

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 MATHEW</p> <p>Would the Cabinet Member for Transport outline his plans for charging the commercial vehicles parking in the remaining Park and Rides under his control? Currently commercial organisations are organising a daily collection vehicle for employees who park there free in order to transport them to their place of work</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR RODNEY ROSE, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT</p> <p>The Park & Ride sites we operate assist in achieving our policy of intercepting car journeys that would otherwise continue to their destination by car. Where contractors use the P&R sites they park their cars and, where charges apply, have to pay. Clearly the vehicle conveying them to the city does not.</p> <p>In our P&R sites there is no charge but the policy does prevent very many more cars coming into the city centre.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Could I ask the Cabinet Member whether he is aware that 20% more spaces at the Park and Ride at Thornhill could be gained if the commercial use at this Park and Ride was not promoted by giving them free parking?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Thank you Chairman, through you. I wasn't aware of that figure so I will research that and then get back to the member.</p>
<p>2. COUNCILLOR MATHEW</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure please confirm when the results of the Consultation sessions with Proteus on OCC draft Core Strategy 2030 both on Waste and Gravel, held on 29 September 2011, will be publicly available and also confirm when the results of the final Consultation will be available publicly?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE, CABINET MEMBER FOR GROWTH & INFRASTRUCTURE</p> <p>At the two stakeholder consultation meetings on the draft Minerals and Waste Planning Strategies held on 29 September, which were facilitated by Proteus Public Relations Ltd, it was stated that the reports of the meetings by the facilitators would be published on the County Council's website following the close of the consultation period on 31 October. The reports are being placed on the website this week. It is intended to report to Cabinet on 17 January 2012 on the responses to the consultations on the draft Minerals and Waste Planning Strategies. The report to Cabinet will be a public document.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Could I ask the Cabinet Member how many communications have been received as a result of the Core Minerals Strategy 2030 Draft Plan, consultation for which closed yesterday?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Thank you Chairman, yes it did close yesterday; we have had a huge response particularly from members of public in the south of the County. They haven't been counted yet, but I will get back to Councillors with the figure.</p>
<p>3. COUNCILLOR ZOE PATRICK</p> <p>In an article in The Guardian newspaper, Oxfordshire County Council is quoted as follows:</p> <p>"Oxfordshire County Council said: "We are not wholly convinced of the advisability of directly elected police and crime commissioners and we have fears that their roles are likely to create competing mandates and undermine relationships between local authorities and the police."</p> <p>It added: "Given the current financial climate, we are very concerned that the cost of supporting the police and crime commissioner in his role will be greater than the current costs of a police authority and place pressure on police budgets that are already likely to be severely constrained."</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member for Police and Policy Co-ordination inform me who has provided this quote and is it taken as the view of the council?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR KIERON MALLON, CABINET MEMBER FOR POLICE AND POLICY CO-ORDINATION</p> <p>This quote is a partial extract from the County Council's response to the Home Office Consultation on Policing in the 21st Century, which was submitted on the 20 September 2010, and signed off by the Cabinet Member for Police and Policy Co-ordination on behalf of the Council.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>It was interesting reading his response because it was very much like the motion we put at Council last time which we were told to withdraw, because the decision was taken, so my question is why have the Council not been informed of the decision that has been taken by the policy holder?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>This was a formal consultation from the Government; thankfully now we get far less lengthy consultations from this Government. I hope I work closely with Councillor Patrick in another place and I will say to all councillors that if they ask the question of the officers they will find out. This consultation was nationwide and every county or district council would have had a similar consultation document. I can't speak as to whether district councils or city councils as a standard. I don't know if that answers the question or not. I will stand here and debate.</p> <p>Cllr Patrick: this was a county council decision that you took and that went to a national newspaper, so wouldn't it have been good to have informed the whole County Council that this decision had been taken and this was the view of this Authority.</p> <p>Chairman: perhaps you could deal with that outside.</p> <p>Cllr Mallon: With regard to Cllr Patrick's question I don't know whether it was the Manchester or the Banbury Guardian – one of which I star in quite frequently and the other one I know little about because I pride myself in never having knowingly read it. So I don't know how it got into that national paper.</p>
<p>4. COUNCILLOR ZOE PATRICK</p> <p>Can the Leader of the Council assure all council members that the Members' Protocol about informing members of issues within their divisions is being adhered to?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR KEITH MITCHELL, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>I am satisfied that strenuous efforts have been made to ensure staff are aware of the Protocol and, in the main, I am confident that it is being observed. However, you will appreciate that I am not able to give a categorical assurance that there have been no failures. Indeed, I occasionally become aware of failures myself. These are thankfully rare and my response is always to forward a copy of the Members' Protocol to the relevant officer with a request that they comply with it.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Thank you for the answer but I would like the Leader's assurance that he will continue to put pressure on the officers to make sure that this does happen and that members do continue to be informed of very important things happening in their divisions and that they are aware of the protocol to keep members informed.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Yes</p>
<p>5. COUNCILLOR ALAN ARMITAGE</p> <p>Given the fact that there are now only two Park & Rides in Oxford which will continue to offer free parking, will the council review those parts of the recently approved Local Transport Plan in respect of strategies designed to reduce the number of vehicles in the city, improve air quality and ease congestion?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR RODNEY ROSE, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT</p> <p>It is not anticipated that charging will have a significant impact on the number of vehicles entering the City as the cost differential between central car parks and Park & Rides + bus fare is still generally in favour of Park & Ride sites. We do not therefore see the need to review the Local Transport Plan.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>I think that the answer that the Cabinet Member has given me amounts to saying well fingers crossed there won't be any deterioration in terms of air quality or congestion in Oxford but I would like his assurance that this will be actively monitored because in the Transport Plan there is no permission for measuring these things: we only have to wait until there is a next crisis?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Can I just confirm what the question was?</p> <p>Cllr Armitage: The question is whether these things will be actively monitored?</p> <p>Cllr Rose: That sort of issue is always closely monitored and will be.</p>

Questions	Answers																						
<p>6. COUNCILLOR ALAN ARMITAGE</p> <p>The council budget included assumptions in the current and future years as to increased income from Park & Rides. What is the impact on those assumptions of the decision not to introduce charges at county council's Park & Rides? How will any budget gaps be dealt with?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR RODNEY ROSE, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT</p> <p>With the small addition of some revenue from London-bound travellers from Thornhill, which admittedly is not yet in place, there is no negative change to our budget proposals as the change in direction is cost neutral. The change of stance does have an impact on people who park at Thornhill and Water Eaton in that they park for free, and it is unfortunate that the City Council does not have the same aspiration to reduce congestion in the inner city roads by promoting Park and Ride use out at the ring road.</p>																						
<p>7. COUNCILLOR ALAN ARMITAGE</p> <p>What has been the change during the last few years in the number of complaints to the Local Government Ombudsman about the admission procedures at schools in the county?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR MELINDA TILLEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>The table below shows the number of complaints about schools admissions in the county investigated by the Local Government Ombudsman. Many of these complaints will include also include enquiries into the school appeals process as part of the investigation.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="824 762 2089 1018"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Financial year</th> <th rowspan="2">Number of complaints</th> <th colspan="2">Complaint outcome</th> </tr> <tr> <th>No maladministration</th> <th>Local settlement</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2011/2012 to date</td> <td>2*</td> <td>1</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010/2011</td> <td>8</td> <td>6</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2009/2010</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2008/2009</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>* one of these cases is still open</p> <p>We would not anticipate receiving many more complaints about school admissions this financial year because the main admissions round is concluded.</p>	Financial year	Number of complaints	Complaint outcome		No maladministration	Local settlement	2011/2012 to date	2*	1		2010/2011	8	6	2	2009/2010	4	4	-	2008/2009	3	2	1
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<p>8. COUNCILLOR ROZ SMITH</p> <p>Sandhills primary school is located on Terrett Avenue. When will this highway be adopted by the County Council so that measures can be taken to improve parking and pedestrian safety?"</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR RODNEY ROSE, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT</p> <p>Terrett Avenue is subject to a road adoption agreement and there are a number of snags that the developer has to rectify including a drainage problem before adoption can occur. The road has been designed and built to contemporary standards for parking and pedestrian safety. At present there are no planned measures to improve parking and pedestrian safety. Once the developer has resolved the issues adoption can proceed.</p>																						

Questions	Answers
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Thank you Councillor Rose for your reply. Would the Cabinet Member readily agree with me that this situation is very disappointing given the increasing number of children attending the local school and the continuing inconsiderate drivers. Would he agree with me that given the length of time, (it is now 7 years), that the original developer has had to put these issues right before the adoption can take place that this is unacceptable?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Chairman, through you, I will certainly agree that this is unacceptable but I regret that this happens all over the county and we have no real powers to apply to the developers. I would like to have those powers, as at the moment there is just the matter of trying to actually get the developers to finish the roads before we can adopt them and then spend any money on them.</p>
<p>9. COUNCILLOR ROZ SMITH</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member inform me which local Oxfordshire running groups, residents groups and County councillors were consulted about the route decided for the recent Oxford half marathon</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR RODNEY ROSE, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT</p> <p>The organisers consulted the following organisations and most of them were invited to several meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association of Running Clubs • Oxfordshire Athletic Association • Oxford City AC • Abingdon AC • Alchester AC • Bicester AC • Cherwell Runners • Eynsham AC • Didcot Runners • Headington Road Runners • Oxford Uni AC • Oxford Brookes • White Horse Harriers • Witney Road Runners • Thame AC • Woodstock Harriers • Radley AC • Ozone Health Club • David Lloyd Leisure

Questions	Answers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helen & Douglas House • BBC Oxford • BBC Radio Oxford • Heart FM • Oxford City Council • Oxfordshire County Council • Thames Valley Police • Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service • Oxfordshire Ambulance Service • St John Ambulance Oxfordshire • Oxford United Football Club • Oxford Bus Company • Stagecoach Bus Company • Oxford Scout Groups • Oxford Association for the Blind • Oxford Venture Scouts • Tesco • Sainsbury's • Oxford Sea Cadets • Various Churches <p>All affected residents were notified by letter drop and advertisement in the local press about the road closures and associated traffic management. A public meeting was organised by the event organiser at Oxford's Town Hall to which local residents and City Councillors were invited as the event was a City Council supported event. Additionally, two Safety Advisory Group meetings were held at Oxford City Council with relevant stakeholders present.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Chairman thank you. I am sorry Councillor Rose you haven't quite answered the question here, I asked which County Councillors were consulted about the route and which local groups were consulted. You have given me a</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I will be happy to find the answer to that question.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>list; the second one there, Oxford Athletic Association, I can confirm as of this morning did not receive any consultation about the route and their committee was not confirmed on the agreed route until the 3rd June. So my supplementary question then is how much did it cost this council in officer time to help this commercial organisation?</p>	
<p>10. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>Would the Cabinet member join with me in congratulating Sainsbury's on building the new hamburger roundabout at Heyford Hill in Oxford? Which supermarkets does he have in mind to fund the other much needed road improvements in and around Oxford?'</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR RODNEY ROSE, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT</p> <p>Due to the almost trillion pound debt inherited by our current National Government from the Gordon Brown administration, it was with regret that the Coalition had to draw back in funds from things like the Regional Transport Board to move towards getting the national "books" back into balance. This left us with the loss of over £60 million for our "Access to Oxford" program which would have been a great help to travel both in Oxfordshire and in the City itself. I am very happy that Cllr Tanner joins with me in congratulating Sainsbury's, which I have already done in local media. Cllr Tanner should know me well enough by now to be aware that I will take cash from ANY source to enhance the infrastructure of our County.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Do the different sources of money which Councillor Rose hopes to tap into include the £19-£20 million being wasted on the Cogges Road Link?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I think it is a great shame, Chairman, that the member doesn't ever get outside the City to see what happens in other places. Some of us actually believe that the Cogges Link Road will be a great asset to Witney and will endeavour to get it. What I would do, Chairman, is to ask if I could have a whip round the local labour groups in Oxford and to see if they want to chip in and put some money in themselves to make up for past mistakes somewhere else.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>11. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>At the last Council Cllr Lindsay-Gale kindly agreed to review the pedestrian ban at the popular Redbridge Recycling Centre in Oxford. Will the Cabinet member tell Council the outcome of that review?’</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE, CABINET MEMBER FOR GROWTH & INFRASTRUCTURE</p> <p>As stated in the last Council Meeting, pedestrian access will be reviewed as part of the redevelopment of Redbridge HWRC. The redevelopment is linked to the wider HWRC strategy and as such cannot be undertaken until after the new site at Kidlington has opened which is not expected until Winter next year.</p> <p>Officers have looked at whether arrangements can be implemented more quickly to allow pedestrian access. This would not be easy as a separate access would be required, the ground would need to be levelled to allow for wheelchairs and push/pull carts, dedicated walkways would need to be created with specific crossing points to protect pedestrians. The cost of these infrastructure changes would be considerable and more if they were carried out independently, rather than as part of the site redevelopment.</p> <p>There is also concern that pedestrian access would encourage people to park outside or close to the site, especially when it is busy and walk waste in. When the site is busy there is obviously more traffic and therefore more risk to pedestrians.</p> <p>We have a duty to protect the well being of visitors to our recycling centres and we take this responsibility very seriously.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Mr Chairman, will Councillor Lindsey-Gale stop taking about reviews; will she allow pedestrian access at Redbridge and at the new Kidlington Recycling Centre, yes or no?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>We have talked about this several times. We talked about it at the last council and I suggested to you Councillor Tanner that if you want the pedestrian access you perhaps might like to pay for it. We have investigated further after your question last time and our officers think that the cost would probably be in the region of £20,000 now if you feel that you can find that from your budgets in the City we would be very happy to implement the scheme for you.</p>

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<p>12. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>Will the Cabinet member tell Council what percentage reductions were made by the County Council in CO2 emissions and energy use in 2010/11? What percentage reductions does she plan for carbon-footprint and energy use in 2011/12 and 2012/13? Will she list the total reductions for each year, and for the Council's own estate and its schools separately?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE, CABINET MEMBER FOR GROWTH & INFRASTRUCTURE</p> <p>Overall the Council's carbon footprint for 2010/11 was 60, 585 tonnes, a 4% reduction from 2005/6.</p> <p>The Council has been recording its energy consumption from its buildings since 1990. From 1990/91 to 2010/11, carbon emissions from buildings alone have been reduced by just under 23%. This is a year ahead of the Government's target of 22% by Dec 2012 established under the Climate Change Act 2008.</p> <p>The more detailed figures requested for previous years are set out in Table 1. The summary data captures reductions in energy use due to investment in energy savings and changes in behaviour. It also reflects year-to-year changes in demand due to variations in average winter temperatures and changes in assets and service requirements – for example increases in street lighting and IT equipment. Therefore year-to-year data should be treated with caution and set in the context of the multi-year dataset.</p> <p>As an example, the Committee on Climate Change has noted that nationally emissions for 2010 rose by about 4% compared to 2009 because of the colder winter (Committee on Climate Change: Meeting Carbon Budgets – 3rd Progress Report to Parliament 2011).</p> <p>Table 1 - Oxfordshire County Council carbon emissions from 2005/6 to 2010/11</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="824 1054 2078 1326"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="3"></th> <th colspan="5">Carbon emissions by year tonnes CO₂</th> <th colspan="4">2010/11 reductions compared to:</th> </tr> <tr> <th>2005/06</th> <th>2007/08</th> <th>2008/09</th> <th>2009/10</th> <th>2010/11</th> <th colspan="2">2005/6</th> <th colspan="2">2009/10</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th>tonnes</th> <th>%</th> <th>tonnes</th> <th>%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Corporate</td> <td>27,821</td> <td>27,912</td> <td>25,587</td> <td>26,740</td> <td>26,880</td> <td>942</td> <td>3.38</td> <td>-140</td> <td>-0.52</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Schools</td> <td>35,125</td> <td>33,187</td> <td>36,388</td> <td>31,173</td> <td>33,705</td> <td>1,420</td> <td>4.04</td> <td>-2,532</td> <td>-8.12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>62,946</td> <td>61,099</td> <td>61,975</td> <td>57,913</td> <td>60,585</td> <td>2,361</td> <td>3.75</td> <td>-2,672</td> <td>-4.61</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The corporate figures include emissions from energy use in buildings and street lighting, as well as emissions from business travel and waste to landfill. For consistency, the same method of calculation is used for each year. Care should be taken when comparing with</p>		Carbon emissions by year tonnes CO ₂					2010/11 reductions compared to:				2005/06	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2005/6		2009/10							tonnes	%	tonnes	%	Corporate	27,821	27,912	25,587	26,740	26,880	942	3.38	-140	-0.52	Schools	35,125	33,187	36,388	31,173	33,705	1,420	4.04	-2,532	-8.12	Total	62,946	61,099	61,975	57,913	60,585	2,361	3.75	-2,672	-4.61
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	<p>other published figures because of variations in the method of calculation.</p> <p>Current investment plans indicate the Council should reduce its corporate carbon footprint by 835 tonnes of CO2 in 2011/12 with a planned saving of 901 tonnes in the schools estate. It is currently preparing its financial and energy budgets for 2012/13, so plans for future years have not been confirmed. They are also the subject of negotiation with the tenderers for the new Property & Facilities single service provider. This contract will include targets, yet to be agreed, for energy savings in the corporate estate in recognition of the rapidly rising costs of energy as much as the Government's statutory carbon budgets.</p> <p>Investment in schools is the responsibility of School Governors, so the proposed savings are subject to the agreement of individual governing bodies. To support Governors, the Council provides invest-to-save loan funding and has developed schools specific web pages at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/schoolscutcarbon with advice and a draft energy strategy. Automatic meter readers (AMRs) are being installed at most schools and those with AMRs can now access a range of web-based reports.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Does Councillor Lindsey-Gale agree with me that 4% is a rather paltry figure; does she feel that her predecessor should have done rather better at reducing energy costs and carbon dioxide emissions and will she commit to a more robust attitude in this whole area?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Thank you Chairman, right well it is very clear that we do have to address this issue in a different way, I feel that the argument has actually moved on. We need to focus on reducing our energy costs that will improve our carbon emissions as a result. The Council's energy costs are set to rise by about between 10% and 15% for 2012 and it is forecast that a 50% increase is likely over the next 5 years. This is unavoidable pressure and it is being addressed through many energy efficiency measures and the rationalisation of our assets. When we are working to the Governments new energy reduction target of 22% by 2012 and we are putting in, as I say, a lot of measures to address this. We will also be challenging all the directorates how we deliver services and looking at new working practices. And I will just make one point about this comment on the achievement of the targets – a report was taken to the Waste Partnership last week on the progress against the local area agreement targets – taken altogether all 6 authorities have achieved a 7% reduction comparing with the 2010/11 with 2008/09. The County Council and City Council have both achieved an 8% reduction however the County Council has achieved double its target of 4% whilst the City has achieved only just over half its target of 15%.</p>
<p>13. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR RODNEY ROSE, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>Does the Cabinet member sympathise with the plight of residents in the Weirs Lane area of Oxford, in my division, whose community is increasingly divided by the busy main road of Weirs Lane. Will he consider installing a pedestrian crossing so that people can cross that road without risking life and limb?</p>	<p>We appreciate that a crossing in the area suggested could be helpful. There are two issues that we need to look into. The first is whether or not we can physically fit in a crossing and what impact it will have on traffic (this is after all a very important route in the city's transport network). This will be looked into when Officer time permits. The second is, of course where the money will come from. It will not score highly within County or S106 lists, so I would advise Cllr Tanner to explore possibilities with his Area Steward, as to the use of the Area Stewardship Fund. This may require support from other local Members to raise sufficient funding.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Would Councillor Rose agree with me that the so called Area Stewardship funds, the £700 or £800 that we have to spend locally might buy a bolishia beacon but wouldn't pay for a pedestrian crossing?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Thank you Chairman, one of the main facets of the Fund is to hopefully bring in local money to complement it to get it up to the figures that will do proper work. I presume that you have support within that locality to do this and I hope you will explore that.</p>
<p>14. COUNCILLOR LARRY SANDERS</p> <p>Given that traffic-related air pollution remains above World Health Organisation recommended minimum levels on streets such as Botley Road, Hythe Bridge Street, Thames Street, Abingdon Road, St Giles, Longwall Street, and others, and especially near residential areas around the ring-road, what is the County Council doing to reduce this threat to human health?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR RODNEY ROSE, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT</p> <p>The Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3) Oxford area strategy contains the following measures specifically for air quality. However, most elements of the Oxford strategy will help improve air quality so I would refer Cllr Sanders to Chapter 13 of the LTP3.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A city centre Low Emission Zone (LEZ) will be implemented [see below] and options will be investigated for reducing the impact of road freight transport on air quality.</i> • <i>The introduction of charging points for electric vehicles in the city will be investigated, and incentives for lower carbon emission vehicles will be considered.</i> • <i>Traffic routeing will be improved to reduce emissions in the streets with most pedestrians and residents.</i> <p>[These initiatives are currently being worked on actively by Highways & Transport.]</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>The city centre Low Emission Zone (approved by Cabinet Member for Transport and the City Council in 2009) remains a high priority and is on track for a 1 January 2014 start date. The qualifying agreement has already reduced bus mileage and emissions in the city centre significantly by reducing bus numbers and replacing dozens of old buses with the latest low emission vehicles, including hybrid-electric buses. This means significant progress towards the 2014 LEZ standard has already been made. We expect monitoring to show significant improvements in the city centre when a full year's worth of data is available next summer.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>I think that the answer is extremely complacent and largely placed in the future. I see that things will be investigated and will be improved and seems to start in 2013. Since the air pollution causes the death and serious illness of real people I wonder if it would be possible for the Cabinet Member to have an estimate made of the number of deaths and serious illnesses that could occur between now and 2014 because of the complacency of his answer?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Chairman, I think some people still aren't aware of the current world that we are living in and the finances we have. If you look around the City of Oxford and see the changes in our buses which are due to our quality bus partnership and other effects we are doing as much as can possibly be expected under the current financial climate. As to producing the data that the Council requests I don't think I have got the money to spare to do that.</p>
<p>15. COUNCILLOR LARRY SANDERS</p> <p>Recent statistics show that each year about four hundred Oxfordshire residents would get their social care fully paid for by the NHS if Oxfordshire PCT provided Continuing Care at the same rate as the national average. In his answer to my question at the last County Council meeting Cllr Fatemian said that this does not create any additional costs for Oxfordshire County Council, because the Council operates a 'quota' system. Could the</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ARASH FATEMIAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SERVICES</p> <p>Each week the number of places for home care and residential care are allocated by strategic commissioning based on need and resource availability. The reason for this is that this essentially pre-authorises purchasing of care placements by commissioning so that front line allocations can be provided quickly and efficiently when the need arises.</p> <p>Over the weeks these allocations can be varied by Commissioning as the need arises and obviously they are reviewed weekly as well as at longer term intervals.</p> <p>This mechanism has key two benefits - as confirmed above this allows front line decision making to be carried out in an authorised and efficient environment and it also provides a</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>cabinet member please explain how that quota system works? If it means that people have to wait longer to receive the services they need, could he please estimate the average length of additional waiting time?</p>	<p>baseline forecast for Adult Social Care with which to model future forecast future spend requirements.</p> <p>This system actually speeds up the authorisation process for approval of services as it allows front line staff to authorise placements quickly against the released purchasing agreement for that week</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>The answer given doesn't answer the question. The shifting of the cost of care for hundreds of very disabled people from the NHS to the County Council up to the individuals must have an effect on the County's budget. Either the County is spending more money to meet the needs that have been assessed or there is some form of delay for those people and other people and my supplementary question is which is it?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Chairman, I apologise to Councillor Sanders that the question didn't seem to put his concerns at rest especially around the quota system where it specifically says that the system actually speeds up the authorisation process. However I will give a more detailed written response on the quota system to satisfy the queries that he has.</p>
<p>16. COUNCILLOR LARRY SANDERS</p> <p>Could Councillor Fatemian explain what it is about the population of Oxfordshire that could explain why so many fewer of them are eligible to have their social care paid for by the NHS, meaning that the care is paid for by the County Council or they have to pay themselves, which often results in the forced sale of their homes?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ARASH FATEMIAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SERVICES</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council has been acknowledged by the National Audit Office be leading in their partnership arrangements with the PCT and their development of Section 75 Pooled Budgets.</p> <p>This in effect allows us to manage in partnership a pot of money which pays for Continuing Health Care and also for Residential Nursing Care. In effect therefore OCC has had less cause to take a very firm line with the PCT as to what is designated Continuing Care and therefore paid out of the Health element of the pooled budget and what is designated to be funded from Social Care. The joint arrangements which we also have for the Continuing Health Care Panel also ensure that this partnership is maintained and that true and fair assessment is made of all cases.</p> <p>A good deal of attention has been paid recently to ensure that Oxfordshire comply with</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>local SHA and National guidelines on appraising Continuing Healthcare Cases. However this will also be re-examined by Scrutiny Committee as it is such an important subject.</p> <p>We are however aware that this can have the unintended consequence that some patients have to contribute to their care rather than having the NHS pay. This is the main reason why the Adult Scrutiny Committee will be examining this issue at their December meeting.</p> <p>Under National Guidelines where people are receiving residential care they are assessed financially as to whether they need to contribute to this care. These guidelines require the value of someone's home to be taken into account when assessing their contribution. We are acutely aware of this issue where a person's capital is diminished due to their requirement to pay for their care costs and this is now being monitored closely to enable Care Management to help people make the right choices as to both their care and how they will fund it.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Councillor Fatemian says that the County Council has had “less cause to take a firm line with PCT as to which is designated continuing care because of pooled budgets” I take the admission that the County Council has not taken a firm line and I think that is a serious error. Also I am not sure that the County Council</p> <p>The question is in terms of the private people who are having to pay in same case having to lose their homes I wonder what the County Council is doing to identify those people so that they or their survivors are recompensed?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Chairman, directly as a result of a number of legitimate concerns some of which Councillor Sanders mentioned there this is due to go before the Adult Services Scrutiny Committee in December. I think it is best left for the independent members of the scrutiny committee at that meeting.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>17. COUNCILLOR LARRY SANDERS</p> <p>It has been emphasised how important it is for parents who come to this country from other countries to learn to speak English, for everybody's benefit, especially their children's. Could the cabinet member please tell me whether the numbers of Oxfordshire residents attending County Council English language classes has increased or decreased over the last 5 years, and if either, by how much? Could the member also tell me what changes there have been in the numbers of students receiving free English language tuition from the County Council?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID ROBERTSON, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p><u>Summary</u> The numbers of Oxfordshire residents attending County Council English language classes decreased over the last 5 years by 53%, from 772 in 2006/7 to 361 in 2010/11.</p> <p>The numbers of students receiving free English language tuition from the County Council in the same period reduced by 84%, from 760 in 2006/7 to 120 in 2010/11.</p> <p>(In 06/07 under the LSC funding rules there was no expectation that ESOL learners would pay for their learning. The only learners paying fees at that time were those that were not eligible for LSC funding. There was a change in 07/08 which ended automatic fee remission for learners on ESOL programmes)</p> <p><u>Background</u> This set of data has been arrived at by looking at all learners who started an ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) programme with Adult Learning in the last 5 complete academic years. This data does not include work that falls within the FLLN (Family Learning Literacy and Numeracy) remit or partnership work the Council does with Ethnic Minority Business Service (EMBS) and doesn't take any account of the funding stream for the learner.</p> <p><u>Statistical Information</u> 06/07 – learner number 772 percentage expected to pay 1.55% 07/08 – learner number 703 percentage expected to pay 55.62% 08/09 – learner number 499 percentage expected to pay 63.13% 09/10 – learner number 530 percentage expected to pay 63.21% 10/11 – learner number 361 percentage expected to pay 66.76%</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Thank you for this very valuable information. The decline in free English Tuition from the County Council all leading to a sharp fall of the people attending those English language</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I sincerely hope that we are down to just under 10 minutes left Mr Chairman for this session because of two or three questions and statements in every question.</p> <p>It was the Labour Government that reduced the funding for English speakers of other</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>classes. This was due to a change of the Government policy which penalises people who have people in their family working which is the case in Oxford certainly.</p> <p>The question is: faced with this very serious situation I want to know if the County Council could investigate what flexibility they have to provide free tuition to parents who need that tuition and what what money could be made available from other Government sources or in the voluntary sector.</p>	<p>languages and I don't see any way that this County Council under current financial pressure which has been brought about because of the mismanagement of the previous Labour Government. There is no way that we will find extra money for this particular funding.</p>
<p>18. COUNCILLOR LARRY SANDER</p> <p>A very substantial number of Oxfordshire County Council employees have lost and will lose their jobs because of the drastic cuts in public spending. It is obviously important that these reductions be done in an equitable manner. Can the cabinet member tell me how the cuts are being managed so as to ensure that they comply with equalities legislation, which requires fairness in terms of race, gender and disability?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID ROBERTSON, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>There are a number of safeguards in place to ensure that staffing reductions are managed in an equitable way, ensuring that we comply with equalities legislation. Full consultation is done, with the involvement of UNISON, for all restructures carried out across the Council and this includes details of new job descriptions, selection criteria and competency requirements. Details of the selection process will also be included in these consultation documents so that people have adequate time to prepare. The selection process may include assessments and structured interviews - all assessors are trained in line with the Council's recruitment and selection policies. Where individuals are absent due to long term sick leave, maternity leave etc then additional support is offered such as adjustments to the timetable to allow them to take part fully in the selection process. We continue to monitor staffing numbers across the Council in terms of race, gender and disability to ensure that the workforce retains appropriate balance.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>The answer given implies that no attempt has</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Mr Chairman we do continue to monitor staffing numbers in terms of race, gender and</p>

Questions	Answers																				
<p>been made so far to keep track of the character of the people's jobs that have been lost in terms of disability, race of gender – wouldn't it be a good idea to do that while the process is taking place, rather than wait for the end when the likelihood of the injustice will have been done?</p>	<p>disability and will carry on doing so.</p>																				
<p>19. COUNCILLOR DAVID TURNER</p> <p>Will you ensure that any money the County Council is to spend on Broadband speed upgrading in Oxfordshire is spent on improving areas where the speeds are very low?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID ROBERTSON, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>Yes - Any funding that the county council contributes towards broadband infrastructure will be solely directed to the area of the county that contains 28% of premises (residential and business) that are in the so-called Ofcom Market 1, area where it is recognised that the market has failed to deliver an adequate broadband service.</p> <p>74,500, or 28% of households are within such areas, as are 33% of Oxfordshire's businesses and 25 % of all employees.</p> <p>The broadband service for the bulk of premises in Oxfordshire (72%) will be provided by commercial operators.</p>																				
<p>20. COUNCILLOR JEAN FOOKS</p> <p>Can you tell Council how many early retirements there have been in the year from October 2010 until September 2011? How does this compare with the preceding year and the year before that?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID ROBERTSON, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="831 1050 2101 1310"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Redundancies</th> <th>Ill-Health Retirement</th> <th>Efficiency</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.10.2008-30.9.2009</td> <td>13</td> <td>7</td> <td>4</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1.10.2009-30.9.2010</td> <td>28</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> <td>37</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1.10.2010-30.9.2011</td> <td>229</td> <td>14</td> <td>2</td> <td>245</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Redundancies	Ill-Health Retirement	Efficiency	Total	1.10.2008-30.9.2009	13	7	4	24	1.10.2009-30.9.2010	28	5	4	37	1.10.2010-30.9.2011	229	14	2	245
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<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Can Councillor Robertson explain why early</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I am sorry if I misunderstood Councillor Fooks's question I think the numbers involved</p>																				

Questions	Answers
retirement isn't in his answer? It seems to me that he has mentioned redundancies; ill-health retirement was about early retirement which is in my view at any rate a different form of retirement.	there are actually within the numbers that have been given, but I will specifically chase that up and get a response to Council.
<p>21. COUNCILLOR ANNE PURSE</p> <p>Since Council agreed in June 2007 to request developer contributions to improve cycle facilities, have officers been engaged in achieving additional developer funding for cycle routes such as the shared pedestrian and cycle route that runs alongside the A40 between Sandhills and the Holton Turn which is soon to be developed as a new entrance for Brookes University?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR RODNEY ROSE, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT</p> <p>County officers have sought and secured contributions towards cycleway provision from various developments across Oxfordshire. They have also secured actual provision as part of the larger schemes. It is difficult to be precise on how much has been secured because the cycle measure monies are often included in a flexible sum within the agreements – i.e. can be used for various transport infrastructure including cycle measures. There are also general transport works which benefit cycle use.</p> <p>In 2010/11 just under £90,000 was spent from developer contributions on cycle infrastructure. This was significantly up on the expenditure in 2009/10 on cycle measures which was around £28,000.</p> <p>Oxford Brookes University has made a planning application to South Oxfordshire District Council to change the access to their Wheatley Campus from the west of the site to the east at Holton, close to the junction with the A40. County officers are currently considering the application before making recommendations on the application. The Council does not hold any developer contributions that are restricted by legal agreement to the provision of a cycle route between Sandhills and Holton.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Thank you for your answer Councillor Rose, given the enormous problem with our student parking in our local villages and given that the new Brookes entrance will make the cyclists journey considerably shorter and therefore hopefully more attractive, please can I ask for either full details of what requests for</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Through you Chairman, I am happy to forward the Councillor the details of what 106's have been asked for.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>developer contributions have been made or if they have not been made full details of the process that led to a lack of a request for developer funding to improve the cycle track to acceptable standards.</p>	
<p>22. COUNCILLOR M ALTAF-KHAN</p> <p>Can the Cabinet member tell me when the recent results for GCSEs and A Levels will be analysed and presented at a seminar for all councillors?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR MELINDA TILLEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>A suitable date has yet to be identified but is our intention that it should be as soon as possible and by the end of the calendar year at the very latest.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Chairman, will the Cabinet Member agree that it is not good enough for the members to find out from the local press that the County has done or is below the national average and that figures will not be presented until the end of the year. By the time it comes to the members it will be another year gone and what will be the actual route taken for that; will it be possible to do as soon as possible rather than waiting for that long?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Not quite sure what you are asking for. First of all don't always believe everything you read in the press. Secondly if you need information just come to me and I will get it for you.</p>
<p>23. COUNCILLOR M ALTAF-KHAN</p> <p>Can the cabinet member confirm how much support the County Council is providing to groups setting up Free Schools?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR MELINDA TILLEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>A seminar for potential promoters of Free Schools was held in February 2011, setting out the authority's views on where additional school places are likely to be required over the next few years. Individual promoters of Free Schools have also been offered a one-to-one meeting with officers to discuss their proposals. While these meetings will have been of support to promoters, they have also been of support to the authority in ensuring that it has a better understanding of the potential new suppliers of school places, and are able to start building relationships with organisations who may in future be responsible for delivering</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>some of Oxfordshire's educational capacity. The annually produced Pupil Place Plan provides information on school demand and capacity which is of use to promoters of Free Schools, who form part of the intended audience of this publication. Some promoters have also asked for specific additional information to inform their applications and, where we hold this information, we have provided it as we would for other enquirers (including those enquiring under Fol).</p> <p>The county is facing a significant requirement for new schools over the coming years due to housing developments and population growth. Current government policy is that we should seek providers to establish these new schools as academies. Groups interested in promoting a Free School might also be a possible academy promoter, and early engagement with them is helpful to the authority in identifying potential academy providers in the future.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Thank you for your answer but there are still groups in the region that don't know about this seminar or that support is available. Would the Cabinet Member again consider informing the local members and keep them informed what sort of information is there for the free schools support and the seminars because I never knew about this seminar happening?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Thank you Chairman, thank you for your question. I wasn't on the Cabinet then, so not guilty but the County Council is not under any obligation to do anything at all for free schools. However we did run a seminar and we do give an hour and half of officer time for people who can come with a business plan. There is to be another seminar in the spring and I will personally make sure that every local member is informed.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>24. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR JEAN FOOKS</p> <p>I see that while Oxford City Council has signed up to support Climate Week 2012, to be held in 12-18 March 2012, so far Oxfordshire County Council is conspicuous by its absence. This is a national campaign to inspire a new wave of action on climate change. It culminates in thousands of events and activities, planned by organisations from every part of society. Showcasing real, practical ways to combat climate change, the campaign aims to renew the ambition to create a more sustainable, low-carbon future. The Prime Minister has given his support. Can Council assume that Oxfordshire will sign up and show it too is working to address the challenges faced by climate change?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE, CABINET MEMBER FOR GROWTH & INFRASTRUCTURE</p> <p>The County Council has recently signed up to the 2012 Climate Week, and continues to support initiatives that help schools, residents and local businesses save money and reduce their carbon footprint. As an example, the Council is providing grant funding to the Low Carbon Hub, which is a Community Interest Company that has been established to provide a range of services and resources to support communities across Oxfordshire to reduce their carbon emissions. The Council has also recently retendered (in Partnership with the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership) the schools environmental education service. The new provider, Groundwork Thames Valley will be starting this term to deliver their service to schools educating children on the value of waste reduction and energy efficiency.</p>
<p>25. COUNCILLOR SARAH HUTCHINSON</p> <p>Would the Cabinet member inform us how many Youth service sessions were being offered by County Council Employed Youth Workers this time last year and how many are currently being offered?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LOUISE CHAPMAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES</p> <p>Prior to the introduction of the Early Intervention Service, in the Spring of this year, we were running 67 open access evening and weekend youth sessions per week at what are now hub and satellite sites. We are now running 76 open access evening and weekend youth sessions per week at those hubs and satellites since the start of the new service in September this year.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Thank you for your answer could you provide a breakdown of where the sessions have taken place including information about which sessions involve qualified youth workers?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I am happy to provide that information. I have to say that we are actually doing more and we have already heard from a member today from Chipping Norton where they are going to be offering free sessions. I am quite happy to do as asked and can I also say that does not include the targeted work that we do with our youth workers as well as in targeted</p>

Questions	Answers
	sessions that is purely open generic weekend work.
<p data-bbox="125 248 797 280">26. COUNCILLOR SARAH HUTCHINSON</p> <p data-bbox="125 320 797 647">The Welfare Reform Bill will, if passed, transfer responsibility for elements of the Social Fund - Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans, to Local Authorities. Pleas could the Cabinet member let us know what progress has been made to date in planning for this. Have any decisions been made yet about how the funds will be prioritised and administered, and who is being consulted on this?</p>	<p data-bbox="819 248 2007 280">COUNCILLOR ARASH FATEMIAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SERVICES</p> <p data-bbox="819 320 2112 424">Not yet. We would expect to be consulted about that issue in summer 2012. Final figures should emerge at 'Consultation' for 2013/14 perhaps in December 2012, then final figures at 'Settlement' in January or February 2013.</p> <p data-bbox="819 472 2112 576">The October 2011 EQIA mentioned above says that there will not be a new statutory duty requiring local authorities to deliver the service (paragraph 4). Thus funding will not be ringfenced (paragraph 5).</p> <p data-bbox="819 624 2112 759">It should however be possible to identify the amount that Oxfordshire receives, but this may be mixed into the details of the new funding system which will localise business rates. It is likely that we might administer these grants through our locality teams to ensure that they are targeted at those who most need them but this process has still to be decided</p> <p data-bbox="819 807 2112 943">The call for evidence in February 2011 was aimed at upper-tier local authorities in England, welfare rights organisations and other customer representative groups, and any other interested groups or individuals. This included the Local Government Association and the devolved administrations in Wales and Scotland.</p>
<p data-bbox="125 983 595 1015">SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p data-bbox="125 1054 797 1382">I want to know if the Council will be carrying out consultation itself before making a final decision on how to administer the guidance; whether it is through the locality groups, in particular with families who have in the past received social funds for whom it is often a lifeline and for example debt advice services who have got an in depth understanding of the distribution needs across the County.</p>	<p data-bbox="819 983 1267 1015">SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p data-bbox="819 1054 2096 1238">Thank you Chairman, could I start by saying thank you to Councillor Hutchinson for the question in its form and also for the supplementary. The answer is that yes as a County Council we do plan to consult and if she would like to be in touch with both myself and the director for adult services outside then we would very much value her input on who should take formal part of that consultation.</p>