

## **CABINET – 26 JANUARY 2016**

### **ITEM 4 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Question received from the following Members:

#### **1. From Councillor John Tanner to Councillor Lawrie Stratford**

'How does the cabinet suggest I explain to the voters in my division that Oxfordshire County Council wants to increase the County's share of their Council tax by 4% but that the public services delivered by the County Council will be much worse?'

#### **Answer**

The increase in council tax will contribute to the rising costs in adult social care including increase in demand and the impact of the introduction of the national living wage. If we were not able to increase council tax by as much, then the cuts to public services would have been much worse. We need to be able to ensure we continue to meet our obligations to provide services for the most vulnerable (by which we mean adults who need help with personal care such as washing and eating, and children at risk of abuse and neglect.) Balanced alongside that we also need to be very much aware of what residents can afford to pay. It should be remembered that Council Tax rises in recent years have been much lower than the four per cent proposed this year. Such matters always represent the striking of a balance and councils across England are currently seeking to strike that balance as they set their budget.

#### **2. From Councillor John Howson to Councillor Melinda Tilley**

Who is representing the County on the review of post-16 education taking place at the request of BiS and the DfE and what views will they be expressing about post-16 education and its relation to 14-18 studio schools and UTCs in the County?

#### **Answer**

The lead representative for the County Council is Roy Leach, School Organisation & Planning Manager and he is supported by Adrian Lockwood and Richard Byard representing the OxLEP and Skills Board. With respect to the relationship with studio schools and University Technical Colleges, this will depend upon what future needs and current gaps in provision are identified through the detailed data analysis that the review will undertake.