

CABINET

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 20 April 2021 commencing at 2.00 pm and finishing at 3.27 pm

Present:

Voting Members:

Councillor Ian Hudspeth – in the Chair
Councillor Mrs Judith Heathcoat
Councillor Lawrie Stratford
Councillor Steve Harrod
Councillor Ian Corkin
Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale
Councillor Yvonne Constance OBE
Councillor David Bartholomew
Councillor Mark Gray

Other Members in Attendance:

Councillor Damian Haywood (Agenda Items 7 & 8)
Councillor Glynis Phillips (Agenda Item 6)
Councillor Emma Turnbull (Agenda Item 9)
Councillor Gill Sanders (Agenda Item 10)

Officers:

Whole of meeting

Yvonne Rees (Chief Executive); Lorna Baxter, Director of Finance; Anita Bradley, Director of Law & Governance; Steve Jordan, Corporate Director, Commercial Development, Assets and Investment; Sue Whitehead (Law & Governance)

Part of Meeting

Item 6 - Claire Taylor, Corporate Director, Customers and Organisational Development; Louise Tustian, Head of Insight and Corporate Programmes
Item 7 – Bill Cotton, Corporate Director of Environment and Place; Rachel Wileman, Assistant Director Strategic Infrastructure and Planning; Dawn Pettis, Strategic Planning Team
Item 8 – Bill Cotton, Corporate Director of Environment and Place, Paul Fermer, Assistant Director Community Operations
Item 9 – Claire Taylor, Corporate Director, Customers and Organisational Development; Jane Portman, Consultant, Cultural Services
Item 10 – Kevin Gordon, Corporate Director for Children's Services; Lara Patel, Deputy Director - Safeguarding

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

34/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(Agenda Item. 1)

An apology was received from Councillor Eddie Reeves.

Councillor Ian Hudspeth, Leader of the Council thanked and paid tribute to the work of Councillor Judith Heathcoat, Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Lawrie Stratford, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health and Councillor Mark Gray, Cabinet Member for Local Communities all of whom were standing down from the County Council at the upcoming elections.

35/21 MINUTES

(Agenda Item. 3)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2021 were approved and signed as a correct record.

36/21 QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

(Agenda Item. 4)

The questions received from County Councillors and responses are set out in an Annex to these Minutes.

Councillor Howson thanked Cabinet Members for the way in which they had answered the many questions he had put to them during this administration.

He also thanked Sue Whitehead, Principal Committee Officer, who was retiring, for her work in supporting these meetings. Cabinet Members also thanked Sue Whitehead for her work.

37/21 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS

(Agenda Item. 5)

The following requests to address the meeting had been agreed by the Chairman:

Item 6 – Business Management and Monitoring Report - Councillor Glynis Phillips, Shadow Cabinet Member for Finance

Item 7– Strategic Vision for Oxfordshire - Councillor Damian Haywood, Shadow Cabinet Member for Highways Delivery and Operations

Item 8 – Highway Maintenance Contract Extension - Councillor Damian Haywood, Shadow Cabinet Member for Highways Delivery and Operations

Item 9 – Developing a Strategic Framework for Oxfordshire County Council Libraries and Heritage Services - Councillor Emma Turnbull, Shadow Cabinet Member for Education & Cultural Services

Item 10 – Re-provision of Maltfield House – New Build Children’s Home -
Councillor Gill Sanders, Shadow Cabinet Member for Children’s Services.

38/21 BUSINESS MANAGEMENT & MONITORING REPORT - FEBRUARY 2021

(Agenda Item. 6)

Cabinet considered a report setting out Oxfordshire County Council’s (OCC’s) progress towards Corporate Plan priorities for 2020/21 – February 2021.

Councillor Glynis Phillips, Shadow Cabinet Member for Finance highlighted several areas in the report:

- On air quality metrics referred to at page 19 of the agenda Councillor Phillips asked that locality meetings be advised of air quality issues in their area, where the air pollution monitors were sited and the specific actions in the designated air quality management areas.
- Expressed concern over the street lighting LED conversion programme, where the target for conversions for 2021 had not been achieved.
- Councillor Phillips highlighted that the condition of the highways was rated green when Fix my Street data advised that repairs completed did not meet the target set and noted that nearly a quarter of issues reported fell below the intervention criteria. She noted that this was a known issue and that the report referred to a number of interventions. Councillor Phillips requested information on the interventions. As a known issue she asked what was being done to reduce the number of inappropriate issues being reported on Fix My Street.
- In noting that the percentage target for defects posing an immediate or potential risk of injury was met Councillor Phillips suggested that future reports indicate the actual number of defects involved.
- Referring to page 51 on notification received on ringfenced grant relating to free activities and healthy food for disadvantaged children, Councillor Phillips requested more detail on the allocation of this funding and on how spend would be monitored.
- Councillor Phillips welcomed the shift in resources to more home care being provided.
- Councillor Phillips noted that the risk register made no mention of preparation for the County wide Youth Service. The register noted the increase in demand for children’s services and the need to ensure effective arrangements are in place for safeguarding children. A benefit of a County wide youth service is that social workers would be available to support children and their families before crises happen. The preparations should be mentioned in the risk register as a mitigating factor and Councillor Phillips sought assurance that plans were being made to set up this service.

Councillor Constance responded to the concerns raised around the street lighting LED conversion programme. The difficulty in meeting the conversion target was due to a column supply issue. The delivery programme would be caught up in 2021/22. She added that whilst below the target on numbers, the programme was targeted at the units with the highest energy usage and therefore energy saving would profile ahead of target.

Councillor Constance indicated that Councillor Phillips would receive a direct response on her queries on Fix My Street.

Councillor Judith Heathcoat, Deputy Leader of the Council, introduced the risk and performance management elements of the report noting that the Council continued to perform well 16 green, 10 amber with none reported as red. One measure was unable to be reported on as a direct consequence of Covid-19. There had been no score changes on the risk register in the month of February.

Councillor Heathcoat commented that it was a testament to the Council's workforce that we continued to support our communities well. Councillor Heathcoat highlighted work within the Community Safety portfolio where Trading Standards continued their work to support the reporting of scams and doorstep crime and the Fire Service crews and Home and Community Advisers who carried out Home and Well Visits within the community.

Councillor David Bartholomew, Cabinet Member for Finance introduced the finance element of the report and at the last meeting of Cabinet in this term gave special thanks to Lorna Baxter, Director of Finance, Hannah Doney, Chief Finance Officer, and to Emma Greenland, Graham Clare, Tim Chapple and other members of the Finance team for their hard work and support over the years. Councillor Bartholomew also thanked Councillor Glynis Phillips in her role as Shadow Cabinet Member for Finance for her constructive comments in this area. In moving the recommendations outlined the forecast revenue budget at the end of February 2021 and an update on the Medium-Term Financial Strategy. The report included information on the financial impact of COVID-19 and Councillor Bartholomew stated that there would be additional costs into 2021/22.

During discussion Cabinet responded to the points raised by Councillor Phillips thanked staff and highlighted positive performance within their portfolios.

RESOLVED: to note this month's business management and monitoring report.

39/21 STRATEGIC VISION FOR OXFORDSHIRE

(Agenda Item. 7)

As a partner of the Growth Board, the County Council has been part of the commissioning and development of a new Oxfordshire Strategic Vision for

Long-Term Sustainable Development. The Growth Board published a draft Vision document for engagement in November which was considered by Cabinet on 15 December. The report before Cabinet set out Oxfordshire's Strategic Vision for agreement.

Councillor Damian Haywood, Shadow Cabinet Member for Highways Delivery and Operations welcomed the report many elements of which he liked, including the reference to reducing inequalities and the changes to the narrow definition of growth following feedback. However, he did have several concerns including:

- the role of the document as it stated that it was not intended to replace specific visions by partner organisations and whether this meant that it could be ignored;
- how the document fitted in to the national framework and timescales on sustainability/climate goals;
- when the detail would be coming forward that made the vision specific to Oxfordshire;
- that whilst understanding that this was a strategic rather than an operational document there was no indication of how the vision was to be achieved; and
- concern that there had not been enough consultation and engagement to ensure that communities were part of the vision and concern that there were insufficient resources to enable that consultation and engagement to take place.

Councillor Hudspeth, Leader of the Council commented on the background to the development of the Growth Board and that it had been instrumental in the success of bidding to Government for funding on growth and infrastructure. He noted that all the Councils were responsible for their respective planning and transport powers and so the document could not dictate how the vision would be achieved.

Councillor Yvonne Constance, Cabinet Member for Environment (including Transport) moved the recommendations.

Anita Bradley, Director of Law & Governance, responding to a query in relation to paragraph 14 of the report that stated the decision be taken before the pre-election period, confirmed that it was appropriate for the decision to be taken today during the pre-election period.

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) agree the final Oxfordshire's Strategic Vision for Long Term sustainable Development (attached at Annex 1), noting that it was endorsed by the Oxfordshire Growth Board at its meeting on 22 March;
- (b) consider agreeing the Vision as the basis for informing future county council plans and strategy development, notably the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP), the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OXIS) and the future Nature Recovery Network Strategy; and

- (c) note the implications and observations outlined in paragraphs 13 to 25 in this report.

40/21 HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE CONTRACT EXTENSION

(Agenda Item. 8)

The County Council needed to decide on whether to grant a two-year extension to its highways contract. The report set out the options that were available to the Council and recommended an extension be granted, subject to both parties committing to a programme of service improvement, cost reduction and social value enhancement.

Councillor Damian Haywood, Shadow Cabinet Member for Highways Delivery and Operations spoke in support of the recommendations

RESOLVED: to

- (a) support an extension to the highway maintenance contract by two years to the end of March 2025.
- (b) delegate authority for the completion of the extension and associated Framework Alliance Contract (FAC) to the Corporate Director for Environment & Place in consultation with the Corporate Director of Commercial Development, Assets and Investment, and the s151 Officer.

41/21 DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL LIBRARIES AND HERITAGE SERVICES

(Agenda Item. 9)

The council's current library and heritage services provide a network of assets in our local communities and an active and passionate community of volunteers. Our libraries provide a 'footprint' in many communities, geographically spread across the county, on which to build and develop responsive library and added value services that explicitly meet local needs.

The report sought approval for the development of a clear vision and strategic framework for the planning and delivery of libraries and heritage services to strengthen the contribution they make to wider community outcomes.

Councillor Emma Turnbull, Shadow Cabinet Member for Education and Cultural Services raised the following queries

- A recent peer review of the heritage and library services was not mentioned in the report. Councillor Turnbull queried whether it was going to be published and when, and whether its recommendations were included in this service redesign.

- Councillor Turnbull welcomed the concept of co-production and queried how it would work in practice; how would the volunteers across our library service be involved.
- The report mentioned the Council's Inclusion Strategy but did not go into detail. Councillor Turnbull queried how this new service will build diverse inclusive communities.

Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale, Cabinet Member for Education and Cultural Services introduced the contents of the report commenting she was pleased to bring the report as it represented a desire to raise the profile of the services and the important role they play in the lives of Oxfordshire residents.

Councillor Lindsay-Gale commented that there had been a recent LGA Peer Review and their comments had supported the development of a strategy to enable the Council to secure maximum value from its investment in these services to reduce inequality and to support the task of levelling up post pandemic. Their report would be published. Councillor Lindsay-Gale moved the recommendations.

Jane Portman, Interim Consultant Cultural Services responded to the query on co-production recognising that the volunteer workforce was vital and would be part of the co-production work undertaken. Library users would also be engaged and library non-users.

On inclusion, whilst library services are universal and open to everybody, it was also vital to ensure that there were targeted services for particular communities and groups of people. Claire Taylor, Corporate Director, Customers and Organisational Development added that it was important to recognise that in recent times and in the response to recovery from the pandemic going forward there had been a focus on putting inclusion at the heart of what the Council was doing. It was important in the co-production work to reach out to those people who did not currently use the library service and to think about a more local focus and local determination of the service provided to respond to specific needs in individual communities.

Councillor Heathcoat as the former portfolio holder warmly welcomed the report and recommendations although sounding a note of caution in respect of the financial implications taking this forward.

RESOLVED: to

- (a) agree the purpose for libraries and heritage services set out in para 28 and the development of a strategic framework to enable these services to contribute more effectively to broader community outcomes in line with the council's statutory duties and strategic vision 'Thriving Communities for Everyone in Oxfordshire';
- (b) ensure the role of the libraries and heritage is widely acknowledged as a significant contributor to economic growth and development in the

county and the region by setting out the ambitions and planned outcomes in strategic plans;

- (c) agree that the development of the strategic framework should be based on detailed understanding of local need and engagement with stakeholders as set out in para 34 to 38; and
- (d) agree to the development of a Member Engagement Plan to build a shared understanding of the contribution of these services to community outcomes.

42/21 REPROVISION OF MALTFIELD HOUSE - NEW BUILD CHILDREN'S HOME

(Agenda Item. 10)

Cabinet considered a report seeking approval of the proposal to change the design specification of the new build children's home from six to four beds.

Councillor Gill Sanders, Shadow Cabinet Member for Children and Family Services spoke in support of the proposals for a new children's home but expressed surprise that it was for a reduced number of placements given the cost of out of county placements. She noted that it was possible to extend later but suggested that it would be sensible to plan and build for 6 placements now. Councillor Sanders noted that the report did not give detailed information on the number of places available in county, the number of places filled and the number of places out of county. She requested that this information be made available for the Guardianship meeting and hoped that the decision could be reconsidered urgently.

Councillor Steve Harrod, Cabinet Member for Children and Family Services referred to the context of the earlier closure of Maltfield House noting that its replacement had already been agreed at an earlier meeting. Today Cabinet was being asked to consider the specific needs of a replacement building. The proposals to reduce the new building from 6 to 4 placements was a result of sound analysis and a refreshed insight of the specific needs of the children we care for.

Councillor Harrod in moving the recommendation thanked Councillor Sanders for her positive and encouraging input as Shadow Cabinet Member. He took on board her request for additional information to the Guardianship for Us Panel meeting.

Cabinet noted that some cabinet members having raised similar concerns over the reduction from 6 to 4 placements had met with Councillor Harrod and Kevin Gordon, Corporate Director, Children's Services to explore the reasoning for the reduction. They accepted the view of experts that a smaller 4 bed placement was better but had wanted the design to be such that it could be extended at a future date should thinking or requirements change.

Lara Patel, Deputy Director, introduced the contents of the report and detailed the reasons for the recommendation to move to a 4 bed building

based on the refreshed needs analysis of children cared for that had been carried out last year.

RESOLVED: to approve the proposal to change the design specification of the new build children’s home from six to four beds; and

1. To ensure that the design of the property is future-proofed for wider Council uses.
2. Council confirms its commitment to high quality residential childcare within the County

43/21 DELEGATED POWERS - APRIL 2021

(Agenda Item. 11)

Cabinet noted the following executive decisions taken under the specific powers and functions delegated under the terms of Part 7.2 (Scheme of Delegation to Officers) of the Council's Constitution – Paragraph 6.3(c)(i). It is not for Scrutiny call-in.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Reasons for Exemption</i>
21 January 2021	Request for exemption from tendering under Contract Procedure Rule (“CPR”) 20 in respect of the award of a contract for vision screening for 4-5 year olds	Approved an exemption from the tendering requirements under OCC’s Contract Procedure Rules in respect of the award of a contract to Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust for vision screening to 4-5 year olds.	To avoid impacting on the vision screening programme for 2021/22 and to ensure continuity of service provision.
5 February 2021	Request for exemption from tendering under Contract Procedure Rule (“CPR”) 20 in respect of the award of a contract providing Housing & Care Services for People with a Learning Disability	Approved an exemption from the tendering requirements under OCC’s Contract Procedure Rules in respect of the award of a contract to Sanctuary Supported Living providing Housing & Care Services for People with a Learning Disability	The proposed provision is currently the only offer of multiple self-contained properties made to the Council, and there is no evidence of other providers being able to deliver similar housing.

<p>31 March 2021</p>	<p>Request for exemption from tendering under Contract Procedure Rule (“CPR”) 20 in respect of the award of a contract providing Holiday Activities and Food Provision Services</p>	<p>Approved an exemption from the tendering requirements under OCC’s Contract Procedure Rules in respect of the provision of holiday activities and food provision services for the Easter period to existing providers including Ignite Sport, East Oxford Community Partnership, GetActiveSports, Cherwell District Council, Elite Youth Sports and The Ray Collins Charitable Trust.</p>	<p>In light of the short notice given of the grant funding available for the Easter School holiday, to ensure provision of activities and healthy food provision.</p>
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44/21 FORWARD PLAN AND FUTURE BUSINESS

(Agenda Item. 12)

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

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

..... in the Chair

Date of signing 2021

CABINET – 20 APRIL 2021

ITEM 4 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Questions	Answers
<p>1. COUNCILLOR PETE SADBURY</p> <p>Emissions Accounting: Whilst I am sure it can be argued that the methodology used by the Council is technically correct and follows BEIS guidance, I am concerned that the Council's Emissions accounting gives our citizens a false, incomplete and potentially misleading view of the Council's efforts and its real impact on the Climate Crisis, not least because it is extremely difficult to determine the effect of the Council's own efforts of a "like for like" basis.</p> <p>Two essentially extraneous factors in particular produce distortions which are larger than any of the underlying trends.</p> <p>1. Progressive decarbonisation of the electricity grid (66% in the 7 years to 2020), which is a "freeloader" effect, being nothing to do with the Council's efforts and capable of concealing</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Emissions accounting</p> <p>In 2010/11 the council's emissions added to 68,041t CO₂e (55,862t CO₂e if deducting REGO-backed green electricity). By 2019/20, emissions had dropped to 19,164t CO₂e. This reduction was due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 149 schools becoming academies and no longer being part of the council's estate • Electricity grid decarbonisation • Council's energy efficiency and energy generation initiatives • Changes to contractual arrangements and modes of service delivery • Sale of corporate sites. <p>The table below shows a like-for-like comparison of 2010/11 and 2019/20,</p>

Questions	Answers																					
<p>poor or negative performance in (for example) energy efficiency.</p> <p>2. Schools leaving the control of the Council. The emissions from these are transferred to the control of another entity, but appears in the Council's accounting as though it were a genuine reduction in emissions. The atmosphere really does not care about a transfer of ownership.</p> <p>These two combined appear to account for over half of the stated reductions, rendering the headline decarbonisation rate of 65.7% since 2010/11 meaningless and extraordinarily misleading.</p> <p>In addition, the figures are further distorted in the "Zero by 2030" target by omitting schools and outsourced functions such as datacentres and highways maintenance, all of which are entirely attributable to, and fully under the control of the Council and its core operations.</p> <p>Please could you supply a tabulated Emissions Comparison 2019/20 and 2010/11, expressed on a "like for like" basis (i.e. Stripping out electricity decarbonisation and change of ownership effects) and a forecast</p>	<p>accounting for the effect of academisation, grid decarbonisation and sale of corporate sites. When considering the adjusted 2010/11 figure, a drop of 40% or 12,770t CO₂e by 2019/20 remains.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="922 654 2045 1181"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2010/11</th> <th>2019/20</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total emissions (t CO₂e)</td> <td>68,041</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Schools becoming academies</td> <td>-24,002</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grid decarbonisation</td> <td>-9,609</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Corporate disposals</td> <td>-2,496</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>New total emissions (t CO₂e)</td> <td>31,934</td> <td>19,164</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reduction</td> <td></td> <td>39.99%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Corporate emissions forecast to 2030</p> <p>The council has committed to net-zero emissions by 2030 across highway</p>		2010/11	2019/20	Total emissions (t CO₂e)	68,041		Schools becoming academies	-24,002		Grid decarbonisation	-9,609		Corporate disposals	-2,496		New total emissions (t CO₂e)	31,934	19,164	Reduction		39.99%
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Questions	Answers
<p>statement of the expected emissions of the full Council estate (including schools, highway maintenance and datacentres) in 2030?</p>	<p>assets, fleet, staff travel, and buildings’ heating and electricity. These corporate emissions are estimated to have declined 60% between the baseline year of 2010/11 and 2020/21, from 26,510t CO₂e to about 10,500t CO₂e.</p> <p>Forecasting has shown that, without further action, electricity grid decarbonisation, population changes, and technology uptake would result in approximately a 70% drop from 2010/11 to 2030/31, with 8,000t CO₂e remaining.</p> <p>Having chosen a mitigation strategy, in which offsets will only be considered as a last resort, the council has in place a climate action programme to reduce emissions across all areas of its corporate neutrality target:</p> <p>Highway assets: the streetlighting LED conversion programme, due to be completed in 2025/26, will reduce emissions from 13,273t CO₂e in 2010/11 to an estimated 610t CO₂e by 2030/31.</p> <p>Fleet: OCC has an ‘EV by default’ fleet replacement policy and is putting in place One Fleet, an integrated fleet management approach that will support fleet rationalisation and decarbonisation. The climate action framework sets out a goal of replacing all cars with EVs by 2024 and all vans by 2028. A detailed fleet replacement programme will be developed this year, which will provide a forecast of emissions reductions to 2030.</p> <p>Staff travel (grey fleet): changes in work practices due to COVID have</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>accelerated progress in this area, delivering in one year the emissions reductions expected by 2024-25. To sustain these changes, a low carbon staff travel programme is being proposed to encourage 'digital by default' meetings and active travel, as well as explore options for promoting the use of EVs for staff travel. The programme will provide a forecast of emissions reductions to 2030.</p> <p>Buildings' heating and electricity: an invest-to-save decarbonisation programme is being developed for the council's corporate buildings, which will provide a forecast of emissions reductions to 2030. Projects recently funded by the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund will deliver a reduction of 205t CO₂e per year, while LED conversion at Park and Ride will deliver a further 19t CO₂e savings per year.</p>
<p>2. COUNCILLOR PETE SADBURY</p> <p>Scope 3 Emissions Accounting:</p> <p>There is a serious problem with both the definition and the accounting of "scope 3" emissions, with regard to both the Council's carbon accounting to date and its "Zero by 2030" target.</p> <p>The GHG report 2020 makes no reference</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Scope 3 emissions: The council's reporting of scope 3 emissions includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emissions that are part of our carbon neutrality target – grey fleet and electricity transmission and distribution losses in our buildings and highway assets • Emissions that are not part of our carbon neutrality target – highways

Questions	Answers
<p>whatsoever to the impact of decisions taken by the Council, regarding, for example, road building, active transport, etc. These "value chain" scope 3 emissions are likely to dwarf the magnitude of the Councils Scope 1 and 2 emissions, plus directly attributable scope 3 emissions, which together amount to the equivalent of building only 300 homes per year. Treating the Council as though it is solely a provider organisation and ignoring its core political function is counter-intuitive, misleading and ignores the huge contribution political decisions can make in both worsening and mitigating the climate crisis.</p> <p>The traditional "oil Company" response to scope 3 emissions is to argue that they are someone else's scope 1 and not relevant (this could be characterised as a "not our problem if they choose to burn it..." defence).</p> <p>However, given that even Oil Companies are now reporting their scope 3 emissions and taking actions to bring them into compliance with Paris / 1.5C, surely it is time for the Council to do the same?</p> <p>What were the changes in scope 3 emissions</p>	<p>maintenance contractor's fleet fuel, outsourced data centre servers' electricity consumption, and maintained schools' grey fleet.</p> <p>Although it is not possible to forecast the latter scope 3 emissions, there is ongoing work that will contribute to significant reductions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highways management contract: total emissions from the Highways Contract have been calculated at c. 9000t CO₂e for 2018. Required actions for decarbonisation have been identified and are currently being assessed for feasibility of implementation. Materials, depots, highways design, as well as plant and fleet, are all included within the project scope. These emissions are not currently included in scope 3 reporting. • Kennington Bridge replacement scheme: as part of the project, a preliminary carbon assessment has been undertaken, with total emissions from the project (including both temporary and permanent works) calculated at 11112 t CO₂e. A series of high-level recommendations for reducing these emissions have been identified, which require further assessment to determine feasibility. These emissions are not currently included in GHG reporting. • Social value policy: once the policy is in place, carbon emissions savings from the council's supply chain will be tracked for at least 12 months to quantify its potential impact; we are currently looking at the

Questions	Answers
<p>that can be attributed to OCC policies and decisions over the period of the carbon budget reporting (2010-2019) and what changes are projected over the next 1-5 years?</p>	<p>possibility of including a specific emissions weighting in tender valuations, which would maximise the policy's impact on scope 3 emissions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools: a support package is being prepared to help schools take climate action and reduce their carbon emissions. • Infrastructure schemes: the council is also embedding considerations of climate impact into decisions on infrastructure schemes through a scheme prioritisation tool that assesses alignment with climate strategy. The Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy, currently being reviewed, will also use climate criteria to prioritise future schemes.
<p>3. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</p> <p>At the meeting on the County Council on 11th July 2017 you provided me with details of damages paid by the County Council over the preceding four-year period. In your answer you alluded to the fact that there remained some £10.4 million in open claims from earlier years still to be settled.</p> <p>Can you please provide the figures by Directorate for the current position with these outstanding</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE</p> <p>The provision of £10.4m, calculated at the balance sheet date of 31 March 2017, was made up of two parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £5.6m – the estimated value of outstanding claims received at 31 March 2017 • £4.8m – an actuarial valuation of potential claims relating to previous years that could be received in the future (i.e. the liability has been incurred but the claim has not been received)

Questions	Answers
<p>claims mentioned in your answer of 2017, indicating the size of any amount still set aside for open claims and the amount spent in damages and legal costs by this Council in settling the claims, together with the amount of any sums not required from the £10.4 million estimate in your answer of 11th July 2017?</p>	<p>Since April 2017, £2.1m has been paid out in respect of claims received at 31 March 2017. These figures are inclusive of the amounts spent in damages and legal costs. It is not possible to provide a breakdown of this information by Directorate.</p> <p>The provision is recalculated at the end of each financial year. The equivalent figures at 31 March 2020 were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £4.0m – estimated value of outstanding claims received at 31 March 2020 • £4.1m - an actuarial valuation of potential claims relating to previous years that could be received in the future <p>Within the known figure of £4.0m there are 17 claims still outstanding that were included in the estimate of £5.6m at 31 March 2017. The current outstanding estimate for these claims is £1.3m.</p> <p>Therefore, the 2017 provision of £5.6m overprovided for known claims by £2.2m.</p> <p>The actuary is in the process of calculating the provision at 31 March 2021 and this information will be included in 2020/21 Statement of Accounts.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>4. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</p> <p>On the 4th March this year I emailed you about the failure to repair or replace the rising bollard on Aristotle Lane in my division. In your reply, you stated that 'Between us (<i>yourself and officers</i>), we will come back to you with a response.'</p> <p>Officers and cabinet members are not unaware of this matter, as I both Cllr Buckley and I have raised it in public on several occasions. As this was the original 'safe street' precaution, it is ironic that the problem has taken so long to resolve.</p> <p>In view of the motion about 'safe streets' passed at the County Council meeting last week, can you explain why I have still not had a response saying when this issue will be fixed after so long?</p>	<p>I am sorry you have not been kept informed of progress. I have asked officers to make sure they do this in the future.</p> <p>Officers have been working with the supplier to get the replacement rising bollards to an operational state. The bollards are functioning, but require CCTV and ANPR for systems to work to be operational. The supplier has stated that there is insufficient broadband width to allow the cameras and ANPR system to operate correctly. We are checking this to ensure that this conclusion is correct. We are currently upgrading the broadband line at the Cornmarket bollard and this work should be completed in April. If this resolves the connectivity issues, then we will roll out broadband upgrades across all the other sites as soon as possible. We are also exploring, directly with the camera supplier, using a higher spec camera to see if this will also aid the system.</p> <p>We believed that we would be able to operate a limited service, operating the bollards without ANPR recognition, but testing of the system has revealed that we cannot get reliable picture feeds to see who is at the bollard, so that we can raise and lower the bollard safely remotely. This is incredibly frustrating for both myself and the Officers working on the project but we continue to work towards a solution. I have asked officers to look into the practicalities of temporarily operating the Aristotle Lane bollard manually on site and will update you on this potential temporary measure.</p>
<p>5. COUNCILLOR TIM BEARDER</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>There have been several reports in the Oxford Times about the "Expressway by Stealth". Irrespective of any role in the Expressway, responses to recent FOI requests indicate that changes were made to the South Oxfordshire Local Plan at a late stage on the initiative of County Council officers - in particular the addition of a proposal to "improve" the B4015, the removal of the safeguarding plan for Stadhampton Bypass and the inclusion of possible M40 junction changes outside the District which together with other local plan road proposals gives support to the suspicion that a major new route through our area is being planned. In any event, the proposed improvement of the B4015, 2 miles long country lane, would have drastic effects environmentally. Apparently, this has not been the subject of any public consultation or discussion by members of this authority.</p> <p>As these late changes to the Local Plan were initiated by officers of the County Council as highway authority could you please answer the following questions:</p> <p>Q1. Could the CC provide an explanation;</p>	<p>Responses are set against individual questions below:</p> <p>Comments regarding improvements to the B4015 between A4074 and B480</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>indicating what assessments of the costs, traffic and environmental impacts along the road itself and along its feeder routes, especially the A239 to the east and at the M40, it has undertaken before proposing the B4015 Improvement be included in the South Oxfordshire Local Plan ?</p> <p>Q 2. Can you indicate whether there has been or will be any public consultation on the individual proposals and on the effective creation of a major</p>	<p>were included in the April 2020 Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) following an e-mail from OCC on 12th December responding to a request from South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) for an update to their IDP. The B4015 between A4074 and B480 is the road between Golden Balls Roundabout and Chislehampton; both of which are separately proposed for potential improvement.</p> <p>Given the above and the fact that there was significant strategic housing development proposed that would impact on this part of the network, officers identified that there may be a need to improve this section of road and SODC was notified accordingly. There are no designs, costings or feasibility studies for any works. SODC chose to include this section of highway network in the IDP, noting that it is subject to change, depending on the Transport Assessments accompanying planning applications.</p> <p>Improvements to this length of OCC highway network are not included in the OCC strategic transport planning policy and the M40 junction improvements included within the district council's IDP were not proposed by OCC. Highways England and Homes England (as developer of strategic housing allocation at Chalgrove) made proposals to include these junctions in the IDP. The district council (SODC) subsequently drafted and added text to the IDP referencing junctions 8,8A,9 &10.</p> <p>Any proposed changes or improvements to the B4015 between A4074 and B480, would likely come forward, as noted above through planning application Transport Assessments, if either are proposed by an applicant or</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>route linking the two strategic routes; A34 and M40 and the consequential wider network implications?</p>	<p>requested by OCC. Consultation and comment opportunity will then be possible through the normal planning process. As noted above, to date there are no specific proposals for improvements to this section of carriageway proposed.</p> <p>There is no proposal either within the current Local Transport Plan or the emerging Local Transport & Connectivity Plan for the creation of a strategic link between the A34 and the M40. Highways England is leading a study looking at potential improvements to the A34, but this is in its early stages and does not include any specific outcomes or proposals, which may emerge over time</p> <p>The SODC IDP is a document setting out the infrastructure required to support the local plan. This is a live document and subject to change through the life of a Local Plan. The IDP is not a document that sets out strategic highway network aspirations. Any highway related elements included in the Local Plan IDP are there to support the plans delivery.</p>