

CABINET

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 21 March 2023 commencing at 2.00 pm and finishing at 3.15 pm

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Liz Leffman – in the Chair
Councillor Liz Brighthouse OBE (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Glynis Phillips
Councillor Dr Pete Sudbury
Councillor Tim Bearder
Councillor Duncan Enright
Councillor Calum Miller
Councillor Jenny Hannaby
Councillor Mark Lygo
Councillor Andrew Gant

Other Members in

Attendance: Councillors Donna Ford, Kieron Mallon, Ian Middleton, Nigel Simpson

Officers:

Whole of meeting Martin Reeves, Chief Executive; Lorna Baxter, Director of Finance, Anita Bradley, Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer; Colm Ó Caomhánaigh, Committee Officer.

Cabinet considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting, together with a schedule of addenda tabled at the meeting, and decided as set out below. Except insofar as otherwise specified, the reasons for the decisions are contained in the agenda, reports and schedule, copies of which are attached to the signed Minutes.

30/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(Agenda Item. 1)

There were no apologies for absence. There were no apologies for absence. The Leader welcomed Martin Reeves to his first Cabinet meeting as Chief Executive.

31/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(Agenda Item. 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

32/23 MINUTES

(Agenda Item. 3)

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 February 2023 were approved and signed.

33/23 QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

(Agenda Item. 4)

See Annex.

34/23 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS

(Agenda Item. 5)

7 Proposal from OUFC to OCC as landowner

Suzanne McIvor

Cllr Ian Middleton

35/23 REPORTS FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

(Agenda Item. 6)

Councillor Kieron Mallon, Chair of the Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee, introduced the report "Water Resources and the South East Regional Plan" which summarised the Committee's consideration of the Council's consultation response to the draft Water Resources South East regional plan at its meeting on 25 January 2023.

The Committee heard from Thames Water, the Group Against Reservoir Development (GARD), the Cabinet Member for Climate Change Delivery & Environment as well as officers of the Council and presented three recommendations which Councillor Mallon outlined.

Councillor Pete Sudbury, Cabinet Member for Climate Change Delivery & Environment, thanked the Committee for the report. He noted that Recommendation 2 had been taken on board in the final version of the Council's response to the plan. Cabinet will formally respond to the scrutiny committee in due course.

36/23 PROPOSAL FROM OUFC TO OCC AS LANDOWNER: ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY, TIMEFRAME AND MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

(Agenda Item. 7)

Cabinet was asked to consider an engagement and communications strategy in relation to the proposal from Oxford United Football Club (OUFC) to use a parcel of Council land known as 'Land to East of Frieze Way / South of Kidlington Roundabout or the triangle' for the development of a new stadium.

Before discussing the report, the Chair had agreed to the following requests to speak.

Suzanne McIvor, representing Friends of Stratfield Brake, stated that the Council's online engagement exercise had been dominated by supporters of Oxford United and asked that the Council hold a secure public consultation for local residents within something like one and a half miles radius of the Triangle to determine if the local community supports the fundamental principle of a stadium on the Triangle Green Belt site before any further negotiation for the site's disposal.

Councillor Ian Middleton, Kidlington South, stated that the majority of local residents that he had spoken to were dissatisfied with the Council's handling of this issue. There needed to be proper local engagement and he welcomed the suggestion that there will be a way to verify the location of respondents in the proposed further engagement. He expressed his view that some Cabinet Members had shown predetermination on this issue.

Anita Bradley, Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer, stated that she was not aware of any predetermination in relation to this issue and that any councillor who believed that they had evidence of predetermination should bring it to her attention.

Councillor Andrew Gant proposed an amendment to Annex 1: on Agenda Page 26, under the heading "Audiences", second bullet point, replace "and local MPs" with "local MPs and Neighbourhood Forums". This amendment was agreed.

Councillor Glynis Phillips, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, summarised the engagement and communication strategy aspects of the report which will be undertaken in two phases, both meeting with stakeholder groups and inviting wider feedback. This will take place over a six week period following receipt of the club's proposals.

Councillor Calum Miller, Cabinet Member for Finance, emphasised that Cabinet had made no decisions on the proposal from Oxford United. In the first engagement process, the Council clearly identified the concerns of those in local postcodes and it was a result of this that Cabinet decided not to take a decision but start a process to gather more information before making a decision. Local Parish Councils, Neighbourhood Forums and other representative bodies would be very welcome to take part in the engagement process.

Councillor Gant gave an assurance that Officers and Councillors will take great care to differentiate between the views of those living locally and those further away.

The recommendations as amended were proposed by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Gant and agreed.

RESOLVED to:

- a) **Agree the engagement and communications strategy set out at annex 1 as amended.**
- b) **Agree the memorandum of understanding (MoU) as set out at annex 2 and delegate authority to the Corporate Director, Customers and Organisational Development to sign on behalf of the Council. Whilst not anticipated, any non-material changes to be agreed in consultation with the portfolio holder for Finance and Property.**
- c) **Note the timetable set out at annex 3.**

37/23 BUSINESS MANAGEMENT & MONITORING REPORT - DECEMBER 22 / JANUARY 23

(Agenda Item. 8)

Cabinet received a report presenting the January 2023 performance, risk, and finance position for the council.

Councillor Calum Miller, Cabinet Member for Finance, summarised the report. He highlighted the deteriorations of £3.8m in Adult Services, which was related to pooled budgets with the NHS, and £1.8m in Children's Services.

These overspends were the result of an unexpected spike in inflation due to the invasion of Ukraine. The Council was fortunate to be able to manage these through the reserves and contingency provided for in the 2022/23 budget. However, challenges remained going forward and the Government had flagged that funding of local government will decrease from 2025 onwards.

Other Cabinet Members commented:

- The Government SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Review had nothing about the finance needs to provide better services. Officers were working with local parents to get the offer right and additional resources had been allocated to alleviate the difficulties around Education, Health and Care Plans.
- There was a saving due to deferred recruitment of posts in the area of climate change action but the recent International Panel on Climate Change Synthesis Report showed that this was not a good position to be in.
- The increase in borrowing from libraries and increase in visitors to the County Museum were welcomed and officers congratulated.
- The Council had been recognised with a gold award for its work in supporting LGBTQ+ staff.

The recommendations were proposed by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Hannaby and agreed.

RESOLVED to:

- a) **note the report and annexes.**
- b) **note the virements in Annex B-2b and approve the virements in Annex B-2a.**
- c) **approve the write - off of seven unrecoverable social care debts with a combined total of £0.135m as set out in Annex B paragraph 119.**

38/23 CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING REPORT - JANUARY 2023

(Agenda Item. 9)

Cabinet had before it a report setting out the monitoring position based on activity to the end of January 2023 - the fourth update for 2022/23. It also included an update to the Capital Programme approved by Council in February 2023 taking into account additional funding and new and/or changes to schemes.

Councillor Calum Miller, Cabinet Member for Finance, introduced the report. He highlighted reduced forecast expenditure of £14.9m on the capital programme for 2022/23 due to projects starting later than expected. He stated that it was hoped to have a new format for these reports going forward to make it easier for Members to track progress and see that allocations advance the Council's priorities.

Councillor Miller proposed the recommendations, Councillor Enright seconded and they were agreed.

RESOLVED to:

OCC Capital Programme

- a) Approve the latest capital monitoring position for 2022/23 (Annex 1) and the associated updated capital programme at Annex 2, incorporating the changes set out in this report
- b) To note the approval of the Leader of the Council, in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations for the revised budget provision of £5.4m for the Ploughley Road/A41 Junction Improvement scheme in Bicester (paragraph 21)

Re-profiling

- c) Agree the in-year re-profiling as identified in the report and (Annex 1 and 2)

39/23 TREASURY MANAGEMENT 3RD QUARTERLY REPORT

(Agenda Item. 10)

Cabinet considered a report covering the treasury management activity for the third quarter of 2022/23 in compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management 2021. It provided an update on the anticipated position and prudential indicators set out in the Treasury Management

Strategy Statement & Annual Investment Strategy for 2022/23 agreed as part of the Council's budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy in February 2022.

Councillor Calum Miller, Cabinet Member for Finance, introduced the report. Higher interest rates had resulted in higher than expected interest receivable on the surplus cash held. Some investments have been more challenged but none have materially damaged the overall Treasury position.

Councillor Miller had also consulted with officers and was assured that no investments or funds were held with financial institutions that were currently under threat.

The recommendations were proposed by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Enright and agreed.

RESOLVED:

to note the report, and to RECOMMEND Council to note the Council's treasury management activity in the third quarter of 2022/23.

40/23 WORKFORCE REPORT AND STAFFING DATA – QUARTER 3 - OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2022

(Agenda Item. 11)

Cabinet had before it a report providing an update on the key strategic workforce priority areas for Quarter 3 and a refreshed workforce profile.

Councillor Glynis Phillips, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, summarised the report. A new workforce strategy and action plan was being developed across the organisation. The results of the staff wellbeing survey will be reflected in this work.

Councillor Phillips stated that emotional support was the main reason for staff seeking employee assistance and for referrals to the occupational health service. It was clear that more needed to be done to support staff, especially in Children's Services and schools.

Although spending on agency staff had risen in this quarter there was positive news from Children's Social Services where the proportion of agency staff had been reduced from a 46% high in December 2021 to 23% in January 2023.

The recommendation was proposed by Councillor Phillips, seconded by Councillor Lygo and agreed.

RESOLVED to note the report.

41/23 OXFORDSHIRE HOUSING AND GROWTH DEAL UPDATE

(Agenda Item. 12)

Cabinet considered a report updating the existing financial governance arrangements following the receipt of updated requirements for the release of the remaining £30m grant funding.

Councillor Duncan Enright, Cabinet Member for Travel & Development Strategy, summarised the report as a procedural exercise to deal with the decision by the Future Oxfordshire Partnership to end the Oxfordshire Plan 2050. The Department proposed additional criteria relating primarily to strengthened reporting requirements and also a proposed change in payment methodology. There have been a number of meetings to clarify the points and Councillor Enright was happy to propose the recommendation from the report.

Councillor Hannaby seconded the recommendations and they were agreed.

RESOLVED:

- a) **Subject to the decision of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership on 20 March 2023, request the Chief Executive of the Council to write to Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to formally accept the terms of the letter from DLUHC to Oxfordshire Leaders and Oxfordshire County Council's Chief Executive dated 5 December 2022 (Annex 1).**
- b) **Agree that in accepting the terms of the letter at Annex 1, the Council will, as accountable body and in consultation with the relevant District or City Council regarding the impact on accelerated housing numbers, take responsibility for decisions necessary to manage the programme in accordance with the updated conditions set out by DLUHC.**
- c) **Note that it will be necessary to agree revised Terms of Reference and Memorandum of Understanding for the Future Oxfordshire Partnership to reflect the change in responsibility as set out in recommendation 2.**

42/23 COST OF LIVING SUPPORT MEASURES

(Agenda Item. 13)

Cabinet had before it a report providing an update on delivery of cost of living support in 2022/23 and making recommendations for the disbursement of cost of living resources in 2023/24.

Councillor Mark Lygo, Cabinet Member for Public Health & Equality, summarised the report. There was a real danger that rises in the cost of living will increase the inequalities on our community that we have resolved to tackle – especially when the national energy support grants end. The proposals were targeted at those most vulnerable and those who fall through the gaps between the national schemes.

Councillor Calum Miller, Cabinet Member for Finance, added that there were proposals to ensure that the increases in Council Tax would not fall on those in the lowest income households. Also, support for discretionary housing payments was being doubled.

Other Cabinet Members commented:

- Thanks to the District and City Councils for the joint working on the proposals, building on the cooperation that worked so well during the Covid pandemic.
- The opposition had criticised the maximum rise in Council Tax but this had been necessary in these very difficult times. However, the Council was being progressive in protecting the most vulnerable.

The recommendations were proposed by Councillor Lygo, seconded by Councillor Sudbury and agreed.

RESOLVED to:

- a) Note the cost of living support measures delivered during 2022/23, as summarised in Table 1;**
- b) Agree to vary the match funding requirements for Council Tax support agreed in September 2022, as set out in paragraph 30;**
- c) Agree to the support package for 2023/24, as summarised in Table 3, noting the flexibility outlined in paragraph 31.**

43/23 OXFORDSHIRE INCLUSIVE ECONOMY PARTNERSHIP AND CHARTER

(Agenda Item. 14)

Cabinet had before it a report providing an overview of the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership (OIEP) including the development and launch of the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Charter on 24 January 2023. The report recommended the Council becomes a signatory to the charter and makes four pledges to demonstrate the Council's commitment to an inclusive economy.

Councillor Liz Leffman, Leader of the Council, summarised the report. The vision of the Partnership was very much in line with that of the County Council but in this case the Council signs up to pledges from a list of options provided. The report recommended the pledges listed in paragraph 18 with an additional stretch pledge in paragraph 19. The Partnership included commercial organisations, the universities and local councils.

Councillor Leffman proposed the following addition to the recommendations:

- e) Agree that the OIEP Steering Group is considered to be a Strategic Body and that the Council's representative will be the Leader of the**

Council. The portfolio holder for Public Health & Equality will be the official substitute.

Councillor Leffman proposed the recommendations as amended, Councillor Phillips seconded and they were agreed.

RESOLVED to:

- a) **Note that the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership has been established.**
- b) **Note that the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Charter was launched on 24 January 2023.**
- c) **Agree to become a signatory to the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Charter.**
- d) **Agree to make four pledges to build on our commitment to an inclusive economy.**
- e) **Agree that the OIEP Steering Group is considered to be a Strategic Body and that the Council's representative will be the Leader of the Council. The portfolio holder for Public Health & Equality will be the official substitute.**

44/23 ADULT SOCIAL CARE MARKET SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

(Agenda Item. 15)

Councils are required to publish a Market Sustainability Plan detailing how they intend to meet market needs in the next 3 years. Cabinet was recommended to approve the draft plan in Annex 1 of the report.

Councillor Tim Bearder, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, introduced the report. The proposed plan included an increased offer to providers. It was a difficult time for them with all of their costs going up. The short term increase in funding from the Government was welcome but providers need radical reform for the long term. However, the Council has been able to use extra funding to bring legacy providers up to consistent standards.

Councillor Calum Miller, Cabinet Member for Finance, added that Oxfordshire had a high provision of care as well as high costs of care. He noted that decisions on adult social care appeared to come from the Treasury rather than the Department for Health and Social Care. Promised solutions have not been delivered. He thanked officers and the social care sector for its input into the Plan.

The recommendations were proposed by Councillor Bearder, seconded by Councillor Miller and agreed.

RESOLVED to:

approve, following the extensive work with partners described in the paper, the draft in Annex 1 for publication and submission to Department for Health & Social Care (DHSC).

45/23 HIGHWAYS CONTRACT PROCUREMENT - PREFERRED MODEL FOR APPROVAL

(Agenda Item. 16)

Cabinet considered the outcome of work by highway maintenance contract specialists, DMSqd, to determine the most appropriate procurement model for Oxfordshire.

Councillor Andrew Gant, Cabinet Member for Highway Management, introduced the report. He thanked the Audit & Governance Committee for their work on the governance arrangements. The models considered were listed in paragraph 9 of the report. The recommended model was described in recommendation a) and there was a helpful visual representation on page 280.

Councillor Gant moved the recommendations. They were seconded by Councillor Enright and agreed.

RESOLVED to:

- a) **Approve the preferred model (single provider with greater level of in-house responsibilities and use of frameworks for some activities) for the future highway maintenance contract for Oxfordshire.**
- b) **Support progression to the next stage of developing and drafting the specification, contract, and other tender documents required for procurement.**

46/23 FORWARD PLAN AND FUTURE BUSINESS

(Agenda Item. 17)

The Cabinet considered a list of items (CA17) for the immediately forthcoming meetings of the Cabinet together with changes and additions set out in the schedule of addenda.

RESOLVED: to note the items currently identified for forthcoming meetings.

.....in the Chair

Date of signing

ITEM 4 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Questions	Cabinet Member
<p>1. COUNCILLOR MARK CHERRY</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member look into expediting Warwick Road onto the resurfacing highway schedule from Orchard Way to the traffic lights at Southam Road where its condition continues to decline? From interaction with highway officers it could be till late 2024/2025 until funding is available to resurface the road. This poses a health and safety concern to cyclists and general traffic using the road.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT</p> <p>Investigation work on this scheme is due to take place shortly, with design work planned during the course of 23/24, making it difficult to bring this scheme forward. This preparation work will look at making sure the right treatment is selected and that the whole life cost from a financial and carbon perspective is understood. The current proposal is for this scheme to be delivered in 24/25, however, we will continue to keep the road safe in the interim by repairing any safety defects in line with our road safety inspection policy through regular monitoring.</p>
<p>2. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</p> <p>Last November at Cabinet I asked about whether attendance records for councillors could be made public. Will it be possible to introduce such a scheme from the start of the new municipal year this May?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LIZ LEFFMAN, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>Member attendance data are available on the software used to manage the Council's public meetings and we are in discussions with the software providers with regard to how to present the data on the public website. We will start to do that from May.</p>
<p>3. COUNCILLOR CHARLIE HICKS</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT</p>

Questions	Cabinet Member
<p>Active Travel England have recently published the active travel capability ratings for Local Authorities across England and Oxfordshire County Council is rated as 2 out of 4, with the next rating happening in Summer 2023. This rating affects how much funding Local Authorities receive from Active Travel England, who have stated as a headline message that "working with ambitious councils is at the heart of everything we do". Councils with higher ratings are in line to receive more funds.</p> <p>To become a Level 3 Local Authority on Active Travel Capability, we need to meet the criteria of: "Very strong local leadership, comprehensive plans, and a significant network in place with a growing number of people choosing to walk, wheel and cycle"</p> <p>Does he agree with me that we should be doing everything we can to achieve a Level 3 rating from Active Travel England in the next rating round in summer 2023 (especially as we are hosting a key national active travel conference this year)? And if he does agree with me on this, please can he outline what steps are being taken to maximise our chances of a Level 3 rating, including whether the opportunity is being taken in the current E&P department restructure to help get Oxfordshire County Council to the Level 3 definition this summer?</p>	<p>These ratings were agreed last year – following self-assessment [we assessed ourselves as a level 3 at that time] this was then moderated down to a level 2 by Active Travel England.</p> <p>We are very clear that we would consider ourselves pushing for a level 3 and have the opportunity to do so when these ratings are reassessed in the summer. Most ‘3’ rated authorities – there are only 5 in the country – are larger metropolitan combined authorities, with Nottingham and Leicester the other two. So in addition to setting out how we have developed and improved over the last year (including our Active Travel network investment programme and supporting Behaviour Change activity) we are looking at what they have been doing to achieve this rating.</p> <p>As far as restructure goes, we are very clear that the need and opportunity to Transform Environment & Place is firmly linked to achieving the Council’s priorities including Active Travel.</p>

Questions	Cabinet Member
<p>4. COUNCILLOR MARK CHERRY</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member urgently, investigate safety measures such as a lower speed limit for the stretch of road around house numbers in the 170s Warwick Road, Banbury where there have been recent road collisions with parked cars causing concern to local residents?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT</p> <p>In view of the number of incidents reported I have asked officers to review the possibility of introducing traffic calming measures and/or adjustments to the parking arrangements. If deemed to be feasible, funding would need to be identified to enable such proposals to be designed and taken to consultation. Alongside this a reduction in speed limit to 20mph could be considered as part of the Banbury speed limit review.</p>
<p>5. COUNCILLOR IAN MIDDLETON</p> <p>The Oxfordshire County Council and Oxford United Football Club land negotiations: engagement and communications strategy appears not to include a focused local consultation with residents in my division in Kidlington or those in Cllr Gant's division of Wolvercote & Summertown who will be directly affected by the siting of a football stadium on green belt land owned by the County Council at the Triangle site in Kidlington.</p> <p>The only reference to such an exercise appears to be "an</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR CALUM MILLER, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE</p> <p>Thank you for your question, which reflects your close engagement with this scheme, and follows from the previous questions you have raised. The engagement and communications strategy is set out in the Cabinet paper. It includes a clear commitment to direct and independently facilitated engagement with stakeholder groups, including local community groups. We are planning to hold these sessions in April.</p> <p>We have also set aside six weeks for independently conducted public engagement which will take place when OUFC</p>

Questions	Cabinet Member
<p>open engagement where anyone can share feedback using an online response form; email and letters will also be accepted". This seems similar to the process that was carried out last year which captured responses from the entire country and beyond with no reliable mechanism to ascertain if the respondents lived in the local area or even in Oxfordshire.</p> <p>Given that residents in my and Cllr Gant's divisions could be living with any development for many decades to come, will Cllr Miller please confirm that the engagement and communications strategy will incorporate a separate and geographically verifiable consultation exercise with the residents of Kidlington, Gosford, Wolvercote and Cutteslowe as soon as possible, which will include the opportunity for respondents to say if they support the principle of the leasing or sale of the Triangle site to OUFC?</p>	<p>have provided information to OCC regarding how the strategic priorities identified by Cabinet will be addressed by their proposals. Likely timeframes for this have been published within the 21 March Cabinet report. This exercise will enable responses to be analysed on a geographic basis. Our previous engagement also enabled geographic differentiation and was supported by a programme of targeted communications to encourage participation by those local to the proposed site. We have reflected this in our work to date, noting in our January Cabinet report the difference between local views and wider views regarding the broader Stratfield Brake proposals. Indeed, this is one of the factors that has shaped our engagement with OUFC on the smaller, Triangle site.</p> <p>The Cabinet has also set out our willingness to receive feedback in any form, including feedback in the form of letters, emails and commentary in online forms. Respondents are welcome to express any and all views, supportive or otherwise.</p> <p>In my discussions with parish councils prior to the Cabinet report considered in January 2023, I made clear that we would value greatly their informed responses to OUFC's proposals when these are published. It is not for me to say how the parish councils should represent the views of local residents. However, were the parish councils to consider undertaking their own local engagement, I would welcome this. Also, reflecting feedback from the parish councils, we have ensured that a six-week window (avoiding the peak period of summer holiday) has been factored in to</p>

Questions	Cabinet Member
	accommodate this activity. The Cabinet will consider any feedback provided by the parishes as part of the decision-making process.
<p>6. COUNCILLOR IAN MIDDLETON</p> <p>The fundamental reason for the council entering into negotiations with OUFC is their assertion that they have no choice but to leave their existing home as their licence to occupy the Kassam stadium will end in 2026 and they have no legal right to renew.</p> <p>Cllr Miller confirmed in the January meeting of the cabinet that the licence end date had been verified. However, there is an option for the club to challenge the status of their licence in the courts and make a claim that their long term occupation of the Kassam stadium gives them the same legal protections as a lease under the Landlord and Tenant Act, including security of tenure and the automatic right to renew. There is already ample legal precedent for this which I have provided details of to Cllr Miller and officers.</p> <p>Given that it's now well over a year since the club first approached the council saying that they had exhausted all legal avenues to remain at the Kassam, and that it's now a further 2 months on since I requested clarification on this point, can Cllr Miller please confirm that the club has been asked for and has provided evidence that they have sought</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR CALUM MILLER, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE</p> <p>Thank you for your question. As I explained when you asked at Cabinet in January, officers have received information from OUFC setting out the position with regards to the club's occupancy of Kassam Stadium: a description of this position was set out in the Cabinet report in January 2023. Further to this, officers understand that avenues have been previously explored with the City Council to resolve this issue.</p> <p>At the request of Cabinet, council officers are presently in the process of undertaking further due diligence with regards to all finance and legal matters, and this will be presented to Cabinet in a timely fashion in order to inform decision making. I have shared your points with officers and asked that they be raised with OUFC as part of this process.</p> <p>The County Council is planning to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with OUFC, any misrepresentation of the position regarding the Kassam would be a breach of the commitments set out in the MOU and would call into question progress with any negotiations.</p>

Questions	Cabinet Member
<p>to protect their own interests by making such a legal challenge on the status of their existing licence, and if not, why not?</p>	
<p>7. COUNCILLOR JUDY ROBERTS</p> <p>In relation to item 16, can I be assured that serious consideration is given to the options of framework and multiple contracts?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT</p> <p>The option of frameworks has been considered and, as can be seen from the recommendation in the report to Cabinet, the use of frameworks is part of that recommendation.</p>