

...Decisions... Decisions...

These notes indicate the decisions taken at this meeting and the officers responsible for taking the agreed action. For background documentation please refer to the agenda and supporting papers available on the Council's web site (www.oxfordshire.gov.uk.)

If you have a query please contact committeesdemocraticservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk ()

DELEGATED DECISIONS BY DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (INC. CLIMATE CHANGE DELIVERY & ENVIRONMENT) – THURSDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2023

Published 12 October 2023. The Call-in period will expire at 5pm on 19 October 2023

<i>RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE AGENDA</i>	<i>DECISIONS</i>	<i>ACTION</i>
1. Declaration of Interests See guidance below.	None	
2. Questions from Councillors	See Annex	
3. Petitions and Public Address	None	
4. Local EV Infrastructure (LEVI) funding proposal for Oxfordshire <i>Forward Plan Ref: 2023/135</i> Contact: Elizabeth Bohun, Lead Technologist EV Integration, elizabeth.bohun@oxfordshire.gov.uk ; Jenny Figueiredo, Lead Technologist EV Integration, jenny.figueiredo@oxfordshire.gov.uk Report by Corporate Director Environment & Place (CMDL4). The Cabinet Member is RECOMMENDED to a) Grant approval for OCC to submit a Stage 2 Application to the Office for Zero Emissions Vehicles (OZEV) by 30 November 2023 for Oxfordshire's allocation of £3.655 million Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding, and grant approval to subsequently	Recommendations approved.	CDEP (E Bohun)

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<p>accept and spend these funds from OZEV according to the submitted LEVI proposal.</p> <p>b) Grant approval for OCC to tender for Chargepoint Operators (CPOs) for EV charging contracts in Oxfordshire; Lot 1 being for a concession contract with OCC to install and operate EV charging hubs and roadside/on-street chargers on OCC estate and Highways; Lot 2 being for a concession contract with a different supplier with Cherwell District Council (CDC), West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC), South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC), Vale of White Horse District Council (VOWH) and Oxford City Council (OxCity) to install and operate EV charging hubs in their car parks. Lot 3 will be for a separate supplier to be contracted to OCC to deliver a Community Microhubs Scheme and may be tendered at the same time or at a later date. The tender will be a joint tender on behalf of all Oxfordshire County and District Councils, which Oxfordshire County Council will lead.</p> <p>c) Delegate authority to Corporate Director Environment and Place to appoint Chargepoint Operators through the joint tender exercise following assessment and moderation by all council partners, with final decision-making responsibility residing with Oxfordshire County Council.</p> <p>d) Delegate authority to Corporate Director Environment and Place to</p>		

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<p>enter into a bi-lateral concession contract between OCC and the chosen Chargepoint Operator in Lot 1 (contract value of > £1million), and to enter into the associated Leases and Licences for each site with this appointed Chargepoint Operator following completion of full feasibility studies and sign off at the OXLEVI Programme Board.</p> <p>e) Delegate authority to Corporate Director for Environment and Place to enter into a contract for the supplier to deliver Community Microhubs (expected contract value <£1million).</p> <p>f) Delegate authority to Corporate Director for Environment and Place to amend the partnership agreement with the City Council to enable on-street elements of the Go Ultra Low Oxford (GULO) P1 and GULO P2 projects to transition from Oxford City Council to Oxford County Council, subject to the following conditions being fulfilled:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The County Council being satisfied that they can meet the funding obligations within the GULO P2 funding agreement ii. The Office for Zero Emissions Vehicles (OZEV - who are the funding body for GULO) agreeing for the transfer to take place. iii. There being an agreement by both Councils on the methodology for delivery of the key outputs of GULO 		

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<p>P2, including the number of EVCPs and GUL-e committed under GULO P2, that are delivered to updated timeframes that are agreed with the City Council and OZEV</p> <p>iv. GULO P1 estate and highways related GULO P2 funding both being transferred</p> <p>v. An updated partnership agreement, including a revenue share arrangement for the assets associated with GULO P1 and P2 being put in place, that as a minimum recovers the City Council investment to date.</p>		
<p>5. Management of Household Waste Recycling Centres in Oxfordshire - Contract Extension</p> <p><i>Forward Plan Ref: 2023/250</i> <i>Contact: Steve Burdis , Joint Group Manager (Waste Management), steve.burdis@oxfordshire.gov.uk</i></p> <p>Report by Corporate Director Environment & Place (CMDCCDE5).</p> <p><i>The information in this case is exempt in that it falls within the following prescribed categories:</i></p> <p><i>3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)</i></p> <p><i>and since it is considered that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption</i></p>		

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<p><i>outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, in that a negotiation is ongoing and would prejudice the position of the authority in the process of that negotiation and the Council's standing generally in relation to such matters in future, to the detriment of the Council's ability properly to discharge its fiduciary and other duties as a public authority.</i></p> <p><i>Annex 1 containing exempt information under the above paragraph is attached.</i></p> <p>The Cabinet Member is RECOMMENDED to</p> <p>a) Approve that the current Contract for: The Management of Household Waste Recycling Centres in Oxfordshire be extended for the full period of 3 years; and</p> <p>b) Delegate to the Corporate Director of Environment Place, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and Cabinet Portfolio Holder, finalisation of the contract 3- year extension and the contract amendments, as detailed in Annex 1, to alleviate some of the current contract challenges to deliver service contract improvements.</p>	<p>Recommendations approved.</p>	<p>CDEP (S Burdis)</p>


QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL
1. COUNCILLOR IAN MIDDLETON

When DEFRA announced that badger culling would be phased out by 2025, many people believed that the cull had ended. Sadly, culling in Oxfordshire intensified, seemingly with the intent of shooting as many badgers as possible before the deadline. Over 50% of the county is in the killing zones. In addition to the 3 Oxfordshire zones, culling spills over our borders with neighbouring counties.

The first of the Oxfordshire badger culling licenses should end in 2023 and culling should cease after 2025. However, DEFRA policy allows 'epidemiological culling' (epi-culling or EC). This involves killing ALL (100%) of badgers across a large area in response to a new 'hot spot' /cluster of herd breakdowns.

Epi-Culling was first introduced in Cumbria, and has been adopted on a trial basis in parts of England over the past five years.

A recent scientific report shows that epi-culling is ineffective as a control measure. However, DEFRA, APHA, the bTB Hub/ NFU and British Cattle Veterinary Association, continue to advocate it's use. Epi-culling would see badgers killed in response to bTB herd breakdowns.

During 2021, APHA identified two herd breakdown clusters in Oxfordshire. In October 2022, the Oxfordshire bovine TB cluster pilot was launched and will run for at least one year. The pilots supplement existing control measures (which include existing cull licences) and are creating a coordinated network of farmers and landowners. This would provide a very efficient platform for epi-culling in the designated cluster areas.

DEFRA has announced (August 2023) that it will hold a consultation on

**COUNCILLOR PETE SUDBURY, DEPUTY
LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR
CLIMATE CHANGE DELIVERY &
ENVIRONMENT**

I am not aware of the County Council having yet received any official consultation regarding licensed badger control within the County, or on its land.

As you may recall, at a County Council meeting on the 10th July 2018, Members voted in favour of a motion to ask the Leader to write to DEFRA saying that we are opposed to the licensing of a badger cull in Oxfordshire. This was on the basis that at that point there had been 5 years of culling in high-risk areas which, rather than reducing bovine TB, had seen it increase. The culling caused badgers to move in from other areas so that any which did have TB were spreading it further.

The County Council currently has no formal policy or legal agreements regarding the licensed control of badgers by its tenants, nor does it have a formal policy regarding the licensed control of badgers on land managed in-hand. Should this be requested, whilst having due regard to legislative requirements where possible the council would strongly oppose this happening on any land over which we have control.

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<p>culling in the autumn of this year. It is likely to include proposals to pilot epi-culling in Oxfordshire.</p> <p>With Oxfordshire being considered for future epi-culling where 100% of badgers will be killed in an area, does the council have a policy on permitting badger culling on its land?</p> <p>SUPPLEMENTARY In the light of our previous position on this, and the new threat of epidemiological culling, could the Cabinet Member write again to DEFRA reaffirming our opposition to the cull in general but specifically raising our serious concerns about these new proposals which are still unlikely to deal with the problem of bovine TB but could have very grave consequences for badger populations.</p>		<p>RESPONSE We know from previous experience that badgers move in when you shoot the others. So the only way you will get rid of bovine TB is by making badgers extinct in the UK. I will write to DEFRA.</p>