



County Council

10 December 2013

Agenda

Declarations of Interest

The duty to declare.....

Under the Localism Act 2011 it is a criminal offence to

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

Whose Interests must be included?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

List of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:

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

For a full list of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and further Guidance on this matter please see the Guide to the New Code of Conduct and Register of Interests at Members’ conduct guidelines. <http://intranet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wps/wcm/connect/occ/Insite/Elected+members/> or contact Rachel Dunn on (01865) 815279 or Rachel.dunn@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, 10 December 2013 at 10.00 am

County Hall, Oxford OX1 1ND



Joanna Simons
Chief Executive

November 2013

Contact Officer: **Deborah Miller**
Tel: (01865) 815384; E-Mail: deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk

In order to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, notice is given that Items 3, 7 and 12 will be recorded. The purpose of recording proceedings is to provide an *aide-memoire* to assist the clerk of the meeting in the drafting of minutes.

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

A buffet luncheon will be provided

AGENDA

1. Minutes (Pages 1 - 28)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 5 November 2013 (**CC1**) and to receive information arising from them.

2. Apologies for Absence

3. **Declarations of Interest - see guidance note**

Members are reminded that they must declare their interests orally at the meeting and specify (a) the nature of the interest and (b) which items on the agenda are the relevant items. This applies also to items where members have interests by virtue of their membership of a district council in Oxfordshire.

4. **Official Communications**

5. **Appointments**

To make any changes to the membership of the Cabinet, scrutiny and other committees on the nomination of political groups.

6. **Petitions and Public Address**

7. **Questions with Notice from Members of the Public**

8. **Questions with Notice from Members of the Council**

9. **Treasury Management Mid-Term Review (2012/13) (Pages 29 - 42)**

Report by Chief Finance Officer (**CC9**).

The report sets out the Treasury Management activity undertaken in the first half of the financial year 2013/14 in compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice. The report includes Debt and Investment activity, Prudential Indicator monitoring, changes in Strategy, and forecast interest receivable and payable for the financial year.

The Audit & Governance Committee considered the report at its meeting on Wednesday 20 November and noted with concern Investec's performance and that Investec's annualised return for the first six months of the year was 0.00% compared with a benchmark of 1.59%, and **RECOMMENDED** the Performance Scrutiny Committee to consider the matter further and Cabinet to note concerns in relation Investec's performance as noted in paragraph 29 in the Council's Mid-Term Treasury Management Review 2013/14.

Cabinet noted the report and the concern and action proposed by the Audit & Governance Committee and RECOMMENDED Council to note the Council's Mid-Term Treasury Management Review 2013/14.

10. **Report of the Cabinet (Pages 43 - 46)**

Report of the Cabinet Meeting held on 26 November 2013 (**CC10**).

11. Location of Council Meeting - April 2014 (Pages 47 - 50)

Report by Director for Environment & Economy and County Solicitor & Head of Law & Culture (CC11).

In September, Council said it would welcome the opportunity to hold its April 2014 meeting at Bodicote House, Banbury. This is because the Council wishes to test out the webcasting capability at Bodicote House with a view to extending electronic access to County Council meetings in County Hall. Council asked for a feasibility study into the potential for this. This report provides that study and recommends that the trial take place.

Council is RECOMMENDED to:

- (a) **agree in principle to hold its April 2014 meeting at Bodicote House, Banbury;**
- (b) **ask the County Solicitor & Head of Law and Culture and the Director for Environment & Economy to make the necessary arrangements with Cherwell District Council for holding the meeting at Bodicote House and to liaise with the Chairman of the Council and with Group Leaders to finalise these.**

MOTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

WOULD MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE THAT ANY AMENDMENTS TO MOTIONS WITH NOTICE MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE PROPER OFFICER IN WRITING BY 9.00 AM ON THE MONDAY BEFORE THE MEETING

12. Motion From Councillor Susanna Pressel

“Congestion in Oxford City is getting worse by the day. This has a negative impact on quality of life, health, economic development and many other aspects of life for the people of Oxfordshire and our many visitors.

Given the historic value and compact nature of the City and the constraints on the availability of public sector funds there are limited opportunities to tackle congestion without a adopting a different approach. Council therefore requests Cabinet to investigate urgently how we can consult the people of our county on moving towards charging for workplace parking in Oxford City as speedily as possible, and to report back to the next Council meeting on progress towards this.”

13. Motion From Councillor Kieron Mallon

“That this Council notes that it is estimated that up to 66,000 women and young girls in the UK have undergone Female Genital Mutilation, of this number 20,000 are under the age of 15. We further note that these procedures have no health benefits and is a harmful traditional practice and an act of violence against women and girls, constitutes a violation of their fundamental rights, particularly the right to personal security, physical and mental health and of their sexual and reproductive health and is an act of child

abuse. Such violations can under no circumstances be justified by respect for cultural or religious traditions or initiation ceremonies.

To date, there has not been a single prosecution for this in 28 years within the UK for those responsible for perpetrating this horrific crime as opposed to a more proactive approach in France.

Council asks the Director for Children's Services to ensure all health and social care professionals in Oxfordshire including midwives, obstetricians, nurses, social workers, community workers, police, Crown Prosecution Service and policy makers work together to identify women and young girls who are at risk and to work in partnership to take effective action to bring to and end this barbaric practice."

14. Motion From Councillor Janet Godden

"Council notes that time pressures at its meeting on 5 November meant that it was unable to debate the motion at Agenda Item 17, which proposed asking the Leader to invite the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to attend an additional 'Talking Oxfordshire' event about the impact of further cuts to services in Oxfordshire, with a randomly chosen audience from across the County.

Despite subsequent media coverage of exchanges between the Leader and the Secretary of State, Council remains unconvinced that the Department for Communities and Local Government has a full understanding either of the of the Council's current financial situation or of the local consequences of the cuts that will result from the additional reductions in revenue.

Council therefore asks the Leader to write to the Secretary of State inviting him to come to Oxfordshire and meet with key workers and local members as first proposed, and to invite his parliamentary colleagues among the County's MPs to meetings in their own constituencies for the same purpose."

15. Motion From Councillor David Williams

"There is mounting concern as to the likely impact on the environment of Oxfordshire in relation to hydraulic fracturing of natural gas and oil, the system popularly known as 'fracking'.

The Council considers that the potential scale of environmental damage would place a severe strain on County Environmental services and will have immediate consequences on other County services whilst drilling operations are in hand. Of special concern is the potential release of carcinogenic Radon gas from pockets locked in the Oxfordshire geology.

The County Council is also aware that the release of climate changing gases such as methane and carbon dioxide that will result from the extraction of more fossil fuels will contradict the Councils commitment to moving to a local low carbon economy.

With potential drilling sites all over the County this Council asks its Planning & Regulation Committee to have regard to these concerns in dealing with any application

to issue a license to conduct exploratory drilling or to undertake full scale extraction production”.

16. Motion From Councillor David Williams

“This Council notes with concern the Davies Commission’s invitation for invitations to submit proposals for additional airport capacity within the South East and the potential implications for Oxfordshire.

Oxfordshire County Council is dismayed that a consultation and bids for greater airport capacity is being considered again even though only 3 years ago the Conservative party were arguing that there would be no need for greater capacity in the London area and therefore they would not back expansion at Heathrow. (Conservative Manifesto 2010 General Election)

The Council believes that any airport close to the already existing landing systems of Brize Norton and London Oxford Airport is unnecessary and would bring greater pollution and disturbance to the area.

Such a proposal would run counter to all the County Council’s planning policies to date, meaning dramatic changes to assumptions made for transport, housing, environmental control, and economic planning. All County services would be directly affected from education to adult care to wildlife protection.

Oxfordshire County Council urges Cabinet in any consultation response to resist demands for ever more airport expansion because of the carbon burning consequences such proposals generate and to turn down any proposal for an Oxfordshire Airport as unsuitable to the needs of the County and the Country as a whole.”

17. Motion From Councillor Glynis Phillips

“This Council is very concerned about the deterioration to the road surface on London Road, Headington, Oxford and therefore calls on the Cabinet to reconsider its road maintenance priorities in order to expedite necessary repairs there.”

18. Motion From Councillor John Tanner

“The residents of much of Blackbird Leys and Littlemore in Oxford have a partial residents’ parking scheme which only operates when football matches are played at the Kassam Stadium and when car-boot sales are held there. The football matches parking scheme works well and keeps supporters’ cars from flooding the area. But the car-boot sales scheme is unnecessary and only leads to local residents, their relatives and friends, being fined for parking.

We call on the Cabinet to re-examine the parking needs of the Blackbird Leys and Littlemore areas with a view to lifting the parking controls for car-boot sales.”

19. Motion From Councillor Arash Fatemian

“Council is surprised to note that Oxford City Council has refused to sign the Local Contribution Legal Agreement to contribute funding towards the proposed East-West Rail project (OCC Cabinet Meeting, 15/10/2013 and Oxford Mail 11/11/2013). Given that all other authorities along the route recognise the importance of such a development for economic growth and prosperity, this Council notes with disappointment that Oxford City Council have chosen not to contribute.

The apparent reason given for non-contribution was that the City Council “see this is a project where the benefits for the city will be limited economically” (Oxford Mail, 11/11/2013)

Given that:

- The Oxfordshire LEP has stated that congestion into and around the City represents the biggest threat to growth in and around Oxford and that this will start damaging the local economy unless something is done and;
- That the new proposed East-West rail link will significantly improve congestion in and around Oxford by taking at least 200 lorries an hour off the ring road and offering a fast train service from Water Eaton to Oxford

It would appear that there are indeed very significant benefits for Oxford City from East-West Rail.

As such, Council asks the Leader to write to the City Council expressing this authorities' disappointment, sadness, and regret that Oxford City Council have failed to recognise the obvious benefits such a scheme will bring to the residents of Oxford and the obvious Economic impact on the city as a whole and to invite the City Council to reconsider a short-sighted and ill-considered position.”

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 5 November 2013 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 1.00 pm.

Present:

Councillor Tim Hallchurch MBE – in the Chair

Councillors:

Anne Purse	Mark Gray	Neil Owen
Lynda Atkins	Patrick Greene	Zoé Patrick
David Bartholomew	Pete Handley	Glynis Phillips
Mike Beal	Jenny Hannaby	Susanna Pressel
Maurice Billington	Nick Hards	Laura Price
Liz Brighthouse OBE	Neville F. Harris	G.A. Reynolds
Kevin Bulmer	Mrs Judith Heathcoat	Alison Rooke
Nick Carter	Hilary Hibbert-Biles	Rodney Rose
Louise Chapman	Simon Hoare	Gillian Sanders
Mark Cherry	John Howson	John Sanders
John Christie	Ian Hudspeth	Les Sibley
Yvonne Constance	Bob Johnston	Roz Smith
Surinder Dhesi	Richard Langridge	Val Smith
Arash Fatemian	Stewart Lilly	Lawrie Stratford
Neil Fawcett	Lorraine Lindsay-Gale	John Tanner
Jean Fooks	Sandy Lovatt	Melinda Tilley
Mrs C. Fulljames	Mark Lygo	Michael Waine
Anthony Gearing	Kieron Mallon	Richard Webber
Janet Godden	Charles Mathew	David Williams
	Caroline Newton	David Wilmshurst
	David Nimmo Smith	

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.

72/13 MINUTES

(Agenda Item 1)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2013 were approved and signed.

73/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(Agenda Item 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jamila Azad and Sam Coates.

74/13 OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

(Agenda Item 4)

The Chairman reported as follows:

- (1) Council commemorated 100 years of car production in Oxfordshire.
- (2) The death of Delia Smith, who was a County Councillor for the Thame Division 1989 – 2007, died on 27 September 2013. Councillors Carter, Brighthouse and Purse paid tribute to the former County Council. Council agreed to send a card to the family. The Council then observed a Minute's Silence in her memory.

75/13 APPOINTMENTS

(Agenda Item 5)

RESOLVED: to agree the following appointments:

- (a) to replace Councillor Atkins with Councillor Mark Gray on the Education Scrutiny Committee;
- (b) to replace Councillor Gray with Councillor Atkins on the Pension Fund Committee;
- (c) to appoint Mrs Liz Smith as a Parent Governor Representative for Primary Schools on the Education Scrutiny Committee.

76/13 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS

(Agenda Item 6)

The Council received the following Public Addresses:

Mrs Sue Richard, on behalf of the Save Oxfordshire's Children's Centres campaign, spoke in support of the Motion from Councillor Janet Godden (Agenda Item 17), requesting that the Council consider seriously Cllr Godden's suggestions for further meetings to ensure that the full consequences of any reductions in services were understood, in advance of members agreeing the budget proposals, and well in advance of the final vote on the budget. She urged the Council in particular not to cut Children's Centres which provided essential early intervention to many vulnerable children across Oxfordshire.

Mrs Alexandra Daniels spoke as a local resident who had benefited from a considerable amount of support from her local children's centre during a crisis point in her family life, in support of the Motion from Councillor Janet Godden (Agenda Item 17), requesting that the Council do not cut Children's Centre's and recognise the valuable resource they provide to many vulnerable children and families in Oxfordshire.

77/13 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(Agenda Item 7)

The following question by Mr Bernie Douglas was put to the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Rodney Rose:

What measures are in place/ are OCC taking to ensure that the area receives the maximum possible benefit/mitigation form the proposed construction and operation of HS2?

Councillor Rose answered in the following terms:

Where the HS2 proposals may have an impact on Oxfordshire's road and public footpath network the County Council is working to ensure that measures are included that will mitigate that impact: the County Council continues to monitor progress with Government's proposal.

78/13 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(Agenda Item 8)

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

In relation to Question 11 (Question from Councillor John Tanner to Councillor David Nimmo Smith) Councillor Nimmo Smith undertook to provide Councillor Tanner with a written answer to the question of when the review of the Council's approach to Highways Maintenance would be completed.

In relation to Question 22 (Question from Councillor Roz Smith to Councillor Arash Fatemian) Councillor Fatemian undertook to provide Councillor Smith with a written answer to the question of where the sure start money would be coming from if it had to be paid back and whether it would be capital or revenue money.

79/13 REPORT OF THE CABINET

(Agenda Item 9)

The Council received the report of the Cabinet.

In relation to paragraph 1 (City Deal Strategy Overview) (Question from Councillor Brighouse) Councillor Hudspeth undertook to keep all members informed on the progress of the City Deal Negotiation.

In relation to paragraph 6 (Contributions Policy) (Question from Councillor Patrick) Councillor Heathcoat undertook to provide Councillor Patrick with a written answer regarding carers entering into contracts of employment.

In relation to paragraph 7 (Revised Space Standards for Schools) (Question from Councillor Patrick) Councillor Carter undertook to provide Councillor Phillips with a written answer regarding the level of flexibility afforded to local communities in the design of new schools.

80/13 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR BOB JOHNSTON

(Agenda Item 10)

Councillor Howson moved and Councillor Patrick seconded the following motion:

"This Council notes the impending electrification of much of the County's rail network. Council therefore asks Cabinet to use all possible means to ensure that:

- (i) electrification facilitates the construction of a station at Grove/Wantage;
- (ii) that the freight line to Cowley, is electrified to eliminate the "running of diesels under the wire" elsewhere;
- (iii) proper co-ordination in advance takes place with bus companies and diversion routes planned early to help ease the upheaval caused by alterations to many road bridges all over the County."

Following debate the motion was put to the vote and was carried nem con.
Agreed

RESOLVED: (nem con)

This Council notes the impending electrification of much of the County's rail network. Council therefore asks Cabinet to use all possible means to ensure that:

- (i) electrification facilitates the construction of a station at Grove/Wantage;
- (ii) that the freight line to Cowley, is electrified to eliminate the "running of diesels under the wire" elsewhere;
- (iii) proper co-ordination in advance takes place with bus companies and diversion routes planned early to help ease the upheaval caused by alterations to many road bridges all over the County.

81/13 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR LIZ BRIGHOUSE

(Agenda Item 11)

Councillor Brighouse moved and Councillor Hards seconded the following motion:

"This Council, mindful of the fact that Oxfordshire has already cut £127m and has in place plans to cut a further £74m from its budget, asks the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer and

the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government asking them to:

- (a) Consider the impact on services of a further cut of £60m given that the additional cut will have to be made on services which are not statutory and will hit the rising number of vulnerable elderly people and children in all communities.
- (b) Mitigate the damage which these further reductions in expenditure will have on communities across Oxfordshire through the Autumn Statement and the Local Government Finance Settlement by a combination of giving greater local determination to elected councillors in relation to the Council Tax and providing a less onerous settlement to local government.
- (c) Consider In the longer term a new approach to securing the financial stability and sustainability of local government.”

Councillor Williams moved and Councillor Godden seconded the following amendment shown in bold italic:

“This Council, mindful of the fact that Oxfordshire has already cut £127m and has in place plans to cut a further £74m from its budget, asks the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government asking them to:

- (a) Consider the impact on services of a further cut of £60m given that the additional cut will have to be made on services which are not statutory and will hit the rising number of vulnerable elderly people and children in all communities.
- (b) Mitigate the damage which these further reductions in expenditure will have on communities across Oxfordshire through the Autumn Statement and the Local Government Finance Settlement by a combination of giving greater local determination to elected councillors in relation to the Council Tax and providing a less onerous settlement to local government.
- (c) Consider in the longer term a new approach to securing the financial stability and sustainability of local government.”
- (d) ***The Leader of the Council to lead all party delegation to meet the Secretary of State for local Government to illustrate the impact the proposed settlement would have on services, to question the criteria for this settlement RSG and to appeal that extra resources are required in whatever form to diminish the impact of the cuts.'***

The amendment proposed by Councillor David Williams was put to the vote and was lost by 47 votes to 11.

Following debate, the substantive motion was put to the vote and was carried nem con.

RESOLVED: (nem con)

This Council, mindful of the fact that Oxfordshire has already cut £127m and has in place plans to cut a further £74m from its budget, asks the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government asking them to:

- (a) Consider the impact on services of a further cut of £60m given that the additional cut will have to be made on services which are not statutory and will hit the rising number of vulnerable elderly people and children in all communities.
- (b) Mitigate the damage which these further reductions in expenditure will have on communities across Oxfordshire through the Autumn Statement and the Local Government Finance Settlement by a combination of giving greater local determination to elected councillors in relation to the Council Tax and providing a less onerous settlement to local government.
- (c) Consider in the longer term a new approach to securing the financial stability and sustainability of local government.

82/13 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR STEWART LILLY

(Agenda Item 12)

Councillor Lilly moved and Councillor Waine seconded the following motion as amended with Council's agreement by Councillor Brighthouse in bold italic/strikethrough

~~"The County Council notes that the Deputy Prime Minister has found an additional £600 million for school dinners. The County Council feels that the money could be better used by targeting the most needy pupils to year 6 rather than this scatter gun approach.~~

The County Council is concerned that the funding will not be adequate for Oxfordshire and this could lead to a short fall requiring cuts to other areas of schools budgets such as teaching and learning **and/or the Councils over stretched budget.**

The County Council is also concerned that many rural schools do not have adequate or even existing facilities and will need capital spending to bring kitchens and dining areas up to the required standard.

The County Council asks the Leader to write to the Deputy Prime minister to confirm that the scheme will be fully funded along with any additional capital expenditure required."

The motion, amended in bold italic/strikethrough was put to the vote and was carried nem con.

RESOLVED: (nem con)

The County Council notes that the Deputy Prime Minister has found an additional £600 million for school dinners.

The County Council is concerned that the funding will not be adequate for Oxfordshire and this could lead to a short fall requiring cuts to other areas of schools budgets such as teaching and learning and/or the Councils over stretched budget.

The County Council is also concerned that many rural schools do not have adequate or even existing facilities and will need capital spending to bring kitchens and dining areas up to the required standard.

The County Council asks the Leader to write to the Deputy Prime minister to confirm that the scheme will be fully funded along with any additional capital expenditure required.

83/13 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS, KIERON MALLON, SUSANNA PRESSEL AND JANET GODDEN
(Agenda Item 13)

The time being 1.00 pm the meeting closed and therefore the motions from Councillors David Williams (2), Kieron Mallon, Susanna Pressel and Janet Godden were considered dropped in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.1.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing

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QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

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

Questions	Answers
<p>1. COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS</p> <p>Could the Portfolio holder give the Council any information as to if the County Council has been approach by DfRA officials with regard to conducting a badger cull on Oxfordshire County Council land?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council has not been approached by DfRA officials with regard to conducting a badger cull on Oxfordshire County Council land.</p>
<p>2. COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS</p> <p>Now we are living in the 21st Century would the leader of the County Council consider recommending to his Cabinet colleagues that Oxfordshire County Council follows the majority of local governments in the UK in their quest to be more open and accountable and have the full Council proceeding video recorded and made available to view on the Council's website?</p>	<p>COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>Cllr Williams might recall that, at the last meeting of Council in September, Council approved a motion from Cllr Mallon with a view to extending electronic accessibility to meetings of the Council. Council resolved that it would welcome the opportunity to hold its April 2014 Council Meeting at Cherwell District Council's Bodicote House, to test their existing equipment, and that the Director for Environment & Economy should undertake a feasibility study into this possibility with a report back to Council with recommendations in terms of a trial. Council has therefore already expressed its support, in principle, for extending access and is actively assessing this in terms of cost and practicality.</p> <p>I have told the press that I am content that they record Cabinet meetings to enable the Cabinet to be open and transparent without any cost to the tax payers of Oxfordshire. I would not want to waste valuable taxpayer's money on such schemes when we should be concentrating on providing services for the most vulnerable in the County.</p>

Questions	Answers																																																																																
<p>3. COUNCILLOR SAM COATES</p> <p>What is the present pupil teacher ratio in Primary and Secondary schools? Has the figure significantly improved in the last 5 years?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR MELINDA TILLEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES</p> <p>The table below shows how pupil teacher ratios have changed since 2008. The changes over that time are not significant.</p> <p>Information on class sizes in Oxfordshire schools 2008-2013</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="884 512 1991 1102"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2"></th> <th colspan="6">Primary Schools</th> <th colspan="2">Secondary School</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2">Reception</th> <th colspan="2">KS1</th> <th colspan="2">KS2</th> <th colspan="2">KS3&4</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>Pupils</th> <th>Pupil to Teacher Ratio</th> <th>Pupils</th> <th>P to T Ratio</th> <th>Pupils</th> <th>Pupil to Teacher Ratio</th> <th>Pupils</th> <th>Pupil to Teacher Ratio</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2013</td> <td>6283</td> <td>24.4</td> <td>12134</td> <td>25.7</td> <td>21667</td> <td>25.3</td> <td>10888</td> <td>23.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>5925</td> <td>24.2</td> <td>12148</td> <td>25.6</td> <td>21887</td> <td>25.4</td> <td>25759</td> <td>23.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011</td> <td>5506</td> <td>23.7</td> <td>12036</td> <td>26.0</td> <td>21290</td> <td>25.6</td> <td>28186</td> <td>23.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010</td> <td>5096</td> <td>23.6</td> <td>11472</td> <td>25.6</td> <td>21352</td> <td>25.7</td> <td>29179</td> <td>22.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2009</td> <td>5028</td> <td>24.3</td> <td>10951</td> <td>25.5</td> <td>21949</td> <td>25.9</td> <td>29410</td> <td>22.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2008</td> <td>4196</td> <td>23.2</td> <td>11294</td> <td>24.8</td> <td>23615</td> <td>25.9</td> <td>30442</td> <td>22.8</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>NB data does not include academies who do not share this level of data with the LA.</p> <p>This has a slight effect on secondary school (KS3&4) data in 2012 and a more significant effect on the secondary school data in 2013.</p> <p>Source: DfE school census - as of January of relevant year.</p>		Primary Schools						Secondary School		Reception		KS1		KS2		KS3&4			Pupils	Pupil to Teacher Ratio	Pupils	P to T Ratio	Pupils	Pupil to Teacher Ratio	Pupils	Pupil to Teacher Ratio	2013	6283	24.4	12134	25.7	21667	25.3	10888	23.1	2012	5925	24.2	12148	25.6	21887	25.4	25759	23.2	2011	5506	23.7	12036	26.0	21290	25.6	28186	23.0	2010	5096	23.6	11472	25.6	21352	25.7	29179	22.6	2009	5028	24.3	10951	25.5	21949	25.9	29410	22.7	2008	4196	23.2	11294	24.8	23615	25.9	30442	22.8
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Questions	Answers
<p>4. COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS</p> <p>Given the scale of the proposed cuts especially the revised estimates of an extra £60million on top of the budget reductions already announced would the Cabinet member for Finance consider a referendum of Oxfordshire ratepayers as an option in the budget setting process.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ARASH FATEMIAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE</p> <p>No decisions have yet been made in what is going to be a difficult budget process. To avoid the necessary savings, there would need to be a referendum on a council tax level for an increase of greater than 20%. At a time when most people are struggling with household finances, we only have to look at the choices some face between eating and heating as a result of price rises by energy companies, I do not believe it would be in the interests of Oxfordshire citizens to introduce such a draconian measure.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>I would like to ask the Cabinet Member if he would consider a budget which didn't reach 20% increase but did focus on trying to save essential front line services such as the children's centres for example.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I will reiterate that no decisions have yet been made and that I am open to all suggestions at this moment in time.</p>
<p>5. COUNCILLOR SAM COATES</p> <p>Could the Cabinet member give an estimate of the number of young people not in employment education or Training (NEETs) in Oxfordshire?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR MELINDA TILLEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES</p> <p>As of end of September 2013 there were 919 young people in school years 12-14 who were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).</p>
<p>6. COUNCILLOR STEWART LILLY</p> <p>At our previous Full Council Meeting on September 10th, it was unanimously agreed, that Highway officers would copy their responses to planning application</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Officers have been instructed that as from 1st November local members will be copied in on all planning responses.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>consultations from District Councils to the local County Councillor in whose division the matter was located. This to be a simple exercise of using the “Cc” or “Bcc” facility on the email system. Can the Cabinet member please confirm these instructions have been issued, and when will the Councils’ decision be activated and all members receive these important notifications?</p>	
<p>7. COUNCILLOR SURINDER DHESI</p> <p>What safety measures are in place to ensure that Providers of Care are providing sustainable contracts in delivering Care?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR JUDITH HEATHCOAT, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE</p> <p>We currently contract with a wide range of suppliers in adult social care with the aim of providing quality and choice for service users and good value for the council. The quality and safety of these services is of paramount importance and we monitor these contracts at least annually and more frequently in most cases.</p> <p>We encourage a range of different types of providers from small ‘micro providers’ to large voluntary sector and private providers. Increasingly people are using Direct Payments to buy their own support using money from the council. In these cases we don’t have a contract with the provider but we still work to ensure that care needs are met and there is a sufficient supply of good quality care available for people.</p> <p>As part of our procurement process we test out the viability of a providers’ bid to contract with us (including their workforce arrangements), their experience, financial security and their business continuity plans. We also seek references from other statutory organisations (Local Authority/Health Authority/CCG) that a provider may be currently working with.</p> <p>We have regular dialogue with our suppliers that include an annual provider conference, quarterly meetings by sector and ad hoc meetings in addition to</p>

Questions	Answers
	contract monitoring. We aim to establish relationships built on trust and we encourage service providers to let us know if they have any problems. From time to time providers do go out of business and we work to ensure that alternative arrangements are made for the clients in a timely way.
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>I wanted to know if someone is not very happy with the care worker they have already got how easy is it for them to change to another provider to provide their care.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I think what you are asking is underlined in the answer I have already given, as it was a two part question that you asked in the first place. The first one relies on the contracted work we do and the second part of the question deals with direct payments and people buying their own support.</p>
<p>8. COUNCILLOR CHARLES MATHEW</p> <p>Would the Cabinet Member with responsibility for relations with Thames Water please arrange a meeting before the end of the year with a senior executive from Thames Water plc? To discuss the manifold sewer problems in Oxfordshire villages, so that the responsible parties can arrange a solution agreeable to all parties to the long running problems causing considerable inconvenience to Oxfordshire residents? In the meantime would Thames Water cease giving the go ahead in these villages for new build, until the problems are solved?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>A meeting will be arranged with Huw Thomas, Thames Water Utilities, Local/Regional Liaison Officer and senior colleague to discuss the extensive problems which have occurred in Oxfordshire's foul pumping stations.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Is Huw Thomas of Thames Water looking forward to the meeting?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I'm sure he is.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>9. COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS</p> <p>Would the Cabinet Member for Finance agree with me that it would be a wise move not to include children's centre closures as an option in the proposed budget cuts as this obvious attack on front line services will not be acceptable to the overwhelming majority of ratepayers?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ARASH FATEMIAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE</p> <p>As Councillor Williams will be aware, Oxfordshire County Council needs to find a further £61m of savings by 2017/18. This is on top of the £170m that will already have been saved over the period 2010/11 to 2013/14 and the £31m that is already in the Medium Term Financial Plan to be delivered from 2014/15. Given the scale of the savings, proposals from all service areas will need to be considered. To date front line services have been protected as far as possible, but the scale of the further government cuts, this will inevitably lead to some reductions or changes to the delivery of services.</p> <p>I repeat the no decisions have yet been made in the budget setting process but nor do I recognise his phrase 'obvious attack on front line services will not be acceptable to the overwhelming majority of ratepayers'. I appreciate the strength of feeling about some service lines but a recent poll in the Oxford Mail found 53% in favour of shutting Children Centres.</p> <p>There are important and difficult decisions to be made in the coming weeks and months and the feedback from talking Oxfordshire will form a part of this.</p>
<p>10. COUNCILLOR ZOE PATRICK</p> <p>According to Section 3.5.2 of the Oxfordshire Local Transport Plan Bus Strategy, the Council is asked to consider replacement of commercial bus services which are suddenly withdrawn. Given the fact that the Thames Travel 36 service has now terminated and the</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The Council will consider using some of the S106 contributions available (both held and secured) to improve the connectivity of Grove to the main employment sites at Harwell, Milton Park and Didcot. However, this funding is limited and needs to be targeted towards proposals that both support the longer-term ambition for the area and are self-sustaining in the longer term. In considering the options available, account will need to be given to the timing and potential</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>32 service will no longer serve Grove after December, will the council consider using some of the S106 developer funding secured by housing developments in the area to continue to keep this service running, especially for residents at peak time who have no cars and need this service to enable them to reach main employment sites at Harwell, Milton Park and Didcot.</p>	<p>implication of planned growth in the Wantage/Grove area.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Thank you Councillor Nimmo Smith for your answer which I hope does mean a yes for the continuation of this service as I understand that we have over £235,000 from the developers in the area to contribute towards public transport so that monies could be used actually to continue the service to make sure that it doesn't stop and therefore actually make the whole of the bus service possibly viable in the future. So I am looking forward to that money being used to support that service.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>The answer will be yes and it will be yes if other situations elsewhere in the County come up similarly.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>11. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>Does the Cabinet Member agree that calculating the share of funding for main road repairs on the basis of the use of those roads rather than their length, as at present, would result in significantly more money for much-needed road repairs in Oxford and other urban areas?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The Service are currently reviewing the Councils approach to Highways Maintenance as part of the development of a Highways Asset Management Plan, in conjunction with member representatives, and will consider opportunities for improving the effective allocation of funding and the national classification of road types as part of this exercise.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>I would like to thank Councillor Nimmo Smith for his helpful reply. Could he tell us when this review will be completed and does he share my concerns about buses driving in from rural areas into Oxford and then sitting at bus stops and making big holes in the road.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I don't have an answer for when the review will be completed but I will endeavour to make sure that you are given the information as soon as I have found it from the officers.</p>
<p>12. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member accept my thanks for relaying the badly damaged stretch of road in St Aldates, Oxford between the police station and the law courts? Does he share my regret that some of the low-cost options for improving the road for cyclists at the same time have not been pursued?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>We would always wish to make the most of our opportunities to improve the network, but inevitably, there is a balance to be struck between doing work that is essential and how much we can afford to spend on doing more, and what that would bring in terms of the benefits overall.</p> <p>The purpose of the July consultation was to discuss possible improvements that could be made as part of the scheme. I appreciate your participation in this.</p> <p>Various improvements were discussed but it was conceded that major</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>modifications would be difficult due to limited funds. However, all of the points raised during the consultation were considered and the following points were agreed to be incorporated into the works; as improvements to the current situation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory 1.5m cycle lanes throughout the site • Cycle boxes at both signals to be extended to 5.0m deep • Existing cycle lane to be extended across Floyd's Row
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Would the Cabinet Member agree that the advisory 1.5m cycle lanes were already there before the restructuring of the lower part of St Aldates in Oxford was undertaken? The cycle boxes are legally required to be 5m deep and in fact that the only improvement in a very short stretch of cycle lane across Floyds Row?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I haven't cycled on that particular stretch and I am not familiar with the cycling area around there. So I will bow to your knowledge.</p>
<p>13. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member join with me in congratulating the National Employers Group for seeking further talks and congratulating the Fire Brigades Union for calling off strike action over their proposed conditions of employment?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LOIUSE CHAPMAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR</p> <p>I welcomed the view by the Fire Brigades Union with reference to calling off their strike which was scheduled for Saturday 19 October 2013 in light of the productive negotiations that were taking place nationally. However, it is with disappointment to note that the national Fire Brigades Union announced further strikes on Friday 1 November and Monday 4 November 2013 which puts the residents of Oxfordshire at greater risk from being killed or seriously injured in fires or road traffic accidents.</p> <p>It is very clear that this dispute will only be resolved by meaningful and serious negotiations on both sides and I am sure that Cllr Tanner will join me in calling for such talks to continue to ensure this dispute is settled.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Does the Cabinet Member agree with me that it is unreasonable to expect a 59 year old to go running up and down ladders, carrying people on their shoulder and if they are not fit to do that that they should be sacked and not given a full pension?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Firstly I would like to congratulate our Oxfordshire County Council Fire Service which covered every possibility that there was during strike action. There were several call outs and they were covered within the response time. I think that Councillor Tanner and I are as one when we think it should be a negotiated affair across the country. All sorts of different services are having to make up a loss on their pensions. Locally, we have very good relationships to work with. I think that my answer to his question is no, as in Oxfordshire we have men in our services who are quite able to save people from road traffic accidents to put out fires and do other sorts of business when it comes to the fire services and that some of the members of the fire service don't want to be put to bed to soon, so I am sorry to say that on that I will disagree. This is a national issue and some of those issues will be covered in the negotiations what will be held in the near future. I understand that there is a meeting today with the FBU and we will get these answers shortly. I do think that we will face more strikes if they do not come to an agreement I don't wish to see a strike but if anything that puts life and property at some kind of risk we should not be supporting. Of course I support our fire service and I am minded that they get the best deal possible for the massive service that they do for all of us.</p>
<p>14. COUNCILLOR SAM COATES</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member give the figures for the number of paying parking spaces now operated the County Council and the number of spaces that at the moment are free but which could be made into pay and display</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The number of Pay & Display on street parking spaces is 550 approximately. The Council does not have a separate record of the number of free bays available, however these bays are typically provided in areas to support local businesses and ensure that they are not detrimentally impacted by restrictions in parking arising from Controlled Parking Zones. These bays are typically isolated from</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>control systems. Could he also give an indication of the amount per annum generated by these parking spaces at the moment and the thematic pay rates? Would he agree with me that if the Conservative Leadership had taken up the suggestions for parking charge increases in the last two Green budgets the County could have generated over £2m more in income? Could he indicate if increases in charges play a part in the forthcoming budget to mitigate the impact of cuts?</p>	<p>other Pay & Display facilities and therefore it is not considered that the increased implementation and administration costs for introducing such facilities would be sufficiently off set by income to warrant the detrimental impact a blanket approach of converting Free bays to P&D may have on the local community. Notwithstanding this, the Council could potentially review individual locations as needs require.</p> <p>With regards to whether increased charges would have increased income by £2m, it is difficult to determine whether this would be the case or whether drivers would be displaced to Off Street Car Parks, Park & Ride or indeed out of Oxford altogether. There is a fine line between managing an effective charging mechanism for parking and maintaining a thriving local economy. On Street Parking Charges may be reviewed in future but will need to form part of a comprehensive parking management, congestion and local economy strategy rather than being seen as an income generator in their own right.</p>
<p>15. COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member give an indication of the numbers who will be facing fuel poverty in Oxfordshire this winter and will she indicate if the County Council will use the new more restrictive definition of fuel poverty as recently presented by the Government or will the authority stay with the original criteria?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR HILARY HIBBERT-BILES, CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH & THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR</p> <p>Under the currently used “10% definition” of fuel poverty* (see definitions below) in 2011 in England, there are estimated to be 3.2 million fuel poor households which is 14.6% of the population. The rate of fuel poverty in Oxfordshire is estimated to be significantly lower than the England rate, with 9.9% of the population in fuel poverty according to the same definition – approximately 26,000 households.</p> <p>Numbers of households considered to be fuel poor will be lower with the new measure being proposed - Low Income High Cost (LIHC)**. Under this definition the figure is estimated to be 2.6m households in fuel poverty in England. Figures for Oxfordshire are not yet available under this new measure.</p> <p>It is not possible to estimate the numbers of people who will be in fuel poverty in Oxfordshire this winter accurately. Trends have shown little change across the</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>county over the last 5 years but recent changes in fuel prices are likely to have an impact.</p> <p>Surveillance of the data in Oxfordshire will continue to use the definition currently in use, alongside the new measure, for as long as data is available from the Office for National Statistics. We also hope to use the “Fuel Poverty Gap” measure*** when it is reported as this will give more information in relation to fluctuating fuel prices.</p> <p>Work to reduce fuel poverty is undertaken in Oxfordshire through a partnership approach. It is among the current priorities of the Health Improvement Board in Oxfordshire and there will be a discussion at the meeting in November about further development of the work already going on. The role of Public Health has included keeping surveillance of the prevalence of fuel poverty and working with partners to disseminate information and to improve energy efficiency of homes.</p> <p>Definitions:</p> <p>*The “10% definition”: A household is said to be in fuel poverty if it needs to spend more than 10% of its income on fuel to maintain an adequate level of warmth (usually defined as 21 degrees for the main living area, and 18 degrees for other occupied rooms)</p> <p>**The “Low Income, High Cost” (LIHC) definition –A household is fuel poor if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their income is below the poverty line (taking into account energy costs); and • Their energy costs are higher than is typical for their household type. <p>This measure will not fluctuate with fuel costs to the same extent as the 10% definition.</p> <p>***The “Fuel Poverty Gap” is a new additional measure that goes hand in hand with the LIHC definition that is more dependent on Fuel Prices and paints a similar picture to the 10% definition.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Could I thank the Cabinet Member for a very detailed and straight forward reply. But in the response there is a subtle phrase that ‘as long as the present data is available, that they will continue to use the present definition of fuel poverty’ rather than the fixed definition that the Government would like people to use. My question is when that local data is available will there be a policy change and will they then define fuel poverty in the way that the Government want it to be defined i.e. much more stringently in the future.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Thank you, all I can say is that normally we use all the up to date information that we have got. Our job is to really look at the data and when the new figures come out I am sure we will be doing that.</p>
<p>16. COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS</p> <p>Would the Cabinet Member for Finance give the figures for the central reserves and identify the total departmental contingencies related to specific policies now being held by the County Council. Could he give some indication if this level of reserves is proportionally high by comparison with other local authorities?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ARASH FATEMIAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE</p> <p>The last Financial Monitoring Report presented to Cabinet in October set out that earmarked reserves were forecast to be £109.9m at 31 March 2014. Of this, Directorate reserves are £27.6m, schools reserves £24.7m and corporate reserves £5.8m. In addition there are reserves totalling £51.8m relating to capital, insurance and cash flow.</p> <p>Provisional data on the reserves held by other councils as at 31 March 2013 is available for 25 out of the 27 shire counties. This data indicates that the level of revenue reserves held by Oxfordshire County Council is just below the average for shire counties.</p>
<p>17. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>We have a policy of encouraging local businesses and we also now have more than 20 excellent micro-breweries in Oxfordshire --</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR RODNEY ROSE, DEPUTY LEADER</p> <p>Before answering the question, I must correct what I am sure will be seen as a huge insult to all who live in Hook Norton, and lovers of real ale the world over. To call a “Victorian Tower brewery” MICRO is scandalous, and as a company</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>the Shotover Brewery in Horspath, the Hook Norton Brewery, the Compass in Carterton, the Old Bog in Headington, to name but a few.</p> <p>As well as the option of being able to buy a glass of wine with our lunch at Council meetings about 6 times a year, could we offer for sale different local ale each time?</p> <p>Could we also consider serving some of them at the Christmas Reception?</p> <p>Please can we also look at using local wines?</p>	<p>that has 47 tied houses in 5 counties, then the Wikipedia description of being a <i>regional</i> brewery is surely appropriate. As to offering beer for Members to purchase at Council lunches, this is nothing new as might be expected. When tried in the past, quantities of purchased beers have remained in our stocks to beyond their sell-by dates and then disposed of. I am reluctant to support purchase of any more on that basis, and would add that it would be impractical to start with fresh stocks from a different brewery at each meeting. Should enough Members commit to buying beer [by email to me – rodney.rose@oxfordshire.gov.uk] for use at future meetings, I will be happy to look again at the viability, with the proviso that minimum order would be 24 50cl bottles in the region of £2.25 each. I will look further into the subject of Oxfordshire wines, which will obviously involve some tasting! Current research shows them to be a tad expensive. In terms of the Christmas Reception for next year, we would also need to consult with the Chairman, as it is from that budget that wine is procured.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Please can Councillor Rose let us know when a decision has been reached on the Christmas Reception and does he have other ideas for promoting these local businesses.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Obviously we are talking about the Christmas Reception of 2014, because ordering has already been done for this year I assume. So I will be asking you to discuss that with the then Chairman for that meeting.</p> <p>I don't really think the second question is in my portfolio and I very much doubt that providing 10 pints of bitter 6 times a year will very much change our economy anyway.</p>
<p>18. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>Cambridge City Council recently unveiled what could become the future of street lighting – a road surface that glows in the dark. It has covered a city pathway with</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>We continue to look at innovative ways to deliver our street lighting service and we are always happy to engage with the academic community to consider the options. The Cambridge City project was carried out in a park and so may be more appropriate for our Oxford City colleagues to consider at this time.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>ultraviolet particles which turn blue when the sun sets. The technology, called "Starpath", absorbs light during the day before emitting the artificial glow in the evening. It is thought the idea could one day replace street lamps as a cheaper and more energy efficient form of lighting.</p> <p>Whatever they can do, we can surely do better? Are we working with our two universities to pioneer similar innovations?</p>	
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Are we working with our two universities to pioneer similar innovations? And when will we see some results?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>We are already talking to our two universities and I will be likely talking to Cambridge County Council and Cambridge City Council and Cambridge University on any innovative ways to deliver our street lighting service.</p>
<p>19. COUNCILLOR ROZ SMITH</p> <p>A decision has been taken recently to increase the bus lane on part of the A40 highway leading up to the Green Road Roundabout. What evidence of improved bus time, safety design and possible further congestion did he consider when making the decision?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>As with all our schemes of this nature we model the impacts of the changes and undertake safety audits in accordance with national practice. Our modelling concluded that there would be an overall reduction in delays at the roundabout and that there would be a particular saving for westbound buses on the A40. If Councillor Smith would like a more detailed explanation of the work we have done and the findings I would be happy to arrange for officers to take her through the scheme development.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Will the officers and hopefully his good self be considering the temporary A40 gap closure later this month and will you please take into</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Nothing has been ruled in and nothing has been ruled out.</p>

Questions	Answers
consideration the decision you have already made to increase the bus lane on the A40 up to the Green Road roundabout as well at the same time?	
<p>20. COUNCILLOR ROZ SMITH</p> <p>Would he agree that “pedestrians crossing” warning signs should be considered for the busy crossing point on the A40 near the Collinwood junction</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>I’m aware a request for a sign has already been made to our Traffic Team who have quite correctly pointed out that the latest guidance from DfT is that such signs should only be used “where pedestrians frequently cross high-speed roads”. Technically, the site is not what the DfT would consider to be ‘high-speed’ (there speed limit is 30mph, and a recent survey of this site just over 170 pedestrians and 30 cyclists were counted crossing in a 12-hour period. Of course, if appropriate funding could be found I would be happy to ask officers to look into this issue in more detail.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Is there a possibility that the developer’s contributions from the Barton West development can be used to make pelican crossing at this crossing on the A40?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>It is a similar answer really, nothing has been ruled in and nothing has been ruled out.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>21. COUNCILLOR ROZ SMITH</p> <p>Residents living in a Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) area can pay for a parking permit enabling them to park their vehicle in marked parking bays. Does the income from these permits cover the cost of administering the schemes?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ARASH FATEMIAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE</p> <p>Administration of the Controlled Parking Scheme is funded by both income from parking tickets and permit charges. Last year the cost of administering enforcement within Oxford was £1.44m approximately half of which is attributable to administering/enforcing Controlled Parking Zones. Total income from parking tickets and permits was similarly £1.44m which again was broadly split equally between income inside and outside of Controlled Parking Zones. In total last year enforcement within Oxford, including Controlled Parking Zones was a net cost to the council of approximately £39k. This is an improvement on previous years in which losses against a breakeven position were £112k and £178k have been made in 2011/12 and 2010/11 respectively and we continue to work towards a breakeven position.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Is he aware that local councillors are having to use their area stewardship money to actually maintain the controlled parking zones because the lines have faded the signs have faded that are put on the walls and on posts and we are having to use the money because NSL operatives say that they cannot enforce some of the controlled parking zones because they have not been maintained by the Council?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I am not personally aware however, I think that this is more suited for the Cabinet Member for Environment and no doubt he will pick up those discussions with you in due course.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>22. COUNCILLOR ROZ SMITH</p> <p>If the Cabinet does decide to radically reduce the number of children's centres will the Council be liable to repay some Sure Start grants received from the DfE?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ARASH FATEMIAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE</p> <p>No decisions have been made in relation to Children's Centres so it is not possible to say if the Council will be liable to repay any Sure Start grants. If any reduction to the funding for Children's Centres is agreed by Council in February 2014 then work will be undertaken to determine what conditions apply to any Sure Start funding received on a site by site basis.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Could you please tell me if we do have to pay back some Sure Start funding which area of the Council's budget will this be taken from and will it be capital or revenue.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Chairman with your permission I will undertake to give a written answer to Councillor Roz Smith</p>
<p>23. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>We have all agreed that we want to encourage cycling in Oxfordshire. One of the streets that is most heavily used by cyclists is Park End Street in the city centre. It has been in an appalling state for several years now - even when one slows right down, the very uneven surface is dangerous for cyclists. I have had countless complaints about this.</p> <p>Please can you bring forward the date for its resurfacing?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>We appreciate the condition of Park End Street is far from ideal, unfortunately until the future of Frideswide Square is determined, any maintenance scheme to Park End Street, prior to the commencement of the Frideswide's Improvement works, may be abortive, therefore to ensure best value, at present we are unable to advance the maintenance works. We will of course continue to monitor and maintain Park End Street in accordance with our safety defect policy.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>I am afraid Councillor Nimmo Smith doesn't understand how bad this street is as far as I am concerned and I would like him to come see and to cycle along Park End Street with me.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>The next time I bring my bike into Oxford I will cycle down Park End Street. I will also go down St Aldates.</p>
<p>24. COUNCILLOR JENNY HANNABY</p> <p>Does the Leader of the Conservative and Independent Alliance Group agree that the report given to the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group Financial Board on the 31st August was disappointing, considering the support given to them by County prior to the formation of the (OCCG) board. Which raises concerns regarding the competence of the Board members. Will the Leader inform Council what actions he will be taking on behalf of the community to ensure the worst financial scenario does not occur?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>I will be working with all parties to ensure that a robust structure is in place to ensure a sound financial platform for the future. However we can only provide advice and assistance and it's for the Clinical Commissioning Group to determine the way forward.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>if we are going to show the public that we have got teeth could you not recommend to the GP Commissioning Board the removal of anybody on that Commissioning Board that is not working up to scratch.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I will be making sure that we get a robust structure in place for the future and that is what I will be doing as Chairman of the Health & Wellbeing Board and working with them to get the best results for the residents of Oxfordshire.</p>

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Division(s): N/A

COUNCIL – 10 DECEMBER 2013

TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-TERM REVIEW 2013/14

Report by Chief Finance Officer

Introduction

1. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA's) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (Revised) 2011 recommends that members are informed of Treasury Management activities at least twice a year. This report ensures this authority is embracing Best Practice in accordance with CIPFA's recommendations.
2. The following annexes are attached
 - Annex 1 Lending List Changes
 - Annex 2 Debt Financing 2013/14
 - Annex 3 PWLB Debt Maturing
 - Annex 4 Prudential Indicator Monitoring
 - Annex 5 Arlingclose Quarter 2 Benchmarking

Strategy 2013/14

3. The approved Treasury Management Strategy for 2013/14 was based on an average base rate forecast of 0.50%.
4. The Strategy for Long Term Borrowing was to use internal balances up the value of 25% of the investment portfolio.
5. The Strategy included the continued use of the services of external fund manager Investec and of pooled fund vehicles with variable net asset value.

Economic Background

6. The UK economy showed some improvement, with consumer spending boosting growth. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the first quarter of 2013 was revised up to +0.4% and was +0.7% for the second quarter and +0.8% for the third quarter. An even stronger figure is anticipated in the final quarter on the back of strong economic indicator data releases. Revisions by the Office of National Statistics to previous GDP data showed the UK avoided a double-dip recession in 2012, but that the downturn in 2008/09 was deeper than previously estimated.
7. Annual CPI for September was 2.7% marginally down from 2.8% for March 2013. Inflation is expected to remain close to this level throughout the autumn. Further out, inflation should fall back towards the 2% target as external price pressures fade and a revival in productivity growth from the spare capacity created during the recession curbs domestic cost pressures.

8. There was no change to UK monetary policy with official interest rates and asset purchases maintained at 0.5% and £375bn respectively. Mark Carney took over as Governor of the Bank of England in July 2013 and soon after implemented forward guidance. Within the August Inflation Report, the Bank released its forward guidance, the main element of which is to defer monetary tightening at least until the Unemployment Rate falls to a threshold of 7% (among a raft of caveats). The Bank projected that the probability of this happening would remain below 50% until 2016. The unemployment rate currently stands at 7.7%. The Governor has had to defend the Bank's guidance in the face of rising financial market expectations of an earlier rate rise on the back of the encouraging economic data.
9. In April the Fitch credit rating agency downgraded the UK credit rating one notch from AAA to AA+ becoming the second of the three major credit agencies to do so. Yields on 10 year UK Government Gilts have picked up from 1.77% to 2.72% between March 2013 and September 2013. Money market rates fell over the six month period by between 0.2% and 0.6% for one to 12 month maturities. In response to these lower rates the Council has seen the rates offered on its call account reduced, in addition to lower yields on Money Market Funds and lower rates for fixed term deposits.
10. In his testimony to Congress on 22 May the US Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke stated that, if the nascent recovery in the US economy became established, the Fed would reduce its \$85bn monthly asset purchase programme (QE). The apparent movement by the Fed towards tapering its open-ended QE programme prompted extreme asset price volatility in bonds and equities, as investors sought to crystallise gains driven by excessive liquidity. As a consequence, government bond yields spiked. There had been a growing expectation that the Federal Reserve would seek to commence 'tapering' in September but they took markets by surprise and maintained asset purchases at the existing level.
11. Whilst the outlook for the global economy appeared to have improved over the first half of calendar 2013/14, significant economic risks remain, particularly in China and the Eurozone. The Chinese banking system is facing tighter liquidity conditions as officials seek to slow down rampant credit growth, and, despite the time gained by the European Central Bank to allow individual members and the Eurozone as a whole to reform their economies, the Eurozone debt crisis has not gone away. The US recovery appeared to be in train, but a lack of agreement on the federal budget by the end of September caused a partial government shutdown at the start of October. There was also fierce debate regarding the US debt ceiling. A deal was eventually reached although this only funds the Government to 15 January and extends the Treasury's borrowing authority to 7 February when another round of political brinkmanship is anticipated.

Treasury Management Activity

Debt Financing

12. Oxfordshire County Council's debt financing to date for 2013/14 is analysed in Annex 2.
13. The 2013/14 borrowing strategy is to use internal balances to fund new or replacement borrowing up to the value of 25% of the portfolio. This is intended to reduce the cost of carry (the difference between borrowing rates and investment returns) in the low interest rate environment and reduce counterparty risk by minimising the level of cash balances.
14. There has been no change to this strategy.

15. The Council's cumulative total external debt has decreased from £412.38m on 1 April 2013 to £406.38m by 30 September 2013, a net decrease of £6m. No new debt financing has been arranged during the year. The total forecast external debt as at 31 March 2014, after repayment of loans maturing during the year, is £401.38m. The forecast debt financing position for 31 March 2014 is shown in Annex 2.
16. At 30 September 2013, the authority had 67 PWLB¹ loans totalling £356.38m and 10 LOBO² loans totalling £50m. The combined weighted average interest rate for external debt as at 30 September 2013 was 4.53%.

Maturing Debt

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

Debt Restructuring

18. There has been no restructuring of Long Term Debt during the year to date.

Investment Strategy

19. The security and liquidity of cash was prioritised above the requirement to maximise returns. The Council continued to adopt a cautious approach to lending to financial institutions and continuously monitored credit quality information relating to counterparties.
20. A mixture of short term fixed deposits of up to 12 months and longer term fixed deposits of greater than 12 months have been arranged throughout the first half of the financial year. All deposits with banks have been restricted to a maximum duration of twelve months. Deposits over twelve months have been made exclusively with other Local Authorities. The majority of these deposits have been made for the maximum duration of three years to tie in to high credit quality counterparties over the longer term and to maximise the return available in the current low-interest environment.
21. The Council received a fourth distribution from the Landsbanki winding-up board on 12 September 2013. A total of £2.634m has now been received. The Council had £5m on deposit with Landsbanki. The latest CIPFA guidance assumes that the full amount may be recovered by 2018, although the timings and amounts of future distributions remain unknown.

The Council's Lending List

22. The Council's in-house cash balances were deposited with institutions that meet the Council's approved credit rating criteria. The approved Lending List was regularly updated during the period to reflect changes in bank and building society credit ratings. Changes were reported to Cabinet on a bi-monthly basis. Annex 1 shows the amendments

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

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

incorporated into the Lending List during the first half of 2013/14, in accordance with the approved credit rating criteria.

23. In the Chancellor's Mansion House speech on 19th June he signalled his intention to sell the government's stake in the Lloyds Banking Group reasonably soon and a 6% stake was indeed sold to institutional investors on 17th September at a price of 75p. In a positive move, Fitch upgraded Lloyds' viability rating to BBB+. The changes have not had any impact on our banking relationship with Lloyds.
24. Breaches in policy have been reported to Cabinet as part of the bi-monthly financial monitoring. There has been no significant financial impact as a result of these breaches.

Investment Performance

25. Security of capital has remained the Authority's main investment objective. This has been maintained by following the Authority's counterparty policy as set out in its Treasury Management Strategy for 2013/14.
26. The average daily balance of temporary surplus cash invested in-house in the six months to 30 September was £371.1m. The Council achieved an average in-house return for that period of 0.87%, marginally below the target rate of 0.90% set in the strategy. This has produced gross interest receivable of £1.610m (excluding interest accrued on Landsbanki deposits). Temporary surplus cash includes; Government grants received in advance, developer contributions, SAP school balances, council reserves and balances, working capital, trust fund balances, and various other funds to which the Council pays interest at each financial year end, based on the average rate earned on all balances.
27. The Council uses the three month inter-bank sterling bid rate as its benchmark to measure its own in-house investment performance. During the first half of 2013/14 the average three month inter-bank sterling rate was 0.38%. The Council's average in-house return of 0.87% exceeded the benchmark by 0.49%. The Council operates a number of call accounts and instant access Money Market Funds to deposit short-term cash surpluses. The average balance held on overnight deposit in money market funds or call accounts in the 6 months to 30 September was £43.9million or 12% of the total in house portfolio.

External Fund Managers and Pooled Funds

28. The Council has continued to use the services of one external fund manager: Investec Asset Management Limited. Proportions of the £12.1m portfolio are invested in three different types of investment fund. The Council has invested in the 'Dynamic Model' where 5% of the portfolio is invested in a Liquidity Fund, 65% is invested in a Short Dated Bond Fund and the remaining 30% is invested in a Target Return Fund. The Target Return fund is the most volatile aspect of the portfolio, carrying greater risk but also the most opportunity for significant returns.
29. Investec's annualised return for the first six months of the year (net of management charges) was 0.00%, compared with a benchmark of 1.59%. Failure to achieve the benchmark has primarily been due to the underperformance of the Target Return and Short-Dated Bond Fund elements of the portfolio. Over the period market conditions have been volatile due to developments in the global economy and the US in particular which has impacted on performance. It should be borne in mind that the Investec portfolio is a long-

term investment and so performance needs to be considered over a longer time period. The three year return for the portfolio is 0.88% against a benchmark of 1.34%. The Treasury Management Strategy Team is continually monitoring the performance of the Investec portfolio and continues to keep all external funds under review.

30. The Council continued to use pooled funds with variable net asset value operated by Scottish Widows Investment Partnership, Federated, and Payden & Rygel. The annualised returns over the period to 30 September 2013 for these funds were 0.53%, 0.59%, and 0.17% respectively. As with the Investec fund these investments are held with a long-term view and performance is assessed accordingly.

Prudential Indicators for Treasury Management

31. The position as at 30 September 2013 for the Prudential Indicators is shown in Annex 4.

External Performance Indicators and Statistics

32. The County Council is a member of the CIPFA Treasury and Debt Management benchmarking club and receives annual reports comparing returns and interest payable against other authorities. The benchmarking results for 2012/13 showed that Oxfordshire County Council had achieved an average return of 0.98% compared with an average of 0.97% for their comparative group of County Councils and an average of 1.10% for all 68 members.
33. The average interest rate paid for all debt during 2012/13 was 4.52%, lower than the 4.75% average for the comparative group of 19 County Councils and the same as the all member average of 4.52%. It should be noted that all of Oxfordshire County Council's debt is long-term whereas the averages for the comparators include short-term debt which has a lower interest rate and so reduces the averages. Oxfordshire County Council had a higher than average proportion of its debt portfolio in PWLB loans at 88% compared to 76% for the all member group and 81% for the comparative group. Oxfordshire County Council had 12% of its debt in LOBO loans at 31 March 2013 compared with an average of 18% for both the all member group and comparative group.
34. Arlingclose also benchmark the Council's investment performance against its other clients on a quarterly basis. The results of the quarter 2 benchmarking to 30 September 2013 for 2013/14 are included at Annex 5.
35. The benchmarking results show that the Council has achieved higher than average interest on deposits at 30 September 2013. This has been achieved by placing deposits over a longer than average duration with institutions that are of better than average credit quality. This reflects the current investment strategy to place long term deposits with other local authorities to maximise the security of cash.

Training

36. Individuals within the Treasury Management Team continued to keep up to date with the latest developments and have attended a number of external workshops. Some members of the team also visited one of our brokers to shadow them for a morning in order to gain insight in to how brokers operate.

Financial and Legal Implications

37. Interest payable and receivable in relation to Treasury Management activities are only two parts of the overall Strategic Measures budget.
38. The 2013/14 budget for interest receivable is £2.115m. The forecast outturn for interest receivable is £2.859m giving net forecast excess income of £0.744m. The increased forecast in interest receivable is due to higher average cash balances due in part to the front loading of government grants and the timings of capital and revenue expenditure.
39. The 2013/14 budget for interest payable is £18.405m. The forecast outturn for interest payable is £18.536m giving a net forecast overspend of £0.131m.

RECOMMENDATION

40. **The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to note the report, and to RECOMMEND Council to note the Council's Mid-Term Treasury Management Review 2013/14.**

LORNA BAXTER
Chief Finance Officer

Contact officer: Gregory Ley – Financial Manager Treasury Management, Contact number: 01865 323978

November 2013

Lending List Changes during 2013/14**Counterparties added/reinstated**

Close Brothers
Credit Suisse

Counterparties removed

No Counterparties have been removed from the Lending List between 1 April 2013 and 30 September 2013.

Lending limits & Maturity limits increased

Counterparty	New Lending limit	New Maximum Maturity
Standard Chartered Bank	no change	12 months
Svenska Handelsbanken	no change	12 months
JP Morgan Chase Bank	no change	9 months
HSBC Bank Plc	£25m	no change
UK Local Authorities	£30m	no change
Morgan Stanley MMF	£5m	no change
Federated MMF	£12m	no change

Lending limits & Maturity limits decreased

Counterparty	New Lending limit	New Maximum Maturity
Royal Bank of Scotland	no change	Overnight (was increased to 6 months earlier in period)
Nationwide Building Society	no change	6 months (was increased to 9 months earlier in period)

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL DEBT FINANCING 2013/14

<u>Debt Profile</u>		£m
1. PWLB	90%	362.37
2. Money Market LOBO loans	12%	50.00
3. Sub-total External Debt		412.37
4. Internal Balances	-2%	-9.04
5. Actual Debt at 31 March 2013	100%	403.33
6. Government Supported Borrowing		0.00
7. Unsupported Borrowing		12.33
8. Borrowing in Advance		0.00
9. Minimum Revenue Provision		-16.82
10. Forecast Debt at 31 March 2014		398.84
<u>Maturing Debt</u>		
11. PWLB loans maturing during the year		-11.00
12. PWLB loans repaid prematurely in the course of debt restructuring		0.00
13. Total Maturing Debt		-11.00
<u>New External Borrowing</u>		
14. PWLB Normal		0.00
15. PWLB loans raised in the course of debt restructuring		0.00
16. Money Market LOBO loans		0.00
17. Total New External Borrowing		0.00
<u>Debt Profile Year End</u>		
18. PWLB	88%	351.37
19. Money Market LOBO loans	13%	50.00
20. Sub-total External Debt		401.37
21. Internal Balances	-1%	-2.53
22. Forecast Debt at 31 March 2014	100%	398.84

Line

- 1 – 5 This is a breakdown of the Council's debt at the beginning of the financial year (1 April 2013). The PWLB is a government agency operating within the Debt Management Office. LOBO (Lender's Option/ Borrower's Option) loans are long-term loans, with a maturity of up to 60 years, which includes a re-pricing option for the bank at predetermined time intervals. Internal balances include provisions, reserves, revenue balances, capital receipts unapplied, and excess of creditors over debtors.
- 6 'Government Supported Borrowing' is the amount that the Council can borrow in any one year to finance the capital programme. This is determined by Central Government, and in theory supported through the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) system.
- 7 'Unsupported Borrowing' reflects Prudential Borrowing taken by the authority whereby the associated borrowing costs are met by savings in the revenue budget.
- 8 'Borrowing in Advance' is the amount the Council borrowed in advance to fund future capital finance costs.
- 9 The amount of debt to be repaid from revenue. The sum to be repaid annually is laid down in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, which stipulates that the repayments must equate to at least 4% of the debt outstanding at 1 April each year.
- 10 The Council's forecast total debt by the end of the financial year, after taking into account new borrowing, debt repayment and movement in funding by internal balances.
- 11 The Council's normal maturing PWLB debt.
- 12 PWLB debt repaid early during the year.
- 13 Total debt repayable during the year.
- 14 The normal PWLB borrowing undertaken by the Council during 2013/14.
- 15 New PWLB loans to replace debt repaid early.
- 16 The Money Market borrowing undertaken by the Council during 2013/14.
- 17 The total external borrowing undertaken.
- 18-22 The Council's forecast debt profile at the end of the year.

Long-Term Debt Maturing 2013/14**Public Works Loan Board: Loans Matured during first half of 2013/14**

Date	Amount £m	Rate %
22/05/2013	5.000	4.20%
13/07/2013	0.500	2.35%
31/07/2013	0.500	2.35%
Total	6.000	

Public Works Loan Board: Loans Due to Mature during second half of 2013/14

Date	Amount £m	Rate %
31/12/2013	4.000	4.90%
13/01/2013	0.500	2.35%
31/01/2013	0.500	2.35%
Total	5.000	

Prudential Indicators Monitoring at 30 September 2013**Authorised and Operational Limit for External Debt**

External Debt	Operational Limit £m	Authorised Limit £m	Actual 30/09/13 £m	Forecast 31/03/14 £m
Borrowing	475	485	406	401
Other Long-Term Liabilities	6	6	6	6
TOTAL External Debt	481	491	412	407

Capital Financing Requirement for year £428,177,000.00

Fixed Interest Rate Exposure

Fixed Interest Net Borrowing limit 150.00%
Actual at 30 September 2013 151.57%

Variable Interest Rate Exposure

Variable Interest Net Borrowing limit 25.00%
Actual at 30 September 2013 -51.57%

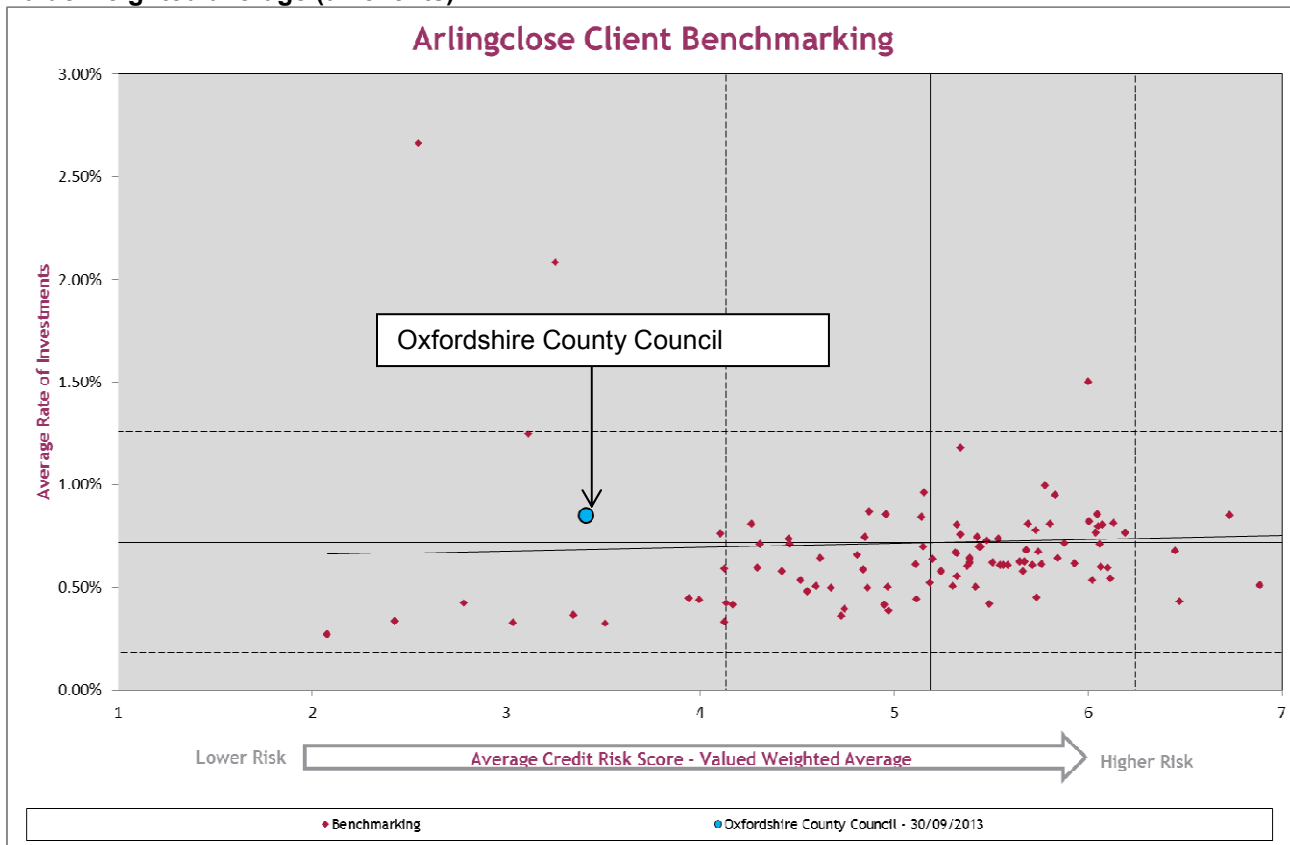
Sums Invested over 365 days

Total sums invested for more than 364 days limit £100,000,000
Actual sums invested for more than 364 days £ 98,365,590

Maturity Structure of Borrowing

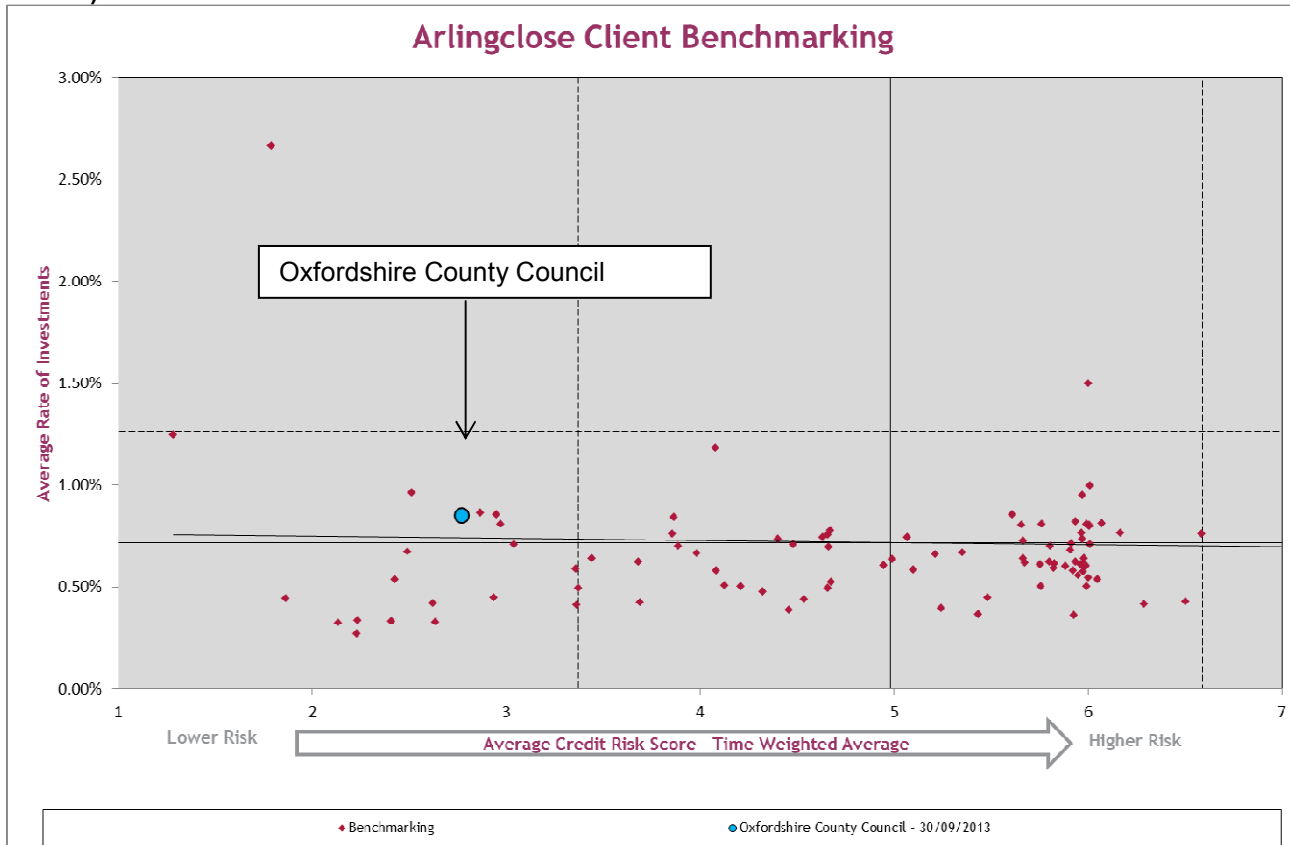
	Limit %	Actual %
Under 12 months	0 - 20	6.40
12 – 24 months	0 - 25	2.71
24 months – 5 years	0 - 35	16.73
5 years to 10 years	5 - 40	12.06
10 years +	50 - 95	62.10

Value weighted average (all clients)



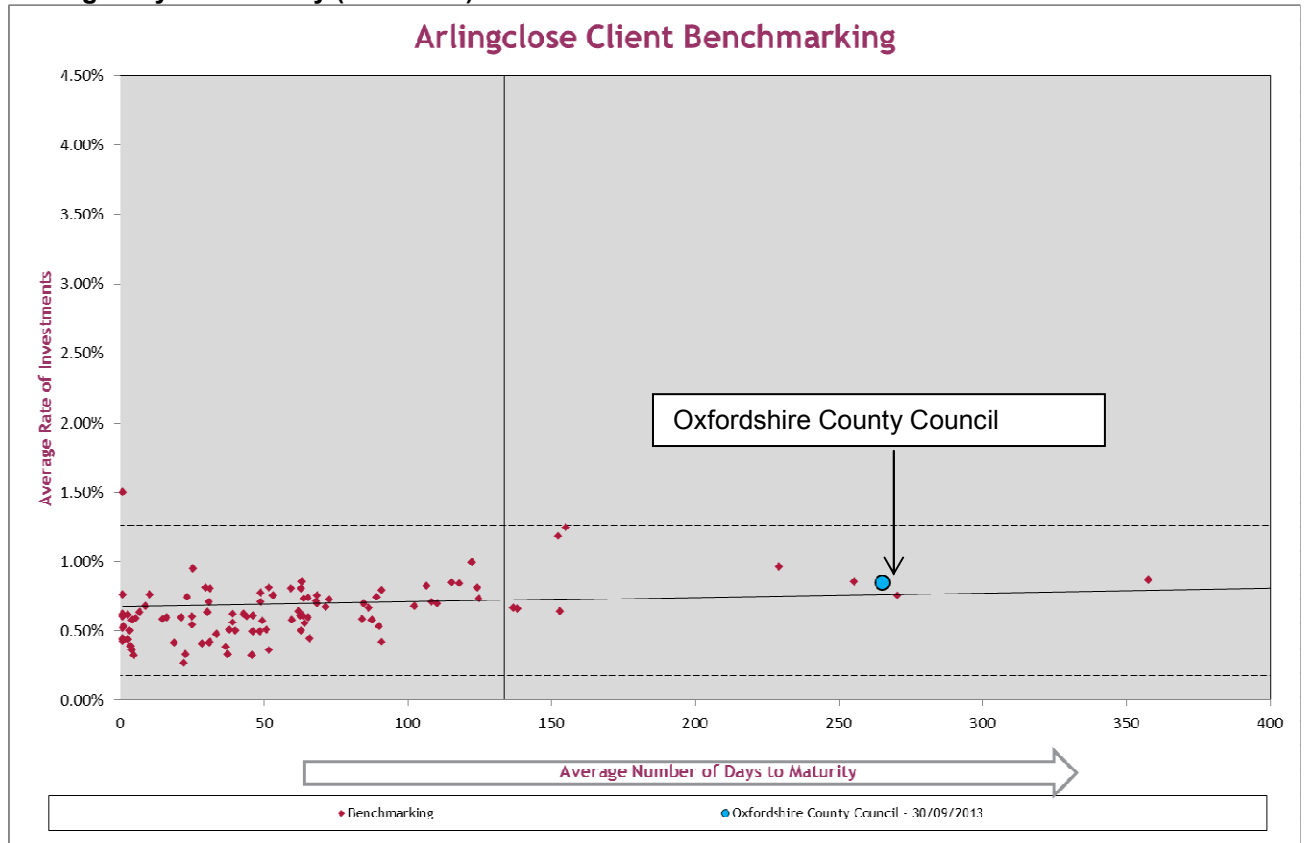
This graph shows that, at 30 September 2013, Oxfordshire achieved a higher than average return for lower than average credit risk, weighted by deposit size.

Time weighted Average (all clients)



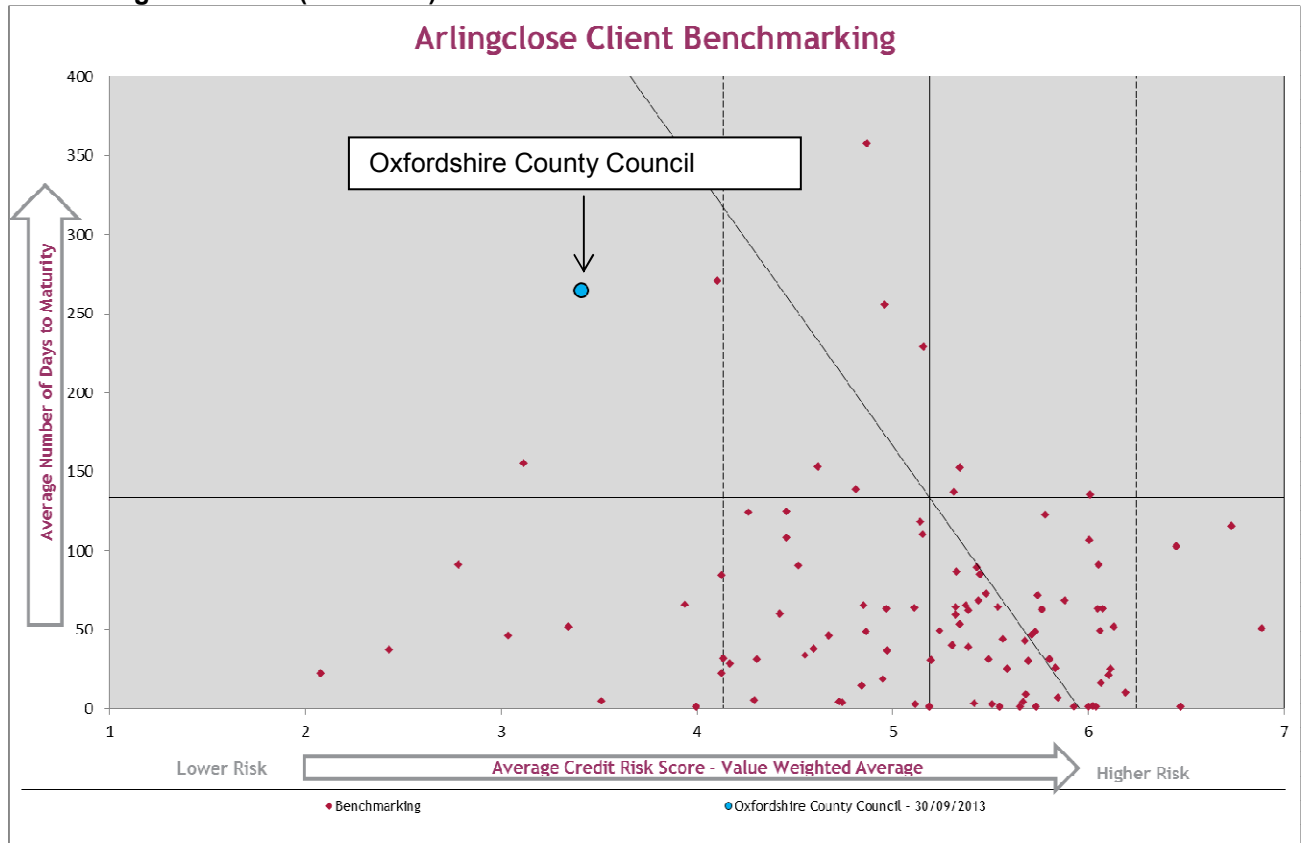
This graph shows that, at 30 September 2013, Oxfordshire achieved higher than average return for lower than average credit risk, weighted by duration.

Average Days to Maturity (all clients)



This graph shows that, at 30 September 2013, Oxfordshire achieved a higher than average return by placing deposits for longer than average duration.

Value Weighted Credit (all clients)



This graph shows that, at 30 September 2013, Oxfordshire had a higher than average duration for deposits and that these deposits are made with institutions with lower than average credit risk when weighted by deposit size.

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Division(s): N/A

COUNTY COUNCIL – 10 DECEMBER 2013

REPORT OF THE CABINET

Cabinet Member: Deputy Leader

1. Staffing Report – Quarter 2, 2013
(Cabinet 26 November 2013)

Cabinet noted a report that gave an update on staffing numbers and related activity during the period 1 July 2013 to 30 September 2013. It gave details of the agreed staffing numbers and establishment at 30 September 2013 in terms of Full Time Equivalents. In addition, the report provided information on vacancies and the cost of posts being covered by agency staff.

Cabinet Member: Children, Education & Families

2. Action in Response to Child Sexual Exploitation in Oxfordshire
(Cabinet, 26 November 2013)

Child sexual exploitation is among the most serious and challenging issue that Oxfordshire County Council has faced. Cabinet had before them a report that set out the council's learning and actions in response.

3. Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
(Cabinet, 26 November 2013)

Cabinet endorsed the development of a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in conjunction with partner agencies.

A Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is a multi-agency unit which pools intelligence about safeguarding referrals, securely, and provides safe and speedy triage as a basis for appropriate on-going action. As such it is a gateway between universal services (such as Schools and GPs) and specialist and intensive services.

4. Financial Final Decision on Expansion of Queensway Primary School to 2 Forms of Entry (2fe)
(Cabinet, 26 November 2013)

Cabinet considered and approved a proposed increase to the published admission number from 30 to 60 children at Queensway Primary School in Banbury, on a permanent basis from September 2014. This will eventually increase the school's total capacity from its current 277 places in Years Reception – Year 6 to a maximum of 420.

Note: As set out under Rule 18(a) of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules, this decision is exempt from Call-In as it is deemed urgent and any delay would seriously prejudice the Council's interests, in that the Cabinet's role would be negated by referral to the Schools' Adjudicator if the decisions were not taken within two months of the end of the Statutory Notices, in this case being 10 December 2013.

Cabinet Member: Environment

5. Oxfordshire Local Aggregate Assessment 2013

(Cabinet 26 November 2013)

The County Council has a statutory duty to prepare a new Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Plan, to provide an effective planning strategy and policies for the supply of minerals and management of waste in the county, consistent with environmental, social and economic needs.

Under the Government's National Planning Policy Framework, March 2012 (NPPF), the County Council must prepare a Local Aggregate Assessment Annually. In addition, the duty to co-operate introduced by the Localism Act 2011 applies to the preparation of a local aggregate assessment since this is an activity supporting the preparation of a local plan relating to a strategic matter. Cabinet considered a report that recommended a Local Aggregate Assessment for Oxfordshire for 2013.

Cabinet approved the 10 year average sales figures as the provision figures in the Oxfordshire Local Aggregate Assessment 2013, for use as the basis for provision for mineral working in the consultation draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan and for calculating the Oxfordshire landbank. Cabinet also gave authority to the Deputy Director for Environment & Economy (Strategy & Infrastructure Planning) in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment to finalise and publish the Oxfordshire Local Aggregate Assessment 2013.

6. Oxfordshire Minerals & Waste Development Scheme 2013

(Cabinet 26 November 2013)

The County Council is preparing a new Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan. Cabinet considered the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Development Scheme that sets out the programme for the production of this plan and the planning policy documents (local development documents) that will make up the plan.

Cabinet approved the Scheme, subject to final detailed amendment and editing, to have effect from 10 December 2013 and gave authority to the Deputy Director for Environment & Economy (Strategy & Infrastructure Planning), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment as necessary, to finalise, bring the Scheme into effect by 10 December 2013 and to publish the Scheme.

7. Dix Pit Contract Variation

(Cabinet, 26 November 2013)

Cabinet considered a report containing exempt information and gave approval for the settlement agreement reached in principle with FCC Environment Ltd and for the Director for Environment & Economy in consultation with the cabinet Member for Environment to finalise the agreement and sign the contract variation.

Cabinet Member: Finance

8. Treasury Management Mid-Term Review (2013/14)

(Cabinet, 26 November 2013)

Cabinet had before them a report setting out the Treasury Management activity undertaken in the first half of the financial year 2013/14 in compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice. The report included Debt and Investment activity, Prudential Indicator monitoring, changes in Strategy, and forecast interest receivable and payable for the financial year. Cabinet noted the report and the concern and action proposed by the Audit & Governance Committee and **RECOMMENDED** Council to note the Council's Mid-Term Treasury Management Review 2013/14.

N.B The report is included for consideration elsewhere on this agenda.

IAN HUDSPETH

Leader of the Council

November 2013

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Division(s): N/A

COUNCIL - 10 DECEMBER 2013

LOCATION OF COUNCIL MEETING – APRIL 2014

Report by Director for Environment & Economy and County Solicitor
& Head of Law & Culture

Introduction

1. In September, Council said it would welcome the opportunity to hold its April 2014 meeting at Bodicote House, Banbury. This is because the Council wishes to test out the webcasting capability at Bodicote House with a view to extending electronic access to County Council meetings in County Hall. Council asked for a feasibility study into the potential for this. This report provides that study and recommends that the trial take place.

Background

2. The County Council recognises the importance of increasing access to meetings both physically and electronically. Many authorities facilitate electronic access through the webcasting of meetings whereby the meeting is recorded and then broadcast on the authorities' websites. As Cherwell District Council already have webcasting facilities, it was considered cost-effective to trial the use of an existing system before obtaining one for the County Council. Such a pilot would also enable members to experience the use of webcasting at first hand, thereby enabling an informed decision on future plans.
3. Following a motion from Councillor Mallon to this effect, approved by the Council (minute number 65/13), Cherwell District Council have been approached with a view to the 1 April 2014 County Council meeting taking place at Bodicote House. This report outlines the practicalities and the cost considerations of doing so.

Practicalities

4. The practicalities arising from this proposal can be grouped under the following headings:
 - Capacity of Bodicote House;
 - Webcasting capability;
 - Parking and transport.

Capacity of Bodicote House:

5. Cherwell District Council normally structure their chamber to accommodate 50 councillors plus attending officers. It has been confirmed that additional space could be created, as here, to accommodate 61 county councillors and with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Officers supporting the Chairman can also be accommodated at the front of the meeting with directors accommodated separately below. Group rooms can be made available for the three main political groups to accommodate the group meetings prior to the start of Council. The Chairman's room at Bodicote can also be made available to the Chairman of this Council on the day.
6. There is also capacity in the public gallery for members of the public to attend and space for the press.

Webcasting capability:

7. The webcasting facilities at Cherwell District Council can be configured to the layout required. Bodicote House has been used successfully by other organisations for webcasting purposes. It is also possible for the recording of the meeting to be linked directly to the County Council's website, live and historically. The actual recording is facilitated by a retained webcasting operator who ensures the camera is directed to the person speaking. The operator also controls the microphones (one between two), so that the audio-feed clearly picks up the person speaking.

Parking and transport:

8. There is only limited parking at Bodicote House. It would not be feasible to replicate the current degree of Council Day/County Hall parking without specifically hiring additional spaces, potentially from the adjacent amenity of Banbury Cricket Club, opposite Bodicote House. Disabled parking spaces could be reserved, if needed. Alternatively, it is possible to hire transport to take councillors from County Hall to Bodicote House. While this would still necessitate the usual journeys to County Hall, it would have the advantage of minimising the individual journeys, in terms of additional cost and environmental impact. The cost implications are in paragraphs 9-11 below.

Financial implications

9. The cost implications for the Council include the following:
 - Hire of Bodicote Council Chamber and Rooms: £355;
 - Hire of webcasting operator: £200 max;
 - Additional car park reservations: £75;
 - Coach: £400.
10. There will also be implications for the payment of members' travel claims. The total amount claimed for an average council meeting would be in the region of £387: if transport is provided this is likely to remain, with the addition of approximately £400 for transport hire, for example through the Integrated Transport Unit. If no transport is provided, then this is likely to increase with

onward mileage to and from Banbury and longer train journeys – amounting, potentially, to at least an additional £450. The cost of refreshments would fall within existing budgets.

11. Further options are being considered with the Council's transport partners, with a view to making further savings on the costs indicated.
12. Taking all potential costs into account, the maximum likely to be incurred over and above the cost of holding a meeting at County Hall, is in the region of £1,500.

Conclusion

13. Bodicote House is available for use on 1 April and can be configured to the requirements of the County Council. The meeting is capable of being webcast and a recording of the meeting can be hosted on this Council's website. The transport implications can be resolved through the provision of a coach, if needed. The financial implications, all considered, are not prohibitive.

RECOMMENDATIONS

14. **Council is RECOMMENDED to:**
 - (a) **agree in principle to hold its April 2014 meeting at Bodicote House, Banbury;**
 - (b) **ask the County Solicitor & Head of Law and Culture and the Director for Environment & Economy to make the necessary arrangements with Cherwell District Council for holding the meeting at Bodicote House and to liaise with the Chairman of the Council and with Group Leaders to finalise these.**

HUW JONES

DIRECTOR FOR ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY

PETER CLARK

COUNTY SOLICITOR AND HEAD OF LAW & CULTURE

Contact Officer: Glenn Watson tel: (01865) 815270

Background Papers: None

December 2013

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