRO went live 8 March 2021  Temple Cowley ETRO went live 15 March 2021</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>There are a further six low traffic neighbourhoods proposed in two areas – East Oxford and Headington/Quarry. The East Oxford area has three low traffic neighbourhoods proposed – St Marys, St Clements and Divinity Road area. An initial pre-statutory consultation for this area closed at midnight on the 29th June. Headington and Quarry area also has three low traffic neighbourhoods proposed – New Headington, Old Headington and Quarry. The pre-statutory consultation date for this area has not yet been confirmed. LTN has not yet been confirmed, key stakeholder meetings have taken place.</p>
<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</b></p> <p>Yes, I would just like it noted that this was a question to the Leader originally as (iii) makes clear, but I am content to make my supplementary to Councillor Bearder none the less. I wanted to ask him a very simple supplementary – Does he regret the demonstrations of the Cowley Road and elsewhere pursuant to the Low Traffic Neighbourhood’s policy and would he apologise to those residents concerned?</p>	<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</b></p> <p>Well important change to tackle climate change to make our streets safer, with less pollution and less accidents will create opposition as a lot the Conservative’s did in their administration which created a great deal of opposition. So, whilst I regret that people feel put out by the necessary change that we are bringing in we can’t let a noisy minority distract us from what is vital to get things done.</p>
<p><b>6. COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE</b></p> <p>On 18<sup>th</sup> June I noted the announcement that from December 2021, powers to enforce minor traffic offences will be extended to transport authorities outside London and Cardiff for the first time. This will empower Oxfordshire County Council to enforce banned turns, box junctions and driving in formal cycle lanes and impose £70 fines for infringement without referring to the police.</p> <p>Please inform Council what the full extent of these powers will be: will OCC be able to introduce ANPR cameras on streets other than bus lanes? Will OCC be able to enforce weight restrictions (as was expected)? Will any speed</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR TIM BEARDER, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>Officers in the County Council’s Parking Team are aware of the general announcement relating to the provision of Traffic Management Act 2004 – Part 6 of powers being made available to Local Authorities outside London from December 2021 (delayed from July 2021). As yet, no details have come from Central Government on the extent of the powers that will be made available, if they will be automatically granted to Local Authorities or whether, as a County Council, we will need to apply for the powers from the Department for Transport. However, we are not expecting that the enforcement of speed limits will be part of the package of powers. This will remain with the Police. Depending on the extent of the powers, Officers will be considering the options available to the County Council and the level of investment required to implement.</p>

<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
<p>limits be directly enforceable by OCC?</p> <p>And what plans does OCC have to implement these powers as soon as they are authorised? They have been long promised and OCC should be prepared to use them as soon as possible.</p>	
<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</b></p> <p>Thank you, Councillor Bearder for the written response. What really matters I think, is how soon we will know what powers are available, how we acquire them, and there is a great interest particularly with we rural councillors as to whether we will be able to enforce weight restrictions. We are seeking to consider weight restrictions all over this County I know, but most particularly in my division. So, I look forward to further information from you and from the officers. Will there be further information as soon as you have it please?</p>	<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</b></p> <p>Thank you, Councillor Constance. As she well knows, the Government have yet to give us any details on what powers they will be devolving to the local councils. Currently the Conservative Government won't allow Police to keep the money that they make from speeding fines which is apparently a ludicrous system because it means that it is a disincentive to the Police to operate speeding fines on our unsafe roads, without doing so at a loss because they must manage that process. So, there is no telling what powers will be given to use at present, although it is unlikely to be speed enforcement. I expect that anything that we are going to be doing with these cameras, we will be doing with one hand behind our backs. I would urge Councillor Constance that if she wants to free us to do exactly what we need to do to make our roads safer, she will lobby her colleagues in Central Government.</p>

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## Divisions-N/A

### COUNTY COUNCIL – 14 SEPTEMBER 2021

#### REPORT OF THE CABINET

##### ***Cabinet Member: Leader of the Council***

#### **1. A Fair Deal for Oxfordshire**

*(Cabinet, 20 July 2021)*

Cabinet was asked to approve the approach to the development of a new strategic plan for the period commencing 2022/23, including a programme of public consultation 'Oxfordshire Conversations' and stakeholder engagement to take place in the autumn.

Cabinet agreed the approach and endorsed the priorities of the Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance to form the basis of these conversations and a new strategic plan.

##### ***Cabinet Member: Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Young People's Services***

#### **2. SEND High Needs Funding for Academic Year 2021-22**

*(Cabinet, 20 July 2021)*

Cabinet considered and approved an increase in Top-Up funding for Early Years settings, mainstream Primary, mainstream Secondary and Special Schools for 2021-2022.

Cabinet also noted that system reform is required for SEND in Oxfordshire. A public consultation on this is planned for later in 2021.

##### ***Cabinet Member: Corporate Services***

#### **3. Fibre Broadband for Public Buildings**

*(Cabinet, 20 July 2021)*

Cabinet delegated authority to the Corporate Director, Customers, Organisational Development and Resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services, for awarding a contract to the winning bidder of the council's procurement of full-fibre broadband for public buildings, up to the value of £8m.

##### ***Cabinet Member: Finance***

#### **4. Capital Programme Monitoring Report – May 2021**

*(Cabinet, 20 July 2021)*

Cabinet considered the first monitoring report and Capital Programme update for 2021/22, setting out the monitoring position for 2021/22 based on activity to the end of May 2021 and providing an update to the Capital Programme

approved by Council in February 2021 to take into account additional funding and new schemes.

The Cabinet agreed the inclusion of specific schemes in the Capital Programme as well as increases in the budget for two schemes.

### ***Cabinet Member: Highway Management***

#### **5. Department of Transport Tranche 3 Active Travel Bid**

*(Cabinet, 20 July 2021, adjourned and resumed on 30 July 2021)*

Cabinet was asked to delegate to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highway Management, the final sign-off of Oxfordshire County Council's bid to the Department for Transport Active Travel Tranche 3 fund.

Cabinet agreed that before making a decision it needed more information on the schemes to be considered, as well as an opportunity to consult Members on the schemes. The meeting was adjourned to a later date and then agreed to the delegation, having received the extra information and feedback.

### ***Cabinet Member: Travel and Development Strategy***

#### **6. Draft Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Reg 18 (Stage 2)**

*(Cabinet, 20 July 2021)*

The draft consultation document was considered for endorsement by all local planning authorities in Oxfordshire in July with a view to it going out for public consultation on 30 July until 8 October.

Cabinet agreed the process and resolved to further consider the Plan at its meeting on 21 September after an all-member seminar, with a view to making formal representations on the Plan by the closing date of 8 October 2021.

#### **7. A40 Access to Witney - In Principle Use of Statutory Powers**

*(Cabinet, 20 July 2021)*

Cabinet considered and approved a list of recommendations to pursue the implementation of statutory powers to enable the project and issue Requisition for Information notices.

#### **8. A40 HIF 2 Smart Corridor- Preferred Options and Funding**

*(Cabinet, 20 July 2021)*

Cabinet's approval was sought for the formal adoption of the preferred scheme in order that a planning application can be progressed in parallel with the bringing forward of a Highways Compulsory Purchase Order.

Cabinet approved the preferred options, confirmed them as fully funded and delegated authority to the Director for Property, Investment & Facilities Management and the Director of Law and Governance to agree appropriate terms in accordance with statutory provisions.

***Cabinet Member: All Cabinet Members***

**9. Business Management & Monitoring Report**

*(Cabinet, 20 July 2021)*

Cabinet considered a report setting out Oxfordshire County Council's progress towards Corporate Plan priorities for 2021/22 during April and May 2021.

Cabinet approved the report as well as virements outlined in the annexes and bad debt write-offs.

**LIZ LEFFMAN**

Leader of the Council

September 2021

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Divisions: N/A

## COUNCIL – 14 SEPTEMBER 2021

### TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL PERFORMANCE 2020/21

#### Report by Director of Finance

#### RECOMMENDATION

Council is **RECOMMENDED** to note the Council's Treasury Management Activity in 2020/21.

#### Executive Summary

1. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA's) 'Code of Practice on Treasury Management 2017' requires that the Council and Audit & Governance Committee receives an updated report on Treasury Management activities at least twice per year. This report is the second report for the financial year 2020/21 and sets out the position as at 31 March 2021.
2. Performance for the financial year 2020/21 is measured against the original budget set in February 2020.
3. Treasury management is defined as: "The management of the local authority's investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks."
4. At 31 March 2021, outstanding debt totalled £335m and average interest paid on long-term debt was 4.44%. The Council repaid £6m of maturing PWLB loans during the year. No new borrowing was arranged during 2020/21. The Council's debt financing position for 2020/21 is shown in Annex 1.
5. The Treasury Management Strategy for 2020/21 was based on an average base rate forecast of 0.75%, with heavily weighted risk to the downside. The budget for interest receivable assumed that an average interest rate of 0.85% would be achieved. The average daily balance of temporary surplus cash invested in-house was £402m in 2020/21.
6. The Council achieved an average in-house return for the year of 0.84%, producing gross interest receivable of £3.357m. In relation to external funds, the return for the year was 3.91% producing gross distributions totalling £3.947, bringing total investment income to £7.304m. This compares to budgeted investment income of £6.258 m, giving a net overachievement of £1.046m.
7. At 31 March 2021, the Council's investment portfolio of £529.326m comprised £379.300m of fixed term deposits, £49.339m at short term notice in money market funds and £100.687m in pooled funds with a variable net asset value. Annex 4 provides an analysis of the investment portfolio at 31 March 2021.

## Treasury Management Activity

### Debt Financing & Maturing Debt

8. The Strategy for Long Term Borrowing included the option to fund new or replacement borrowing up to the value of £100m through internal borrowing to reduce the Council's exposure to credit risk and reduce the cost of carry (difference between borrowing costs and investment returns) whilst debt rates remained higher than investment interest rates.
9. The Council is able to borrow from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) or through the money markets. However, as the Council was able to undertake internal borrowing no new borrowing was arranged during 2020/21.
10. At 31 March 2021, the authority had 53 PWLB loans totalling £285.383m, 9 LOBO<sup>1</sup> loans totalling £45m and one £5m money market loan. The average rate of interest paid on PWLB debt was 4.55% and the average cost of LOBO debt in 2019/20 was 3.94%. The cost of debt on the money market loan was 3.95%. The combined weighted average for interest paid on long-term debt was 4.44%. The Council's debt portfolio as at 31 March 2021 is shown in Annex 1.
11. The Council repaid £6m of maturing PWLB loans during the year. The weighted average interest rate payable on the matured loans was 3.342%. The outturn for Interest Payable in 2020/21 was £15.0m which is in line with the budget in the Medium Term Financial Plan. The details are set out in Annex 2.

### Investment Strategy

12. In line with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management, the Council prioritised Security and liquidity of cash above the requirement to maximise returns. The Council used fixed deposits, call accounts, notice accounts, money market funds and pooled funds to deposit its in-house cash surpluses during 2020/21. The Council continuously monitored credit quality information regarding the institutions on the Council's approved Lending List.
13. As a result of an in year balances analysis, the long term lending limit for 2020/21 was increased from £200m to £215m, whilst the limit for 2021/22 was increased from £150m to £200m. The increase in limit allowed the Council to take further advantage of inflated intra local authority deposit rates.
14. During 2020/21, because of financial uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council limited the exposure to banks by lending to local authorities. At 31 March 2021 the Council had £72.3m of long-term fixed deposits (deposits over 364 days), all of which were placed with local authorities. The aim was to maintain a high level of security and manage exposure to interest rate and counterparty risk.
15. The inter local authority lending market is beneficial to both the lender and the borrower. The lender is able to benefit by having access to high security deposits. The borrower is able to

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

secure short to medium term cash at a borrowing cost that is lower than available through PWLB or other money market participants.

16. The weighted average maturity of all deposits at 31 March 2021, including money deposited in short-term notice accounts, was 225 days (compared with 193 days during 2019/20). The increase in weighted average maturity was a strategic decision to take advantage of inflated inter local authority longer term lending rates, against a back drop of lowering inter bank lending rates.
17. The 2020/21 Treasury Management Strategy allowed for 50% of the total portfolio to be help in Strategic Pooled funds. During the year, the Council maintained the investment in Strategic Pooled Funds. These funds are all income producing. As the value of the funds can fluctuate, these investments are treated as long term.
18. In March 2021 the TMST explored options for longer dated investments. Increasing the exposure to Strategic investments was not deemed appropriate as the certainty of cash levels, above the current exposure, for the 10 year time horizon was not satisfied. An analysis of shorter dated and cash plus funds was undertaken, however the returns were not favourable. It was decided to review these funds in the first half of 2021/22.

### **The Council's Lending List**

19. The Council's in-house cash balances are deposited with institutions that meet the Council's approved credit rating criteria. The approved Lending List is regularly updated during the year to reflect changes in bank and building society credit ratings. Changes are reported to the Cabinet on a regular basis as part of the Financial Monitoring & Business Strategy Delivery reports. The approved lending list may also be further restricted by officers, in response to changing conditions and perceived risk. Annex 3 shows the amendments incorporated into the Lending List during 2020/21, in accordance with the approved credit rating criteria and additional temporary restrictions.

### **Investment Outturn**

20. The average daily balance of temporary surplus cash invested in-house was £401.675m in 2020/21. The Council achieved an average in-house return for the year of 0.84%, producing gross interest receivable of £3.357m. Temporary surplus cash balances include: 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.
21. During 2020/21 the average three month LIBID rate was 0.14%. The Council's average in-house return of 0.84% exceeded this benchmark by 0.70%. The average in-house return was 0.01% lower than the rate of interest of 0.85% assumed in the budget. The budgeted forecast was for UK Base Rate to remain at 0.75% for 2020/21. However, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, official bank rate was lowered to 0.10% in March 2020 and remained at that level for the duration of 2020/21.
22. The Council operates a number of instant access call accounts and money market funds to deposit short-term cash surpluses. During 2020/21 the average balance held on instant access was £83.819m.

23. In-house deposits produced gross interest receivable of £3.357m for the year. Gross distributions from pooled funds totalling £3.947m were realised in year, bringing total investment income to £7.304m. This compares to budgeted investment income of £6.258m, giving a net overachievement of £1.046m. The overachievement in income received was due to a combination of higher than forecast average cash balances and higher than forecast distributions from pooled funds.
24. At 31 March 2020 the total value of pooled fund investments was £89.974m, which represented a book value loss of £11.031m. The loss was a direct result of global investment market contractions as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. As at 31 March 2021, the portfolio had regained the losses and was valued at £100.687m.
25. At 31 March 2021, the Council's investment portfolio of £529.326m comprised £379.300m of fixed term deposits, £49.339m at short term notice in money market funds and £100.687m in pooled funds with a variable net asset value. Annex 4 provides an analysis of the investment portfolio at 31 March 2021.
26. The council's Treasury Management Strategy Team regularly monitors the risk profile of the Council's investment portfolio. An analysis of the credit and maturity position of the portfolio at 31 March 2021 is shown in Annex 4.

### **Prudential Indicators for Treasury Management**

27. During the financial year, the Council operated within the treasury limits and Prudential Indicators set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Report. The outturn for the Prudential Indicators is shown in Annex 5.

### **External Performance Indicators and Statistics**

28. The Council's treasury management advisors Link Treasury Services also benchmark the Council's investment performance against its other clients on a quarterly basis. The results of the quarter 4 benchmarking to 31 March 2021 are included in Annex 6.
29. The benchmarking results show that the Council was achieving higher than average interest on deposits at 31 March 2021 compared to the benchmark group. This has been achieved by placing deposits over a longer than average duration with institutions that are of higher than average credit quality.

### **Financial and Legal Implications**

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

**Lorna Baxter**  
Director of Finance

Contact officer: Tim Chapple  
Telephone Number: 07917 262935

June 2021



## OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL DEBT PROFILE 31 MARCH 2021

LOAN No	£m	RATE %	Start Date	End Date	LOAN No	£m	RATE %	Start Date	End Date
479915	1.684	6.625	30/11/1995	26/03/2023	492376	10.000	4.200	01/11/2006	31/03/2037
479916	0.316	6.625	30/11/1995	26/03/2023	492386	2.000	4.350	03/11/2006	01/04/2027
480364	1.000	6.250	29/12/1997	31/12/2022	492535	10.000	4.200	29/11/2006	30/06/2037
480867	2.000	5.625	23/04/1998	30/04/2023	492561	6.000	4.250	07/12/2006	30/06/2032
480915	2.000	5.625	30/04/1998	22/05/2023	492598	8.000	4.500	18/12/2006	30/04/2027
483469	3.000	4.250	12/11/1999	22/11/2024	492599	6.000	4.500	18/12/2006	31/05/2027
483659	2.000	4.250	25/11/1999	30/04/2025	492786	10.000	4.850	23/01/2007	31/01/2022
487777	4.000	4.650	16/05/2003	01/05/2028	492789	6.000	4.500	24/01/2007	31/01/2032
488204	8.000	5.000	27/10/2003	01/11/2023	492990	6.000	4.450	06/03/2007	31/03/2032
488562	7.650	4.700	19/03/2004	16/03/2030	492807	4.000	4.250	25/01/2007	30/06/2053
488563	1.733	4.700	19/03/2004	16/03/2030	493378	4.000	4.900	11/06/2007	30/06/2032
488989	6.000	4.850	16/08/2004	13/07/2030	493638	6.000	4.550	02/08/2007	30/09/2052
489168	6.000	4.700	22/10/2004	01/03/2030	493803	4.000	4.650	23/08/2007	20/09/2032
489287	6.000	4.600	22/11/2004	01/04/2032	493822	6.000	4.450	23/08/2007	30/09/2053
489429	6.000	4.550	02/12/2004	01/06/2032	493960	4.000	5.050	03/10/2007	31/10/2022
489856	5.000	4.600	06/05/2005	01/05/2033	494069	6.000	4.500	21/11/2007	30/09/2052
490105	5.000	4.450	23/05/2005	01/12/2033	494171	6.000	4.480	27/12/2007	31/03/2052
491669	4.000	4.450	23/05/2006	14/06/2026	494200	6.000	4.420	04/01/2008	31/03/2057
491948	5.000	4.650	16/08/2006	31/12/2026	494703	6.000	4.460	04/08/2008	13/07/2058
491957	4.000	4.500	18/08/2006	31/12/2031	494747	10.000	4.390	15/08/2008	26/03/2058
491958	4.000	4.500	18/08/2006	30/09/2031	497549	5.000	4.190	08/07/2010	14/06/2054
491959	2.000	4.600	21/08/2006	30/04/2027	LOBO 06	5.000	4.290	27/04/2005	27/04/2021
491960	10.000	4.600	21/08/2006	30/09/2026	LOBO 07	5.000	4.500	27/04/2005	27/04/2021
492021	5.000	4.350	25/08/2006	22/11/2031	MML08	5.000	3.950	31/05/2005	29/05/2065
492063	5.000	4.450	31/08/2006	31/03/2028	LOBO 09	5.000	3.680	23/11/2005	23/11/2021
492064	5.000	4.450	31/08/2006	30/04/2027	LOBO 10	5.000	3.800	31/07/2006	31/07/2019
492088	4.000	4.350	04/09/2006	02/03/2032	LOBO 11	5.000	3.840	31/07/2006	29/07/2021
492117	4.000	4.450	07/09/2006	02/03/2037	LOBO 12	5.000	3.825	02/10/2006	02/10/2022
492367	2.000	4.700	25/10/2006	31/12/2021	LOBO 13	5.000	4.010	02/10/2006	02/10/2024
492369	10.000	4.650	31/10/2006	31/12/2021	LOBO 14	5.000	3.820	31/08/2006	31/08/2023
492371	13.000	4.500	31/10/2006	31/12/2026	LOBO 15	5.000	3.720	21/09/2006	13/10/2022
492375	10.000	4.200	01/11/2006	31/12/2036	<b>Total</b>	<b>154.383</b>			

**Long-term debt Maturing 2020/21****Public Works Loan Board: Loans Maturing in 2020/21**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Amount £m</b>	<b>Rate %</b>	<b>Repayment Type</b>
01/06/2020	5.0	3.540	Maturity
13/07/2020	0.5	2.350	EIP
31/07/2020	0.5	2.350	EIP
<b>Total</b>	<b>6.0</b>		

**Repayment Types**

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

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

**Lending List Changes during 2020/21**

**Lending limits & maturity limits changed from 1 April 2020**

**There were no changes to the Lending List During 2020/21**

## OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO 31/03/2021

## Fixed term deposits held at 31/03/2020

Counterparty	Principal Deposited (£)	Maturity Date
Spelthorne Borough Council	£4,000,000.00	02-Jul-21
London Borough of Croydon Council	£10,000,000.00	25-Oct-21
London Borough of Croydon Council	£5,000,000.00	06-Dec-21
Warrington Borough Council	£10,000,000.00	14-Oct-21
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council	£10,000,000.00	01-Jul-22
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council	£5,000,000.00	03-Jan-23
Cambridgeshire County Council	£5,000,000.00	09-Jan-23
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council	£5,000,000.00	12-Oct-22
Wokingham Borough Council	£5,000,000.00	10-Feb-22
Wokingham Borough Council	£5,000,000.00	23-Mar-22
London Borough of Islington Council	£5,000,000.00	21-May-21
Northumberland County Council	£5,000,000.00	30-Jan-23
Peterborough City Council	£5,000,000.00	29-Apr-22
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council	£5,000,000.00	08-Nov-22
Worcestershire County Council	£7,500,000.00	03-Mar-23
Thurrock Council	£5,000,000.00	01-Apr-21
Thurrock Council	£5,000,000.00	01-Apr-21
Slough Borough Council	£10,000,000.00	01-Apr-21
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	£5,000,000.00	01-Apr-21
Gloucester City Council	£5,000,000.00	07-Apr-21
Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire	£5,000,000.00	22-Apr-21
Slough Borough Council	£5,000,000.00	26-Apr-21
Wokingham Borough Council	£5,000,000.00	26-Apr-21
Wokingham Borough Council	£5,000,000.00	28-Apr-21
Uttlesford District Council	£5,000,000.00	19-Jun-23

<b>Counterparty</b>	<b>Principal Deposited (£)</b>	<b>Maturity Date</b>
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	£3,000,000.00	10-Jul-23
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	£3,000,000.00	31-Jul-23
Kingston Upon Hull City Council	£7,000,000.00	04-May-21
Liverpool City Council	£5,000,000.00	15-Apr-21
Liverpool City Council	£5,000,000.00	30-Apr-21
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	£5,000,000.00	09-Jun-21
Plymouth City Council	£5,000,000.00	23-Apr-21
Liverpool City Council	£5,000,000.00	28-Apr-21
West Dunbartonshire Council	£6,000,000.00	21-Jun-21
Liverpool City Council	£5,000,000.00	21-Jun-21
Cherwell District Council	£5,000,000.00	15-Jul-22
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	£5,000,000.00	23-Jun-21
Lancashire County Council	£5,000,000.00	17-May-21
Lancashire County Council	£5,000,000.00	21-May-21
Brentwood Borough Council	£5,000,000.00	16-Jun-21
Spelthorne Borough Council	£10,000,000.00	30-Jun-21
Spelthorne Borough Council	£10,000,000.00	08-Jul-21
Police & Crime Commissioner for Nottinghamshire	£10,000,000.00	14-Jul-21
West Dunbartonshire Council	£5,000,000.00	21-Jul-21
Lancashire County Council	£5,000,000.00	21-Jul-21
Kingston Upon Hull City Council	£5,000,000.00	07-Sep-21
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council	£5,000,000.00	01-Sep-21
Plymouth City Council	£5,000,000.00	15-Sep-21
Plymouth City Council	£5,000,000.00	28-Sep-21
Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside	£5,000,000.00	15-Jul-21
Thurrock Council	£5,000,000.00	09-Nov-21
Moray Council	£5,000,000.00	30-Nov-21
Fife Council	£5,000,000.00	14-Dec-21
Aberdeenshire Council	£5,000,000.00	05-Jan-22

Counterparty	Principal Deposited (£)	Maturity Date
Aberdeenshire Council	£5,000,000.00	06-Jan-22
Fife Council	£5,000,000.00	12-Nov-21
West Dunbartonshire Council	£5,000,000.00	22-Oct-21
Plymouth City Council	£5,000,000.00	08-Nov-21
North Lanarkshire Council	£5,000,000.00	10-Jan-22
South Ayrshire Council	£3,000,000.00	22-Feb-24
Cambridgeshire County Council	£5,000,000.00	17-Feb-22
Surrey County Council	£5,000,000.00	06-Sep-21
London Borough of Barking & Dagenham Council	£5,000,000.00	23-Aug-21
London Borough of Brent Council	£5,000,000.00	23-Feb-22
West Dunbartonshire Council	£5,000,000.00	25-Feb-22
London Borough of Southwark Council	£10,000,000.00	24-Jan-22
London Borough of Haringey Council	£5,000,000.00	28-Feb-22
Gravesham Borough Council	£5,800,000.00	15-Mar-24

## Money Market Funds

Counterparty	Balance at 31/03/20 (£)	Notice period
Aberdeen Liquidity Fund	2,005,000.00	Same day
Goldman Sachs Sterling Liquid Fund	5,000.00	Same day
Deutsche Sterling Liquid Fund	355,291.44	Same day
Federated Sterling Liquidity Funds	25,000,577.48	Same day
Legal & General Sterling Liquidity Fund	21,681.16	Same day
CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund	5,000,496.86	Same day
Morgan Stanley Sterling Liquid Fund	2,000,000.00	Same day
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,388,046.94</b>	

## Notice / Call Accounts

Counterparty	Balance at 31/03/20 (£)	Notice period
Santander Call Account	14,948,787.34	Same day
Barclays Current	9,325.51	Same day
Handelsbanken	2,376.69	Same day
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,960,489.54</b>	

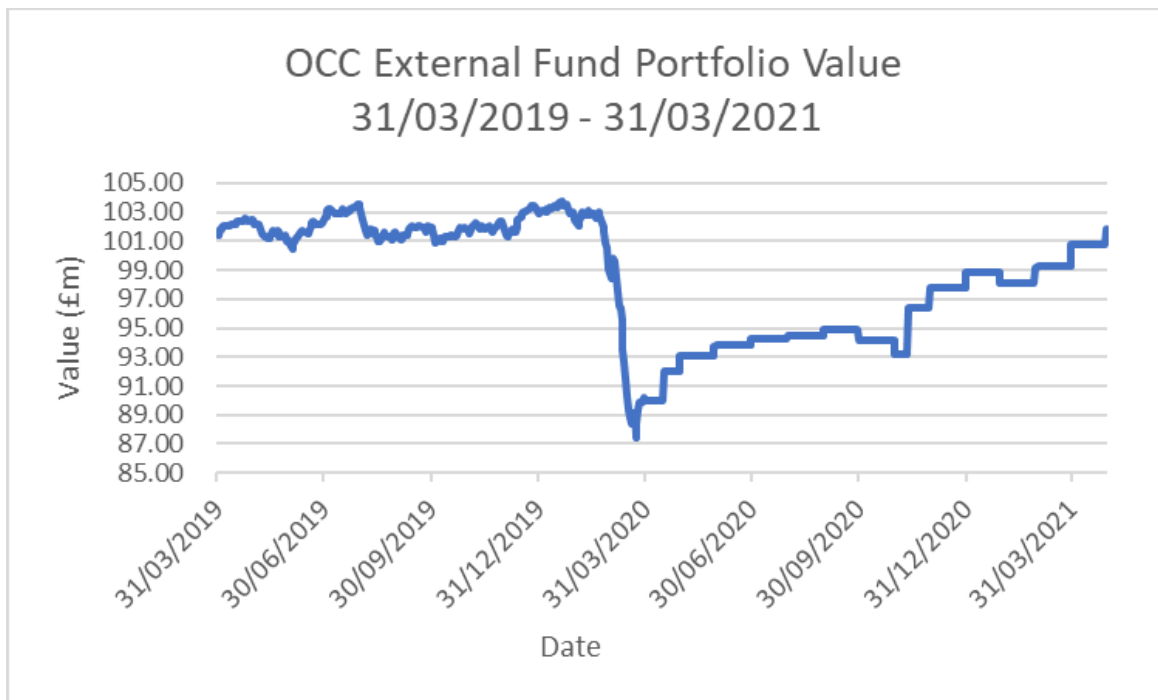
**Strategic Bond Funds**

Fund	Balance at 31/03/20 (£)	Notice period
Threadneedle strategic bond fund (income)	13,795,046.06	4 days
Threadneedle Global Equity Income Fund	14,263,076.25	4 days
Kames Diversified Income	10,152,586.53	4 days
Ninety One Diversified Income	9,961,311.54	4 days
M&G Strategic Corporate Bond Fund	13,031,392.99	4 days
Schroder Income Maximiser	10,294,839.09	4 days
CCLA Diversified Income Fund	4,924,380.30	4 days
<b>Total</b>	<b>76,422,632.76</b>	

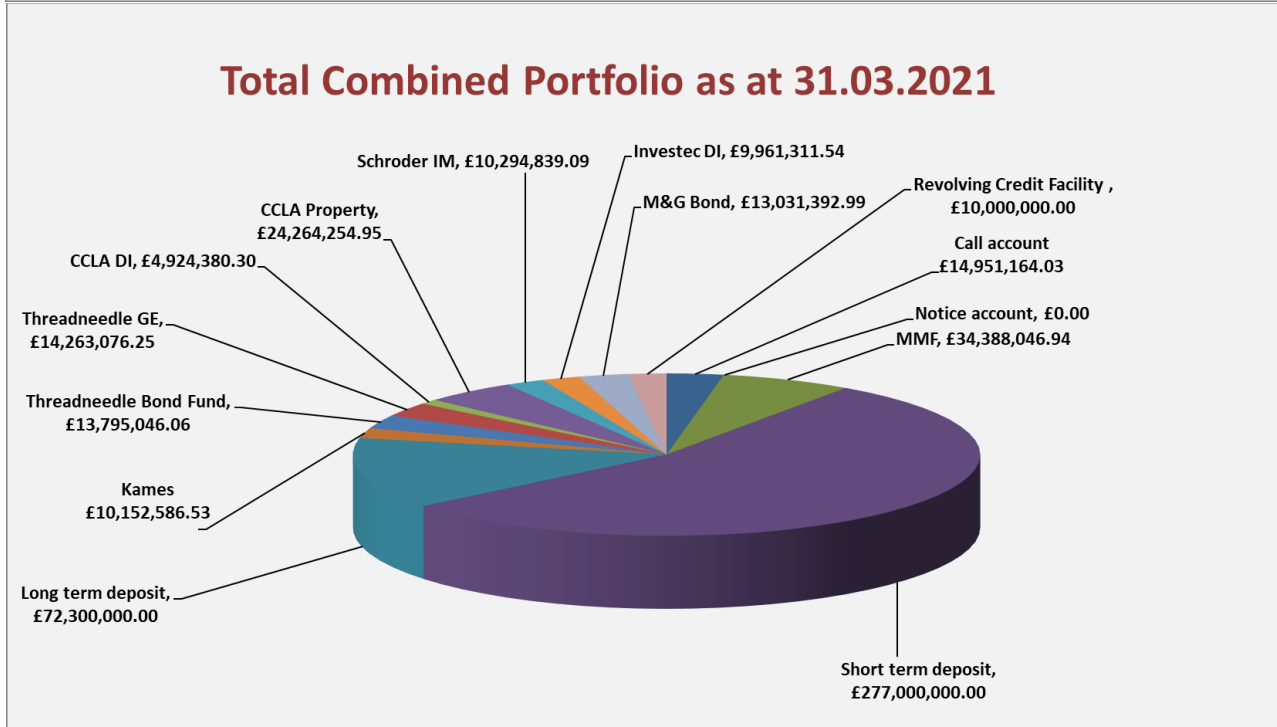
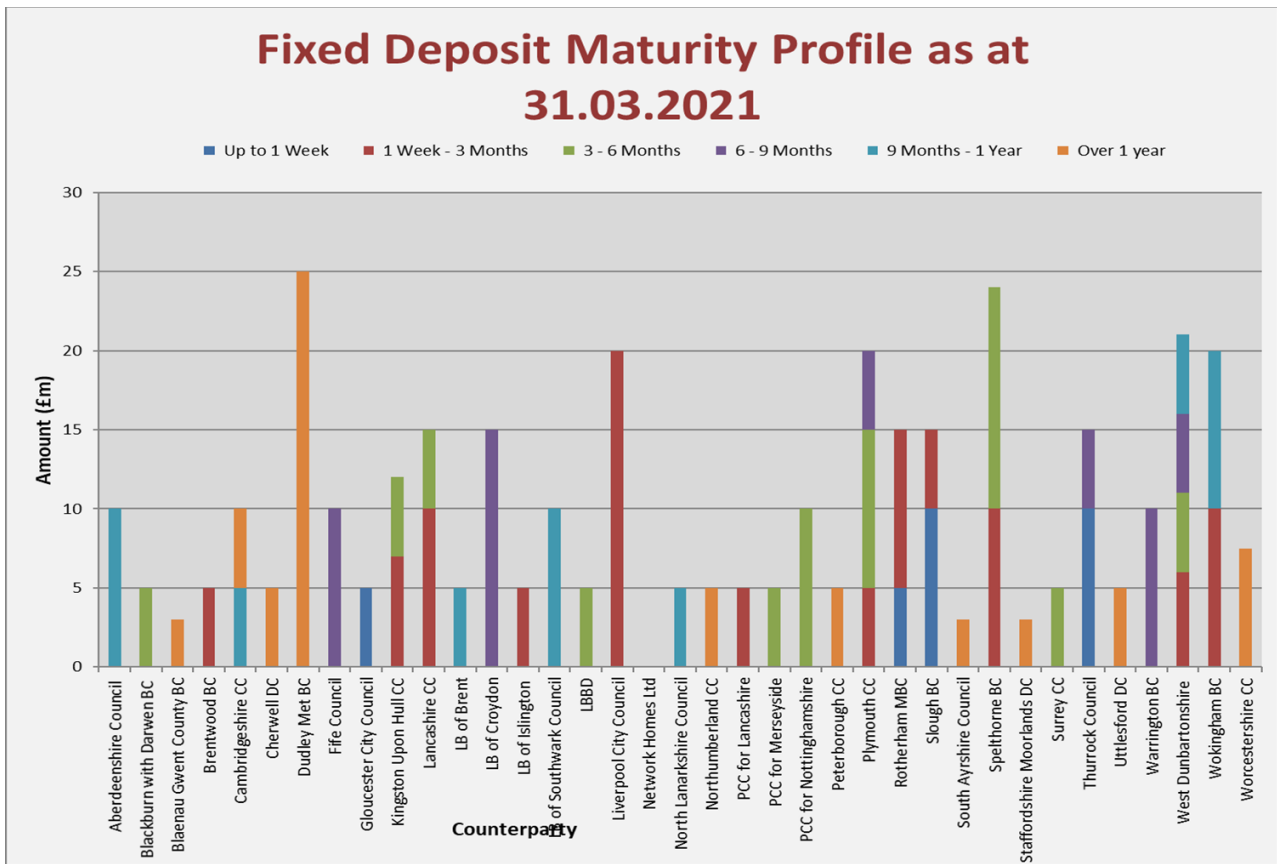
**Property Funds**

Fund	Balance at 31/03/20 (£)	Notice period
CCLA Local Authorities Property Fund	24,264,254.95	Monthly
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,264,254.95</b>	

**Strategic Pooled Fund Portfolio Value Over Time**



Investment portfolio risk profile at 31/03/21





**Prudential Indicators Outturn 31 March 2021****Authorised and Operational Limit for External Debt**

Authorised Limit for External Debt	£410,000,000
Operational Limit for External Debt	£390,000,000
Actual External Debt at 31 March 2019	£335,382,618

**Fixed Interest Rate Exposure**

Fixed Interest Net Borrowing limit	£350,000,000
Actual at 31 March 2020	£158,882,618

**Variable Interest Rate Exposure**

Variable Interest Net Borrowing limit	0
Actual at 31 March 2021	- £9,727,083.22

**Sums Invested over 364 days**

Total sums invested for more than 364 days maximum limit	£215,000,000
Actual sums invested for more than 364 days at 31 March 2021	£72,300,000

**Maturity Structure of Borrowing at 31/03/20**

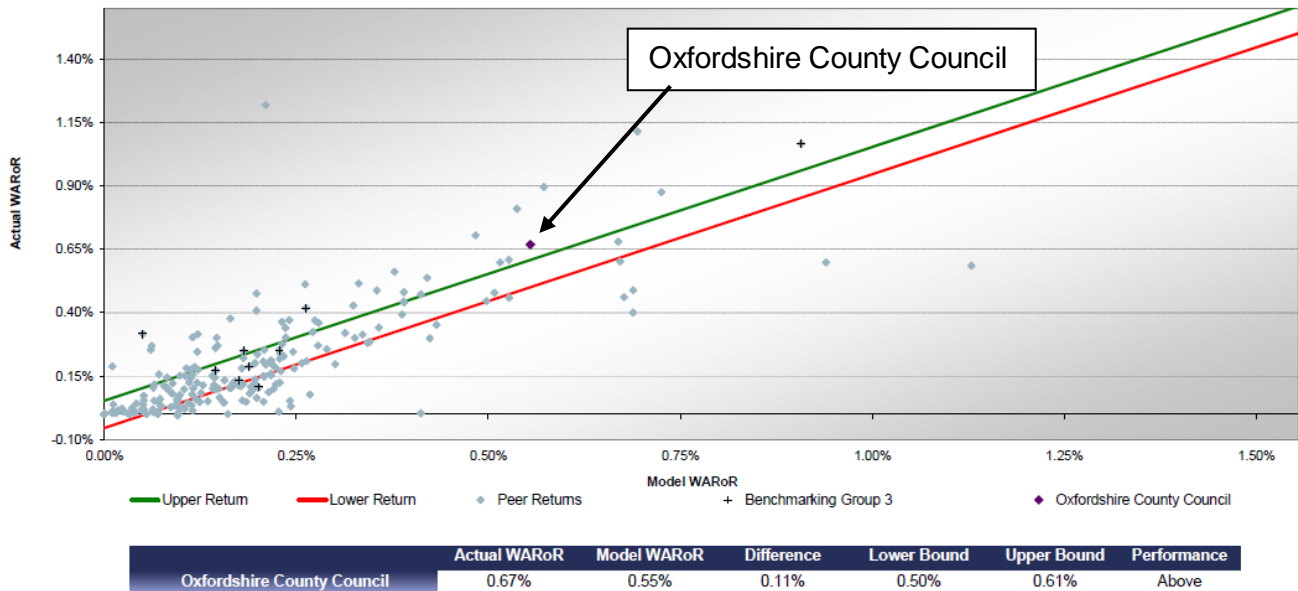
	<b>Limit %</b>	<b>Actual %</b>
From 01/04/18		
Under 12 months	0 - 20	17.00
12 – 24 months	0 - 25	5.07
24 months – 5 years	0 - 35	5.07
5 years – 10 years	5 - 40	25.46
10 years +	50 - 95	47.41

The Prudential Indicators for maturity structure are set with reference to the start of the financial year. The actual % shown above relates to the maturity period remaining at 01/04/20 on loans still outstanding at 31/03/21.

## Benchmarking

### Weighted Average Return

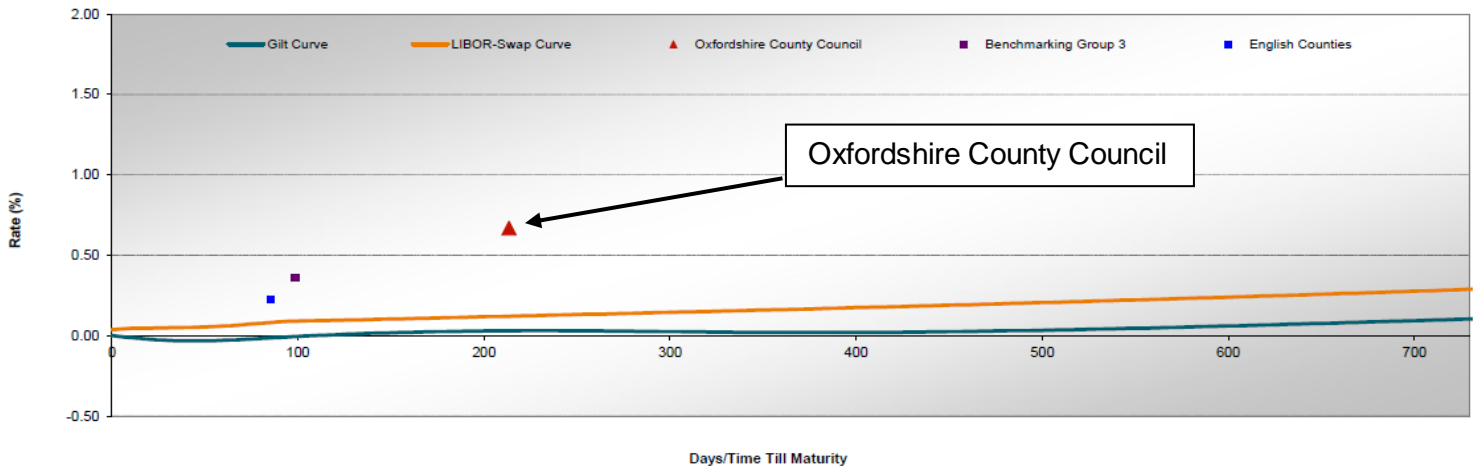
Population Returns against Model Returns



Oxfordshire County Council achieved a higher interest rate compared to the average achieved by Link Treasury Services clients, as at 31/03/2021.

### Return Compared to Risk Free Rate

Returns Comparable Against the Risk-Free Rate and LIBOR Curve



Oxfordshire County Council achieved a higher interest rate compared to the average achieved by Link Treasury Services clients, as at 31/03/2021, by increasing the weighted average duration of deposits.

Division(s): N/A

## COUNTY COUNCIL – 14 SEPTEMBER 2021

### REVIEW OF POLITICAL BALANCE ON COMMITTEES

Report by the Director of Law & Governance

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **The Council is RECOMMENDED:**
  - (a) to note the revised political balance on committees shown in Annex 2 to the report;
  - (b) to make the consequential appointments to the Committees named in paragraph 11 and as listed in paragraph 13 and Annex 3 (to follow), to give effect to the wishes of the respective Group Leaders.

#### Executive Summary

2. The Council is required by the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 to review the political balance on its committees on an annual basis and then in any circumstances set out in Regulations under the 1989 Act. A note is attached (**Annex 1**) which summarises how the rules operate.
3. Following the May 2021 elections and the subsequent formation of political groups on the Council, the political balance was formally reviewed at the Annual Council Meeting on the 18 May.
4. Since that time, Cllr Mark Cherry has been confirmed as the duly elected member for the Banbury Ruscote Division. As a result, the Monitoring Officer has formally received notification from Cllr Cherry and from the Leader of the Labour & Co-operative Party Group, that Cllr Cherry has become a member of that Group.
5. Following the addition to the Labour & Co-operative Party Group, a further review of political balance now needs to occur to reflect the relative proportion of each Group with regards to seats on the Council, and given that more than a month has elapsed since the last review of political balance. This review also reflects that the Conservative-Independent Alliance Group now has one fewer member than previously.
6. This report therefore invites Full Council to note the revised proportionality and to make the consequential appointments to committees arising from this. **Annex 2** shows the revised arithmetical product of the rules for the Council's committees. The figures in brackets show the adjustments which are necessary to achieve the balance across and within committees to comply with the rules.
7. **Annex 3** (to follow) shows the group nominations which have been received to fill the vacancies arising from the revised proportionality, as set out in paragraph 11.
8. Members may recall that at its July meeting, Council appointed an additional member from each group to each of the three new overview and scrutiny committees. This is because there was a numerically spare seat at each of these committees after political

balance had been satisfied, and each group had (overall) a need for an additional seat. Council's decision in July resolved that. The revised political balance does not undo this and so that decision does not need to be revisited. The only matters that Council needs to address are those set out in paragraphs 11-13.

### Implications of the revised proportionality

9. The relative sizes of the Council's Political Groups, and their entitlements to seats, are now as follows:

Political Group	Liberal Democrat/Green Alliance Group	Conservative-Independent Alliance Group	Labour & Co-operative Party Group
Group Size	24	22	16
Revised number of seats – legal/notional entitlement	30	28	20
Actual current number of seats	29	29	19
Number of seats over or under entitlement	-1	+1	-1

10. Cllr Gawrysiak is not a member of a political group on the Council.
11. Looking at the overall proportionality in the table above, the position is that the Labour and Co-operative Party Group is now entitled to one further seat. The Liberal Democrat/Green Alliance Group also has one fewer seats overall than its notional entitlement; and the Conservative-Independent Alliance Group has one more seat, overall, than its notional entitlement.
12. As such, the specific implications are these:
- (a) **Remuneration Committee:** the revised political balance for this 6 person committee means that the Labour & Co-operative Party Group is entitled to an additional seat because its entitlement is now to two seats rather than one. Cllr Brighthouse, the Leader of this Group has confirmed her wish to make this appointment. The consequence of this is that the 'spare' seat allocated to Cllr Gawrysiak under the previous balance, would be yielded to the Labour and Co-operative Party Group.
  - (b) **Horton Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee:** the Liberal Democrat/Green Alliance Group has one fewer seats on this committee than its entitlement. The Conservative-Independent Alliance Group has one more seat on this Committee than its entitlement. Cllr Leffman, Leader of the Liberal Democrat/Green Alliance Group has confirmed her wish for her Group to take its full entitlement of seats on this committee. This has the effect of achieving the appropriate balance for the committee itself. It also has the effect of correcting and achieving the overall political balance on the Council outlined in paragraph 11.

## Appointments

13. Council is asked to make the appointments to both of these committees to give effect to the wishes of the leaders of the Labour & Co-operative Party Group and the Liberal Democrat/Green Alliance Group respectively in relation to paragraph 11. The nominations from the respective Group Leaders in relation to both (a) and (b) are as follows:
- (a) **Remuneration Committee:** nomination from Labour & Co-operative Party Group to follow as Annex 3
  - (b) **Horton Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee:** the Liberal Democrat/Green Alliance Group nomination for this Committee is: Cllr Dr Nathan Ley.

## Legal Implications

14. Seats must be allocated in relation to political proportionality unless there is a decision to the contrary taken with no member voting against. Where appointments to committees fall to be made to any particular political group in order to reflect their entitlement to seats overall, and on individual committees, the Council must give effect to the wishes of the relevant Group as expressed through that Group's Leader or Deputy Leader. The rules on political balance are contained in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990. This report is consistent with these.

## Financial Implications

15. There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

### **ANITA BRADLEY**

Director of Law & Governance

Background Papers: Nil

Contact Officers: Glenn Watson, Principal Governance Officer: 07776 997946

## Local Government & Housing Act 1989 - Political Balance

### General Description of the Rules

1. For most local authority committees and sub-committees and for certain other appointments, the 1989 Act requires the Council to allocate seats to political groups in accordance with the groups' proportionate strength on the Council as a whole.
2. The political balance requirement applies only where political groups have been set up, but where it does apply the allocation to committees has to be reviewed annually. A review is also required on the formation of a new political group or if requested by a member newly joining a group.
3. A committee must review the allocation of seats on its sub-committees following any change in the committee's membership as a result of a 1989 Act review.

### The Allocation

4. The allocation process depends on the proportionate strengths of the political groups and the nature of the committee, sub-committee or other body concerned. The following rules apply:
  - (i) Where a group has an overall majority on the Council, that group is entitled to a majority of the seats on each committee and sub-committee. For this purpose only, the calculation must include seats occupied by voting co-optees on a scrutiny committee or sub-committee concerned with education.
  - (ii) Each political group is entitled to its proportion of the total number of seats on all the committees added together, according to the ratio of the number of members of the group to the number of members of the Council.
  - (iii) Subject to (i) and (ii) above, each group is entitled to its proportion of the number of seats on each individual committee.
  - (iv) For sub-committees and some other bodies, a group is entitled to its proportion of the number of seats regardless of the total number of seats involved (but still subject to the majority rule in (i) above).
  - (v) The allocations of seats to political groups are rounded up or down to the nearest whole number. Where the allocations leave a seat or seats unfilled on a committee, sub-committee or other body those seats must be allocated to any independent members of the Council.
5. Except where a "no dissent" alternative (as described below) is adopted, application of these principles, "so far as reasonably practicable", is mandatory. Once the allocations have been agreed under this procedure, the appointment of individual members must then be made in accordance with the wishes of the respective groups.

### Alternatives where "No Dissent"

6. The requirement to allocate seats according to political groups' proportionate strengths can be overridden by some other arrangement, either in relation to all committees, sub-committees and other bodies, or in relation to any individual committee, sub-

committee or other body, provided that no councillor votes against the alternative arrangement when it is proposed.

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## Annex 2

**This annex is for information.** It outlines political groups' notional entitlements to membership of committees under the revised political proportionality rules. It also shows the actual appointments made to these committees previously by the Council at Annual Council (18 May) and at Full Council (12 July 2021).

In grey are those committees referenced in the report where revised decisions are now required as to the membership of those bodies.

**Explanatory note:** For information, any 'spare' seat after the achievement of political balance or declined by a Group is for the Council to determine. This explains any variance shown below. For example, a spare seat existed in May 2021 on the Audit & Governance Committee after entitlements had been taken; and, with the consent of Council, the Liberal Democrat/Green Alliance Group took this additional place, yielding instead its right to a seat on the Planning & Regulation Committee. Similarly, at that time, the Liberal Democrat/Green Alliance Group did not elect to take its full entitlement to seats on the Horton Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Horton HOSC), with the Conservative-Independent Alliance Group taking that additional seat: the entitlements on the Horton HOSC is now being revisited under the present review of balance.

<b>Main Committees with entitlements</b>	<b>Lib Dem/Green Alliance</b>	<b>Conservative Independent Alliance</b>	<b>Labour and Co-operative Party</b>
Audit & Governance Committee(9 person committee)	3	3	2
	Roz Smith	Jane Murphy	Brad Baines
	Dan Levy	Donna Ford	Michael O'Connor
	Judy Roberts	Nick Leverton	
	Ian Middleton		
Pension Fund Committee (5)	2	2	1
	Bob Johnston	Nick Field Johnson	Imade Edosomwan
	Richard Webber	Kevin Bulmer	
Planning & Regulation	5	4	3

<b>Main Committees with entitlements</b>	<b>Lib Dem/Green Alliance</b>	<b>Conservative Independent Alliance</b>	<b>Labour and Co-operative Party</b>
Committee (12)			
	Richard Webber	Les Sibley	Geoff Saul
	Judy Roberts	Felix Bloomfield	Mohamed Fadlalla
	David Rouane	Ian Snowdon	Imade Edosomwan
	Robin Bennett	Yvonne Constance	
	<i>Plus Cllr Gawrysiak - Independent</i>		
Remuneration Committee (6)	2	2	2
	Liz Leffman	Eddie Reeves	Liz Brighthouse
	Alison Rooke	Jane Murphy	<i>Labour &amp; Co-operative Party Group now entitled to this seat</i>
	<i>Plus Cllr Gawrysiak - Independent</i>		
HOSC (7)	3	2	2
	Jane Hanna	Arash Fatemian	Imade Edosomwan
	Freddie Van Miero	Nigel Champken Woods	Charlie Hicks
	Nathan Ley		
Horton HOSC (8)	3	3	2
	Freddie Van Mierlo	Arash Fatemian	Geoff Saul
	Jane Hanna	Nigel Champken Woods	Hannah Banfield
	<i>Liberal Democrat/Green Alliance Group now entitled to this seat</i>	Kieron Mallon	
		Eddie Reeves	
		<i>Conservative-Independent Alliance Group to cede one seat</i>	

<b>Main Committees with entitlements</b>	<b>Lib Dem/Green Alliance</b>	<b>Conservative Independent Alliance</b>	<b>Labour and Co-operative Party</b>
Joint Shared Services & Personnel Committee (5)	2	2	1
	Liz Leffman	Donna Ford	Liz Brighthouse
	Andrew Gant	Eddie Reeves	
<b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny Ctees</b>	<b>Liberal Democrat/Green Alliance Group</b>	<b>Conservative-Independent Alliance Group</b>	<b>Labour and Co-operative Party Group</b>
People (9)	3	4 (The Group's additional place used on this Committee)	2
	Andy Graham	Ian Corkin	ImadeUzoma Edosomwan
	Kate Gregory	Michael Waine	Hannah Banfield
	Bethia Thomas	Nigel Simpson	
		Juliette Ash	
Place (9)	3 (The Group's additional place used on this Committee)	3	2
	Judy Roberts	Ian Snowdon	Charlie Hicks
	Richard Webber	Jane Murphy	Brad Baines
	Sally Povolotsky	Kieron Mallon	
	Dan Levy		
Performance & Corporate Services (9)	3	3	2

<b>Main Committees with entitlements</b>	<b>Lib Dem/Green Alliance</b>	<b>Conservative Independent Alliance</b>	<b>Labour and Co-operative Party</b>
			(The Group's additional place used on this Committee)
	Ian Middleton	Eddie Reeves	Michael O'Connor
	Andrew Gant	Ian Corkin	Brad Baines
	David Rouane	Donna Ford	Damian Haywood
<b>Overall current number of seats</b>	29	29	19
<b>Overall entitlement</b>	30	28	20
<b>Implication re current number of seats</b>	1 fewer	1 more	1 fewer

Division(s): N/A

## **COUNCIL – 14 SEPTEMBER 2021**

### **DISPENSATION FROM ATTENDING MEETINGS**

Report by Director of Law & Governance

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**Council is RECOMMENDED to:**

- (a) approve a dispensation for Cllr Alison Rooke from the statutory requirement to attend a meeting of the Council within a six month period from the last noted attendance;**
- (b) approve that the dispensation last up to and including 30 April 2022.**

#### **Executive Summary**

1. Under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 85 (1), councillors who do not attend a meeting of the Council during a six month period will cease to be a member of the Council unless the Council has approved a dispensation before the expiry of that period.
2. Council is asked to grant such a dispensation to Cllr Alison Rooke who, for reason of ill-health, is unlikely to be able to attend a meeting of the Council prior to April 2022. Cllr Rooke's last attendance was at Annual Council on 18 May 2021 and would otherwise need to attend again before 18 November 2021. If the dispensation is granted, up to the 30 April 2022, then if a further extension is necessary beyond that date, a further decision of Council would be necessary before that date.

#### **Legal Implications**

3. Under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 85 (1), if a member of the Council fails throughout a six month period from the date of their last attendance at any meeting of the council to attend another such meeting, they shall, unless the failure is approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the authority.
4. As such, Full Council has the discretion to approve a dispensation, based on the circumstances of the case, such that the councillor may not cease to be a member of the Council for failing to attend a meeting in that period.
5. The Monitoring Officer has received formal notification from Cllr Rooke, and her Group Leader, Cllr Liz Leffman, seeking Full Council's approval to grant such a dispensation due to ill-health. The Monitoring Officer is satisfied that, having regard to the circumstances, the Council would be justified in granting the dispensation.

## **Financial Implications**

6. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

**ANITA BRADLEY**

Director of Law & Governance

Contact officer: Glenn Watson, Principal Governance Officer, 07776 997946.

September 2021