

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 12 December 2023 commencing at 10.30 am and finishing at 3.25 pm

Present:

Councillor Felix Bloomfield – in the Chair

Councillors:

Alison Rooke	Andrew Gant	Jane Murphy
Brad Baines	Stefan Gawrysiak	Michael O'Connor
David Bartholomew	Andy Graham	Glynis Phillips
Tim Bearder	Kate Gregory	Sally Povolotsky
Robin Bennett	Jane Hanna OBE	Susanna Pressel
Kevin Bulmer	Jenny Hannaby	Eddie Reeves
Nigel Champken-Woods	Damian Haywood	G.A. Reynolds
Mark Cherry	Charlie Hicks	Judy Roberts
Andrew Coles	John Howson	David Rouane
Ian Corkin	Tony Ilott	Geoff Saul
Imade Edosomwan	Bob Johnston	Les Sibley
Trish Elphinstone	Liz Leffman	Nigel Simpson
Duncan Enright	Nick Leverton	Roz Smith
Mohamed Fadlalla	Dan Levy	Ian Snowdon
Arash Fatemian	Dr Nathan Ley	Dr Pete Sudbury
Neil Fawcett	Mark Lygo	Bethia Thomas
Ted Fenton	Kieron Mallon	Michael Waine
Nick Field-Johnson	Ian Middleton	Liam Walker
Donna Ford	Calum Miller	Richard Webber

The Council considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting and decided as set out below. Except insofar as otherwise specified, the reasons for the decisions are contained in the agenda and reports, copies of which are attached to the signed Minutes.

100/23 MINUTES

(Agenda Item 1)

The minutes of the meetings held on 13 October 2023 and 7 November 2023 were approved.

Councillor David Bartholomew noted that the date for the meeting of Council in February 2025 was showing on the Council website as 18 February despite the fact that the Council meeting agreed to change it to 11 February. Anita Bradley, Monitoring Officer, apologised for the error, thanked Councillor

Bartholomew for bringing it to her attention and assured Council that it would be corrected on the Council website immediately.

101/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(Agenda Item 2)

Apologies were received from Councillors Ash, Banfield, Brighthouse, Constance and van Mierlo.

102/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - SEE GUIDANCE NOTE

(Agenda Item 3)

There were no declarations of interest.

103/23 OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

(Agenda Item 4)

The Chair summarised his main activities since the last meeting:

15th November – Long service awards, jointly hosted with the Chief Executive

29th November – RAF Benson gate opening ceremony, jointly cut ribbon with Station Commander Chris Royston-Airey

1st December – Christmas tree festival jointly hosted with St Helen's Church in Benson

6th December – County Lights switch on, jointly hosted with Preservation trust in the Castle Courtyard followed by refreshments at County Hall

Councillor Lorna Berrett, Chair of Botley and North Hinksey Parish Council, was awarded Star Councillor of the Year by the National Association of Local Councils. Cllr Berrett has worked tirelessly during her eight years as a councillor especially on improved parish facilities such as public art, new play equipment, bus stops and the running of valued events such as the Remembrance Day service. Congratulations to Councillor Berrett on her award.

We have been notified that former County Councillor John Cochrane has passed away. Councillor Cochrane represented the Wychwood division from 1985 to 1997, served on the Education Committee, and later on the Social Services committee, where he had responsibility for taking care of its finances. As a business man he was also a representative on the South East England Regional Assembly. Council observed a minute's silence in his memory.

104/23 APPOINTMENTS

(Agenda Item 5)

Council approved the following changes:

Audit & Governance Committee – Councillor Glynis Phillips to replace Councillor Trish Elphinstone

OCC & Employees Joint Consultative Committee: Councillor Ilott to replace Councillor Reeves

105/23 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS

(Agenda Item 6)

The following requests to speak were received:

Petition:

Katie Nellist (SEND Services)

Item 12 – Future Council Governance Group:

Alison Chisholm

Item 13 – Electoral Review:

Julie Maberley

Barry Gooch

Item 17 – Motion by Councillor Sally Povolotsky:

Richard Harding

Kiera Bentley

Derek Stork

Barry Gooch

Alison Semple

Olly Glover

Item 18 – Motion by Councillor Eddie Reeves:

Claire Brenner

Item 19 – Motion by Councillor Michael O'Connor:

John Skinner

Danny Yee

Robin Tucker

Chris Heron

Zuhura Plummer

Richard Parnham

Emily Kerr

Jemima Hunt

Tony Eaude

Gabriele Santi

Alexandra West

Clinton Pugh

Item 21 – Motion by Stefan Gawrysiak:

Robert Aitken

Ian Reissmann

Daniel Leveson

The speeches that have been supplied are attached to the minutes.

106/23 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(Agenda Item 7)

Six questions were asked. The questions, responses and supplementary questions are recorded in an Annex below.

107/23 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(Agenda Item 8)

Thirty seven questions were asked. The questions, responses and supplementary questions are recorded in an Annex below.

108/23 CABINET REPORT

(Agenda Item 9)

Council received the report of Cabinet covering the meeting held on 21 November 2023.

On item 1, the Care Homes Purchasing Framework, Councillor Middleton asked if the Cabinet Member could give an assessment of how the tougher VISA rules unveiled by the government last week would impact the staffing levels in adult social care. Councillor Bearder responded that the government's announcement last week further compounded the lack of preparation on migration issues that had been apparent since the UK took the decision to leave the European Union. Cllr Bearder thanked all of the hard-working staff in the adult social care sector and stressed the need for proper pay, skills training, and protections for all adult social care workers, wherever they come from.

On item 2, the Business Services Transformation Programme Business Refocus, Councillor Bartholomew asked how much money had been wasted on the decision for functions to remain with Hampshire County Council's Integrated Business Centre, after the administration had previously sought to bring these services back in-house. Councillor Fawcett responded that he was unsure of the specific answer but was happy to find out and provide a written response. He highlighted the pragmatism with which the administration dealt with this situation, due to the changing situation that would have had significant costs for the Council.

Councillor Phillips questioned what the new recruitment process outlined in the report would look like, given that there was a lack of information in the report. Councillor Fawcett noted that the point of the exercise was to ascertain the best practice to improve the recruitment process.

Councillor Pressel asked about the news that County Hall would close for 12* days over the Christmas period and if it would also affect registration services. Councillor Fawcett responded that he was happy to check this.

* The offices were actually proposed to be closed for 10 days (23 December to 1 January).

On item 3, the Treasury Management Mid-Term Review, Councillor Bartholomew asked what approach the Cabinet Member would take next year, when there was a risk of underachievement given that the base rates of interest rates may fall faster than expected. Councillor Levy reflected the point that the Treasury team had to capitalise on favourable conditions, such as interest rates being higher than expected, and stated that he trusted the Treasury team to take the necessary decisions.

Councillor Baines asked that, given the Treasury team expects interest rates to fall in the medium to long term, why was the building of further new children's homes, special schools and sheltered housing not included in the capital programme. Councillor Levy responded that all projects that the Council wants to do were discussed in the budget, but the Council had to be selective due to the lack of proper central government funding.

On item 4, the Budget and Business Planning Report 2024/25, Councillor Bartholomew raised the new financial strategy for children and social care, but questioned the achievements of the current year given that the overspend continued to rise. Councillor Levy replied that he appreciated the current difficulties in adult social care and that the expenditure was greater than forecast, but reflected upon the progress made, which the new Director of Children Services will hope to build on. Councillor Howson also added some of the areas of improvement in the sector.

Councillor Baines asked why there was not the same ambitiousness to deliver improvements in adult services, as there was in children's services and if he considered demographic changes, as well as a cost-of-living crisis as important factors in stopping this. Councillor Levy replied that the administration was trying to be efficient and caring within adult and children's social care, reflecting upon the different nature of each sector.

Councillor Corkin questioned, in his view, the unnecessary expensiveness of the administration's policies on tree-planting and the 20mph speed limit provisions, challenging the Cabinet Member to make better choices within the next budget cycle. Councillor Levy reflected how the choices to be made were complex and multi-faceted, with challenges made having to be accepted and answered by the Council.

Councillor Hicks asked if there was any way for the Council to greater invest in digital to boost public sector productivity and provide better value for money. Councillor Levy noted a number of investments made by the administration, before reflecting upon the time needed to see these improvements.

On item 5, the Business Management and Monitoring Report, Councillor Bartholomew asked, in light of the projected overspend, when the administration was going to accurately forecast financial decisions.

Councillor Levy said that he shared his frustrations, stating that the Children's Services directorate and the two new Cabinet members were working to improve both forecasts and outcomes.

Councillor Baines asked if the Cabinet Member could explain how the administration could find the savings to keep this Council solvent. Councillor Levy responded that the normal budget process was underway and that the added pressures on the Council would be reflected in the process.

On item 6, the Capital Programme Approvals, Councillor Bartholomew asked what costs were incurred when submitting bids for active travel funding. Councillor Levy noted that officers made active travel funding bids as a normal part of their work.

Councillor O'Connor asked for an outline on who was on the board that oversees and monitors capital projects and when it last met. Councillor Levy responded that it comprised senior officers and was chaired by the Chief Executive, but that he would provide a written response outlining the full details to the Councillor.

Councillor Rouane asked if there were the funds and enthusiasm for the project to relieve congestion in Didcot. Councillor Roberts noted that it was on the programme and that she looked forward to being able to approve this project in the near future.

109/23 GENDER PAY GAP REPORT

(Agenda Item 10)

Council considered a report outlining the difference between the average earnings of men and women across the Council workforce. The Council was required to report on this annually. The Council voluntarily reports on the Ethnicity Pay Gap.

Councillor Neil Fawcett, Cabinet Member for Community & Corporate Services, introduced and moved the report. Councillor Liz Leffman, Leader of the Council, seconded the report. Following debate, the recommendations were agreed.

RESOLVED (unanimously): to receive the Gender Pay Gap Report and approve for publication.

110/23 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID TERM REVIEW

(Agenda Item 11)

Council had before it a report setting out the Treasury Management position at 30 September 2023.

The report was introduced and moved by Councillor Dan Levy, Cabinet Member for Finance, and seconded by Councillor Leffman.

Following debate, the recommendation was agreed.

RESOLVED (unanimously): to note the council's treasury management activity in the first half of 2023/24.

111/23 FUTURE COUNCIL GOVERNANCE GROUP - FINAL REPORT

(Agenda Item 12)

The Chair noted that the Audit and Governance Committee had welcomed the findings and recommendations of the Future Council Governance Group. Although the only recommendation that needed to be formally presented to Council was the one relating to the formation of the Education and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee, members of the Audit & Governance Committee requested that the group's full report be appended to the committee's report to full Council.

The report was introduced and proposed by Councillor Stefan Gawrysiak, Chair of the Future Council Governance Group, and seconded by Councillor Roz Smith, Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee. An amendment to the recommendations from the proposers was published in Addenda 2.

Councillor Charlie Hicks proposed and Councillor Duncan Enright seconded an amendment to add the word 'Children' to the title of the proposed new scrutiny committee.

Following debate, the amendment was lost with 13 votes in favour, 38 against and no abstentions.

Following further discussion, the recommendations, as amended by the proposers, were approved unanimously (52 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions).

RESOLVED:

- 1. To establish an Education and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee comprising nine elected members.**
- 2. To approve the terms of reference for the Education and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee as indicated in the agenda supplement along with the related changes to the terms of reference for the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**
- 3. To note the work undertaken by the Future Council Governance Group including the findings and recommendations at paragraphs 35 to 40 of the report (please refer to the report at Annex 1).**

112/23 ELECTORAL REVIEW: LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

(Agenda Item 13)

Council considered a report recommending some amendments to the draft recommendations following discussions by the cross-party working group.

The report was introduced and proposed by Councillor Gawrysiak and seconded by Councillor Kieron Mallon. The proposers also moved an amendment to their own recommendations outlined in Addenda 2:

In recommendation c): ~~To request adoption of the boundaries included in the Council submission on 28 March 2023 relating to Banbury as they better reflect the identity of local communities, subject to one minor amendment: the area to the west of the railway line and to the east of the canal should become part of Banbury Calthorpe (rather than Grimsbury and Castle).~~
boundaries relating to Banbury that better reflect the identity of local communities as included in the updated map which reflects the adjustment to the boundary between Bodicote and Banbury.

Following discussion, the recommendations were carried as amended with 38 votes in favour, 11 against and 3 abstentions.

RESOLVED: to support the draft recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) relating to the boundaries for 69 single-member divisions with the exception of those divisions in Cherwell District covering the area in and around Banbury for which the following response is proposed:

- a) **To request that the areas affected by the community governance review determined by Cherwell District Council on 17 October 2022 be included within the Banbury divisions.**
- b) **To request adoption of the boundaries included in the Council submission on 28 March 2023 relating to Cropredy and Wroxton, Adderbury, Bloxham and Bodicote, Deddington and Hook Norton, and Fringford and Heyfords.**
- c) **To request adoption of boundaries relating to Banbury that better reflect the identity of local communities as included in the updated map which reflects the adjustment to the boundary between Bodicote and Banbury.**

113/23 COMMITTEES AND REVIEW OF POLITICAL BALANCE

(Agenda Item 14)

Council had before it a review of the political balance on committees following the introduction of the Education & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee and two extra Member positions on the Pension Fund Committee as well as a number of changes to political group membership.

The Chair, Councillor Felix Bloomfield, moved the recommendations and they were seconded by the Vice-Chair, Councillor Alison Rooke. The Chair noted that revised Annexes 1 and 2 were published in Addenda 2.

Councillor Mark Cherry proposed that separate votes be taken on the three recommendations.

Recommendation 1 was carried with 41 votes in favour, 1 against and no abstentions.

Recommendation 2 was carried with 48 votes in favour, 0 against and no abstentions.

Recommendation 3 was lost with 4 votes in favour, 40 against and 3 abstentions.

The Monitoring Officer confirmed that the Horton Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee will retain the same political balance:

- 3 Members of the Liberal Democrats/Green Alliance
- 3 Members of the Conservative Independent Alliance
- 1 Member of the Labour & Cooperative Party
- 1 independent non-aligned Member.

The overall political balance was not affected by the decision to retain the committee.

RESOLVED:

1. **To note the review of political balance of committees to reflect the establishment of the new Education and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the increase in membership of the Pension Fund Committee and changes to the membership of political groups.**
2. **To appoint members to the committees of the Council listed at Annex 1. A fully populated list with nominations from the political groups for the vacant seats will be circulated ahead of the meeting.**

114/23 INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

(Agenda Item 15)

Council considered a report outlining the recommendations from the meeting of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) on 1 December 2023.

The Chair thanked the members of the IRP for their work, in particular for how quickly they had met to assess allowances after the finalisation of the 2023-24 staff pay award.

The Chair proposed the recommendations and the Vice-Chair seconded. The proposers also moved an amendment to the recommendations as published Addenda 2 as follows:

1. To increase councillor allowances by 5.7% with effect from 1 April 2023 in line with the percentage rise in overall employee costs for Oxfordshire County Council arising from the 2023-24 local government pay award.
2. In future years, to increase all councillor, independent member and co-optee allowances in line with the percentage rise in overall employee costs for Oxfordshire County Council arising from the local government pay award. **This is limited to a four-year term of each council period ending in financial year 2025-26.**

Following debate, the recommendations as amended were approved with 26 votes in favour, 0 against and 22 abstentions.

RESOLVED:

3. **To increase councillor allowances by 5.7% with effect from 1 April 2023 in line with the percentage rise in overall employee costs for Oxfordshire County Council arising from the 2023-24 local government pay award.**
4. **In future years, to increase all councillor, independent member and co-optee allowances in line with the percentage rise in overall employee costs for Oxfordshire County Council arising from the local government pay award. This is limited to a four-year period ending in financial year 2025-26.**

115/23 AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

(Agenda Item 16)

Council had before it terms of reference that had been updated to reflect the CIPFA guidance on audit committees.

The recommendations were moved by Councillor Roz Smith, Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee, and seconded by Councillor Brad Baines, Deputy Chair.

Following debate, the recommendations were agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED (unanimously): to make the changes to the terms of reference of the Audit and Governance Committee (Part 5.1A of the Constitution) as highlighted in Annex A to the report. This reflects the latest guidance from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) – Audit Committees: Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police (2022).

116/23 MOTION BY COUNCILLOR SALLY POVOLOTSKY

(Agenda Item 17)

The motion was proposed by Councillor Sally Povolotsky and seconded by Councillor Ian Snowdon.

An amendment, listed in the Schedule of Business, had been proposed by Councillor Duncan Enright but was withdrawn.

Following debate, the motion was carried with 51 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

Over the last 2 years the South East Strategic Reservoir (SESRO) has been placed by Thames Water into the Water Resource South East Strategy (WRSE), the new Thames Water Management Plan (TWMP) and is also entered into a National Infrastructure evaluation called Regulators' Alliance for Progressing Infrastructure Development (RAPID) run by OFWAT.

This Council under administrations involving Conservative, Labour & Cooperative, Liberal Democrat and Green parties has consistently stood with the local residents expressing our concerns and publicly stating our position against the SESRO scheme presented for consultation.

This Council notes that

- 1. Public consultations carried out in the last 18 months were for a scheme design 50% smaller than that now being taken to the Secretary of State for approval.**
- 2. Vale of White Horse District Council also stands against the designs on the table for SESRO as the local planning authority**
- 3. Despite thousands of responses by Oxfordshire residents on SESRO, none of the issues presented have been addressed comprehensively.**

This Council resolves to

- 1. Ask the Leader to request an all party meeting with the current Secretary of State alongside GARD, CPRE and Political leaders in this chamber and the County Councillors in the proposed zone of development.**
- 2. Ask the Leader request that OFWAT pause SESRO in the RAPID scheme given flaws in the data already highlighted by this Council to Thames Water until formal questions are answered.**
- 3. Investigate a Water Resource Task and Finish CAG option and create a Water Resource Champion.**

117/23 MOTION BY COUNCILLOR EDDIE REEVES

(Agenda Item 18)

The time being 3.23 pm, this Motion was considered dropped in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 5.2 as the Chair ruled that there was not enough time remaining to have sufficient debate.

118/23 MOTION BY COUNCILLOR MICHAEL O'CONNOR

(Agenda Item 19)

This Motion was considered dropped in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 5.2.

119/23 MOTION BY COUNCILLOR MARK CHERRY

(Agenda Item 20)

This Motion was considered dropped in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 5.2.

120/23 MOTION BY COUNCILLOR STEFAN GAWRYSIAK

(Agenda Item 21)

This Motion was considered dropped in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 5.2.

121/23 MOTION BY COUNCILLOR DONNA FORD

(Agenda Item 22)

This Motion was considered dropped in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 5.2.

122/23 MOTION BY COUNCILLOR EDDIE REEVES

(Agenda Item 23)

This Motion was considered dropped in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 5.2.

123/23 MOTION BY COUNCILLOR DAVID ROUANE

(Agenda Item 24)

This Motion was considered dropped in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 5.2.

124/23 MOTION BY COUNCILLOR ROBIN BENNETT

(Agenda Item 25)

This Motion was considered dropped in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 5.2.

125/23 MOTION BY COUNCILLOR MICHAEL O'CONNOR

(Agenda Item 26)

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This Motion was considered dropped in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 5.2.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing

Questions from Members of the Public

Questions are listed in the order in which they were received.

<p>1. RICHARD PARNHAM</p> <p>Please explain whether (and the extent to which) Oxfordshire County Council is currently attempting to integrate the planned traffic filters' permits regime into the Cowley / East Oxford LTN ANPR exceptions regime (for example, is it anticipated that "traffic filters" blue badge permit holders will ultimately be able to drive through LTN ANPR filters without restriction)</p> <p>SUPPLEMENTARY: What does he regard as the biggest inhibitor for granting blue-badge access in ANPR LTN's: is it philosophical, he just doesn't want to, or is it technical, he just can't?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>As per the east Oxford LTN Cabinet paper and recommendations, published in October 2023, blue badge holders are not currently permitted to drive through LTN ANPR filter points. This will be the case when the new LTN ANPR filter points are installed. However, as per the east Oxford LTN Cabinet paper, this will be kept under review prior to and during the traffic filter trial including the need for LTN ANPR filter points at all.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Neither. It was a technical recommendation made by officers on the basis of evidence and as the reply to your question says, it will be kept fully under review.</p>
<p>2. BERNADETTE EVANS</p> <p>In what circumstances will Oxfordshire County Council consider opening up the LTNs due to incidents on the LTN boundary roads – is there a formal policy/criteria which need to be met?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>The same 'policy' of dropping specific LTN bollards may temporarily apply in the event of major incidents, dependent upon the nature, scope and scale of the resultant impacts on the highway network. Any such decision will be made by the Traffic Manager, Oxfordshire County Council, with information about diversions communicated as above including via social media.</p>
<p>3. PETER WEST</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR</p>

<p>What is the current estimated timeframe for enabling blue badge access and monitoring through the East Oxford and / or Cowley LTN ANPR cameras.</p>	<p>TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>As per the east Oxford LTN Cabinet paper and recommendations, published in October 2023, blue badge holders are not currently permitted to drive through LTN ANPR filter points. This will be the case when the new LTN ANPR filter points are installed. However, as per the east Oxford LTN Cabinet paper, this decision will be kept under review prior to and during the traffic filter trial including the need for LTN ANPR filter points at all.</p>
<p>4. ANNE GWINNETT</p> <p>How many times, since the East Oxford LTNs were installed, has Oxfordshire County Council reopened any East Oxford LTN roads in response to roadworks / accidents / incidents etc on the East Oxford LTN boundary roads?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>Once</p>
<p>5. ANNE STARES</p> <p>How many times, since the Cowley LTNs were installed, has Oxfordshire County Council reopened any Cowley LTN roads in response to roadworks / accidents / incidents etc on the Cowley LTN boundary roads?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>Zero times.</p>
<p>6. DAVID HENWOOD</p> <p>Many elderly or sick residents within the LTN scheme rely upon pharmaceutical deliveries and support visits from voluntary organizations such as Age UK and the NHS, will</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>As per the east Oxford LTN Cabinet paper and recommendations, published in October 2023, pharmaceutical deliveries and vehicles used for support visits by charities are not currently permitted to</p>

<p>pharmaceutical deliveries and support visits by the charities be given unfettered access through ANPR camera-monitored zones?</p>	<p>drive through LTN ANPR filter points. This will be the case when the new LTN ANPR filter points are installed. However, as per the east Oxford LTN Cabinet paper, this will be kept under review prior to and during the traffic filter trial including the need for LTN ANPR filter points at all.</p>
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QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

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

<p>7. COUNCILLOR MARK CHERRY</p> <p>Over many years residents of Queens Road have been concerned about parking and the narrowness of the road. I myself as local county councillor for Ruscote and ward district councillors (Cross and Niethrop) have had conversations with residents. The CPZ isn't very popular with residents. However, if a feasibility study can be done to have a 20 mile an hour speed limit and possibly a one-way system, this could be a way forward that would be happy for residents of Queens Road. Would the Cabinet Member for Transport Management check if any funding is</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>We are soon to advertise 20 limits for Banbury with a formal consultation process, the proposal as it stands is for 20 limits to cover all minor roads and the more strategic ones closer to the centre, we recommend residents keep an eye out and respond to the consultation. We will investigate the possibility of a one-way system, which we will look into the possibility of funding through our Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP).</p>
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<p>available from Oxfordshire County Council for signage and so forth?</p>	
<p>8. COUNCILLOR EDDIE REEVES</p> <p>Senior LGA advisors attended the Council for a three-day review of its Children's Services between 22 and 24 November. Presumably, such advisors were present to assist the Council with its impending ILACS inspection. How well prepared is the Council such an inspection and what advice was received from the LGA peer review team?</p> <p>SUPPLEMENTARY: The answer arrived at 10:42pm yesterday evening, which is simply inadequate. The question was tabled 3 weeks ago. Cllr Howson also failed to attend the Performance and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to defend his budget measures. So my question is simple, is he actually doing his job?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES</p> <p>As a former teacher, I understand the value of 'mock' examinations for those students preparing for public examinations. Councillor Reeves is correct that in a similar vein three LGA advisors were invited to conduct a check, challenge and assurance visit to our service. The visit was very helpful and validated that we know ourselves well.</p> <p>RESPONSE: I had 25 different meetings last week and also attended the Children in Care Council Lunch with some of his councillors on Sunday, so yes, I think I am doing my job. For the benefit of Members in the chamber and I apologise for the glitch which meant the answer didn't get in by the 10:30am deadline yesterday morning. The answer to the question is: as a former teacher, I understand the values of mock examinations for those preparing for public examinations. Cllr Reeves is correct, and in a similar vein, three local government association advisory groups were invited to conduct a challenge and insurance visit to our service. The visit was very helpful and validated that we know ourselves well in this particular area and await the ILAPS inspection from the government which we now expect in January.</p>
<p>9. COUNCILLOR ANDREW COLES</p> <p>The 1st anniversary of the damage caused to Witney's historic main bridge,</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>Following making the area safe and recovery of the displaced stonework, to help prevent flooding, and considering the design for the repairs a quotation was</p>

when a drunk-driver crashed into it, has just passed. Could the Cabinet member please outline the timetable for repair.

requested from our term contractor, Milestone on 3 February 2023. Milestone have been chased and have indicated that they have been struggling obtaining quotations from suitable subcontractors and only eventually provided a quotation in September 2023 at which time an order was raised with Milestone to carry out the repairs. A programme for the works is being sought from Milestone, last chased this week at which time they were unable to indicate when they might be able to commence these works. Their proposed subcontractor for the works appears very busy and high current water levels are restricting access. My understanding is that Milestone are monitoring water levels with their subcontractor and giving consideration to other scheme priorities and available resources, such that they are currently unable to provide a start date. With us now entering a winter period, these works may not now potentially be able to start until next Spring/early summer. The works themselves could be carried out this winter if their subcontractor resource is available and water levels/flows drop such that the required access from the river can be obtained. Milestone will be regularly chased for a programme, but until I receive this, I am currently unable to give a clear indication of when these works might be carried out. Unfortunately, a number of bridge schemes have been similarly delayed and Milestone are making efforts to resolve their supply chain issues, with suitable subcontractors for bridgeworks.

SUPPLEMENTARY: Can I further ask if he [Cllr Gant] understands the deep frustrations locally about the length of time this is taking?

RESPONSE: Yes, absolutely I can, and I'd like to thank the Councillor for his persistence in pursuing this issue and many others for the benefit of his residents. I think officers have been completely up-front and completely open about the challenges that they face in fixing this bridge and of course, those delays are regrettable, and they've been perfectly clear with the Councillor about the reasons for it. Oxford has a lot of communities that were built by our forbearers by rivers; many of them have old bridges, some of which are not in a great condition. This kind of accident draws attention to that and highlights the complexity of trying to fix something that is frankly being used for a purpose it was never intended for. But once again, I'd just like to say I absolutely do appreciate the frustration of the delay here and will continue to work with the Councillor and officers to expedite it as much as I can.

<p>10. COUNCILLOR ANDREW COLES</p> <p>On Thursday 16th November 2023, a 10-year-old girl walking to school with an appropriate adult and two other children, was struck by a vehicle as they crossed the notorious 5-way roundabout in Witney. Fortunately, the car was traveling at a sensible speed and the child received no physical injuries other than being extremely shook-up. Obviously, on this occasion, the child was extremely lucky but it could so easily have been a very different situation.</p> <p>As part of the adopted Witney LCWIP, it was determined that the 5-way roundabout should give priority to pedestrians and cyclists crossing all the junctions. The plan is to install pedestrian crossing black and white markings around the entirety of the roundabout, making it very clear to motorists that they have got to give way to pedestrians entering and exiting all the entry points and crossings on the roundabout. Given the number of accidents, and near-misses, at this accident black-spot, is there any way that the council can prioritise this much-needed work before</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>The Witney LCWIP identifies significant improvement to the Fiveways Roundabout (Welch Way/ Corn Street/ Ducklington Lane/ Curbridge Road/ Tower Hill) is required and Scheme 4 proposes a roundabout with protected space for cycling (also known as a Dutch-style roundabout). Officers are utilising Capability and Ambition fund to conduct feasibility design for this scheme, which officers plan to conduct engagement on in 2024. This is likely to be a major scheme. In the interim, the Vision Zero project seeks to provide localised safety improvements at the roundabout which are currently being developed. Officers will engage the local member with updates as they become available.</p>
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<p>anyone else is injured?</p>											
<p>11. COUNCILLOR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW</p> <p>OCC is currently in the process of recruiting a 'Climate Change Team Leader' and a 'Climate Change Outreach Officer' with combined salaries not far short of £100k pa. Please confirm both the current and planned size of the team, and the current and planned annual wage bill.</p> <p>SUPPLEMENTARY: The total is thus £960,000 for the climate team for the entire year, which works out at £56,500 per officer per annum on average. Is that correct and does that include employer and national insurance contributions?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR PETE SUDBURY, DEPUTY LEADER and CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE DELIVERY & ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Thank you for your question. One of the posts in question (the Team Leader) will be the direct replacement for an officer who is retiring, the other will forge active links with residents, community groups and possible funding bodies.</p> <p>There are two components to the current budget: 810k of core OCC funding, and £150k of grant funding, between them for 17 posts (including the two being recruited). The total includes the officers coordinating centrally-funded home insulation retrofit, current value £3.5 million over 18 months.</p> <p>Next year's core funding is £965k, with at least £140k of grant funding, after which the core funding decreases and the planned level of grant funding increases as we build core capabilities and sustained funding streams.</p> <p>RESPONSE: I'm sure that the total will include the total cost of employing someone otherwise there would be over overhead budgets somewhere and I don't think you left the budget in that situation, so I can't imagine we would do anything other than absorb the overhead within the person themselves. However, I will check.</p>										
<p>12. COUNCILLOR EDDIE REEVES</p> <p>Please provide the levels of revenue savings reached in percentage terms in the current and each of the preceding four financial years (i.e. over the period 2019/20-2023/24 inclusive).</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAN LEVY, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE</p> <p>Below is the level of forecast revenue savings in 2023/24 and the actual level of achievement in the last four years.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="808 1289 1865 1401"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="808 1289 1435 1401">Financial Year</th> <th data-bbox="1435 1289 1570 1401">Planned Savings</th> <th data-bbox="1570 1289 1720 1401">Delivered Savings</th> <th data-bbox="1720 1289 1865 1401">Delivered Savings</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Financial Year	Planned Savings	Delivered Savings	Delivered Savings				
Financial Year	Planned Savings	Delivered Savings	Delivered Savings								

		£m	£m	%
	2023/24 (Sept 2023 forecast to November Cabinet)	28.2	20.0	71%
	2022/23 outturn report	17.8	7.6	43%
	2021/22 outturn report	16.1	13.7	85%
	2020/21 outturn report	21.8	21.3	98%
	2019/20 outturn report	36.8	30.5	83%

62% of the £10.2m savings not achieved in 2022/23 are now assessed to be delivered or are expected to be delivered in 2023/24. 38% (£3.9m) are assessed as amber or red with work on-going to achieve those where relevant. The impact of any anticipated on-going non-achievement has been included in the 2024/25 Budget & Business Planning process.

<p>SUPPLEMENTARY: In the last council term, 91% of savings targeted were achieved. The Outturn Report for last year shows only 43% of savings targeted were actually achieved by this Council. Does he take financial planning seriously at all?</p>	<p>RESPONSE: Yes, of course, we all take financial planning seriously and we wish what was forecast was achieved, but I can assure the Council that we and officers are working very hard to ensure that performance is improved. We will later on be discussing other areas of the budget and performance. Of course, we can do better and we will do better, but we should always remember why we are doing stuff and it is to look after the most vulnerable in our society.</p>
<p>13. COUNCILLOR ANDY GRAHAM</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member for Climate Change confirm what the benefits of the Tackley catchment area study undertaken by OCC are?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR PETE SUDBURY, DEPUTY LEADER and CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE DELIVERY & ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>We were asked to undertake a study and look at the area around Tackley by local councillors, which was completed and sent out in November 2023. It was not considered a formal Section 19 flood report under the Floods and Water Management Act 2010 as it was not directly linked to an event rather a study of the catchment flooding response.</p>

<p>SUPPLEMENTARY: Building on the actual good work of the officers that have brought about this catchment area study, which the Conservative administration previously did nothing about. So as we don't lose and we benefit from the work that has been done by officers, would you join me in the meeting that is now in the final stages of planning in January intactly, to expedite any potential outcome that the administration can be proud of?</p>	<p>Now that the report has been circulated to the parish and people have had time to consider the report the next steps is to have a meeting with the relevant authorities and the parish/local community. This will look to discuss the main findings and review the recommendations. Implementation of these recommendations will be dependent on the resources and funding in relation to delivery of these. As the LLFA we do not have any powers to undertake any works in relation to these recommendations however we aim to work with all Risk Management Authorities, landowners and the parish council where we are able to do so.</p> <p>RESPONSE: It would be a pleasure.</p>										
<p>14. COUNCILLOR TED FENTON</p> <p>On average, how many Blue Badge and Bus Pass applications are received per month by OCC? What percentage of applications in each category are approved and what are the main reasons</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR NEIL FAWCETT, CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY & CORPORATE SERVICES</p> <p>Thank you Cllr Fenton for your question. Officers have provided the high level figures as requested which reflect a high approval rate.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="813 1286 2011 1398"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="813 1286 1077 1398"></th> <th data-bbox="1077 1286 1301 1398">Average number received per</th> <th data-bbox="1301 1286 1491 1398">Average number approved</th> <th data-bbox="1491 1286 2011 1398">Reason for refusal</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="813 1398 1077 1398"></td> <td data-bbox="1077 1398 1301 1398"></td> <td data-bbox="1301 1398 1491 1398"></td> <td data-bbox="1491 1398 2011 1398"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Average number received per	Average number approved	Reason for refusal				
	Average number received per	Average number approved	Reason for refusal								

<p>for refusal in those cases which are not?</p> <p>SUPPLEMENTARY: Does he agree with me, given that it is a fairly simple thing to check, that we should be able to turn these things around more quickly for our residents where appropriate?</p>	<table border="1" data-bbox="815 212 2011 517"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>month</th> <th></th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Blue Badge</td> <td>407</td> <td>90%</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not meeting the criteria • Applying under the wrong criteria • Unable to supply supporting documents </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Concessionary Bus Passes</td> <td>580</td> <td>90%</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not meeting the criteria </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>RESPONSE: Yes, absolutely, it is in all of our interests, both the Council in terms of our efficiency and the residents, to complete these processes as quickly as we possibly can. The one thing I'd just add to the figures is that some of the 10% might well come back later and then get their blue-badge or their bus pass. As I think we have discussed previously, there are ongoing measures to try and streamline the process and step up the increasing support to libraries, for example, to help people who may be struggling at their end of the process. We will continue to do that and as I said, our aim is to deal with these things as quickly and efficiently and fairly as possible, but there will still be some people who apply for things who don't actually fit the criteria, so that will never be 100%.</p>		month			Blue Badge	407	90%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not meeting the criteria • Applying under the wrong criteria • Unable to supply supporting documents 	Concessionary Bus Passes	580	90%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not meeting the criteria
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<p>15. COUNCILLOR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW</p> <p>At Full Council in November I asked a question relating to the availability of data to support the council's £8m expenditure swapping 30mph signs for 20mph signs across the county. Your unquantified reply stated that the council has several</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>The control sites and the reduction in speed achieved at each site are available in spreadsheets that will be emailed to the Member – available to other Members on request.</p>												

<p>control sites where it continues to consider the impact of the introduction of the measures on the reduction of speed. Please be more specific and confirm the exact number of control sites and the reduction in speed achieved at each site.</p> <p>SUPPLEMENTARY: Are these two inconclusive reports all there is to justify your £8m sign-changing exercise?</p>	<p>RESPONSE: Well, they are certainly not all there is to justify the exercise. The justification for the exercise is that it saves lives. That's good enough for me, frankly.</p>
<p>16. COUNCILLOR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW</p> <p>On 16 November I received an email in relation to an ongoing road maintenance issue from a Highways officer stating: "...As previously hinted, we were restructured starting 1 November...", which rather surprised me, so I immediately followed it up with an email query to a senior officer, who replied: "Yes, the team is shifting into a new structure...".</p> <p>The change in responsibilities without prior notification has caused councillors problems getting Highways issues resolved.</p> <p>Why did the Cabinet Member not issue a notice of this reorganisation in advance of the changes?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>Thank you for your question. As you may be aware, Environment and Place Directorate have been undergoing a Transformation process in order to improve customer and stakeholder satisfaction levels and meet financial savings targets.</p> <p>The Highways Maintenance team have a number of officers in new roles - many of them starting in November. The operational detail of team structures is of course for the officers of the council to manage and I have asked the Corporate Director to run an all-Member briefing to explain the changes and identify new core contacts for different services across Environment and Place, and in particular Highway Maintenance. Use of reporting systems (such as FixMyStreet) should always be used to initially report defects or localised issues along with using the council's webpages to look up information before escalating to a specific team or officer. The County Council's Customer Contact Centre can also be contacted who will be able to respond directly or liaise with the relevant team.</p>

<p>SUPPLEMENTARY: Do you really stand by your defence of this lack of prior notification to councillors?</p>	<p>RESPONSE: Yes, paid service is a matter for the head of paid service.</p>
<p>17. COUNCILLOR SALLY POVOLOTSKY</p> <p>At a recent Thames Water Engagement event, in November, in East Hanney and Steventon (at Milton House Hotel), a ward councillor and members of the public were informed when engaged in one to one conversations with Thames Water staff / representatives that 'local councils' have received money from Thames Water for SESRO</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member please clarify if this statement is True or False?</p> <p>SUPPLEMENTARY: Can the Cabinet Member please clarify if the statement is true or false?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR PETE SUDBURY, DEPUTY LEADER and CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE DELIVERY & ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The Council regularly charges for officer time providing technical advice in respect of development proposals, in accordance with the Cabinet agreed schedule of fees and charges, and that is done here in the same way as is done for other development proposals. No special arrangements have been made with Thames Water outside of these provisions.</p> <p>RESPONSE: I think that you'll find it does answer the question. We are paid by Thames Water according to our schedule of fees. We have taken no other payments. It can't be clearer than that, Cllr Povolotsky.</p>
<p>18. COUNCILLOR EDDIE REEVES</p> <p>The Chancellor's Autumn Statement provided a welcome increase in the National Living Wage. With the cost of public services set to rise and economic growth likely to remain constant, is now</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LIZ LEFFMAN, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>It is evidentially the case that local government is facing unprecedented financial challenges and Oxfordshire County Council is not immune from this. Business cases for local government reorganisation are often based on revenue efficiencies but of course creating this case and delivering the move to unitary government for a place, is high cost, time consuming and potentially divisive. Our focus must be on ensuring</p>

<p>not the time to be seek greater efficiencies by returning to the question of unitary local government in Oxfordshire?</p> <p>SUPPLEMENTARY: Is she [Cllr Leffman] in favour of a unitary authority for Oxfordshire: yes or no?</p>	<p>that any devolution deals on offer from central government should be negotiated to enable the County becomes greener, fairer and healthier. The Future Oxfordshire Partnership is the established governance through which county-wide initiatives will be collaborated on.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Cllr Reeves, I think you make a great mistake in believing that unitarisation is a silver bullet. It absolutely is not, and I know of one council that has been put into this rather difficult situation by the previous Conservative administration who have to pick up the pieces, as actually what they've discovered is there's a huge amount of cost associated with becoming a unitary, and there are debts around the place from the various district councils that they've had to gather together. It is not a silver bullet. Moreover, I would also suggest that the government is now talking to councils like ourselves about the possibility of some kind of devolution deal that does not include unitarization, does not include a combined authority, does not include an elected mayor, says to me that the government is recognising that actually unitarisation is not the answer to every council. It is not the answer to this council. We will continue to work with our District and City partners to bring forward the proposals that we have on the table to make this Council greener, fairer and healthier.</p>
<p>19. COUNCILLOR IAN CORKIN</p> <p>Does the Leader agree with me that it is the role of cabinet members to lead at scrutiny, only calling on officer support for points of clarification and that such an approach is in line with accepted best practice?</p> <p>SUPPLEMENTARY: The Leader does not agree that Cabinet members should front-up, with officer support, to the</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LIZ LEFFMAN, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>No, I would not agree as it is not a stipulation of the legislation, the Council's Constitution, statutory guidance or the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny's 'Good scrutiny Guide'. It is clear that within the Council's Constitution there is no delineation of roles between Cabinet members and officers at Scrutiny; and they are each expected to attend and to explain as requested and as appropriate to any item of business.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Far from not trusting our officers, I absolutely trust their judgment. I absolutely trust our officers and their judgment. I think it is a perfectly adequate answer. There is no requirement in the Constitution to say that it should be Cabinet</p>

<p>scrutiny committees. Is it because you don't trust them, or is it because the wheels are coming off?</p>	<p>members that front-up, with the support of officers. If there is a reason for involving officers in an answer, then it is perfectly reasonable to ask for them to give it. I would actually just remind Cllr Bartholomew that he stood on this side of the council chamber a couple of years ago and described Cabinet members as 'volunteers'. We do not see ourselves as volunteers. We take our roles as Cabinet members very seriously indeed. We are not volunteers. We are here doing our jobs on pretty much a full-time basis, unlike the previous administration apparently. But we do respect our officers and we expect them to support us, which indeed they do extremely well.</p>
<p>20. COUNCILLOR MICHAEL O'CONNOR</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member outline how he intends to combat coach parking in residential areas—and will he commit to ending coach parking on residential roads such as Charlbury Road before Summer 2024?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>Issues around coach parking and movements around the city are being considered under the Central Oxfordshire Movement and Place strategy, which will be progressed next year. For coaches parking specifically in the Charlbury Road area, these issues are complex due to the historic demand and accommodations made by OCC for school coaches to drop off and pick up at different times of the day. We are working with the schools in the area to see whether changes to restrictions can be made which would deter other coaches taking the opportunity to park at other times of the day.</p>
<p>21. COUNCILLOR MICHAEL O'CONNOR</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member advise how many times the Community Asset Transfer process has been used to transfer assets for the purpose of building community housing—and whether he would be willing to encourage its use for such purposes?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAN LEVY, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE</p> <p>We have a Community Asset Transfer policy, which is in the process of being reviewed and updated. This policy identifies the process we adopt when considering letting vacant premises to community/voluntary sector organisations. These properties generally tend to be smaller buildings that lend themselves for conversion to residential use, and they need planning consent for conversion.</p> <p>For any vacant or underutilised sites that have been declared as surplus to requirement, we look at and appraise all the options available, mindful of our section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 responsibilities and local plans adopted</p>

<p>SUPPLEMENTARY: Would the Cabinet member be willing to review the Community Asset Transfer policy to make explicit mention of community and co-op housing?</p>	<p>identifying future land uses.</p> <p>Recent examples of considering land to support social housing are the former hostel site in Northfield, which is under offer for social housing. We have engaged with social home providers extensively prior to marketing vacant sites in Kidlington and Henley and have ongoing dialogue with the District Councils and Housing Associations in respect of land we have that could be suitable for social housing now and in the future. Additionally, we are having discussions with other public sector organisations in respect of working together to consider opportunities for key worker housing.</p> <p>We are open to discussing alternative types of housing provision, subject to our legal obligations, and I certainly think community-led housing (in which a community group develops, builds and then manages a property) could be a valuable part of that mix.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Yes, I think I've made it clear that it does. Instinctively, I would like to support community housing. I think it's a fantastic way of delivering additional houses and subject to meeting our obligations under the legislation, I'd be very willing to see that in a document, but we do always have to bear in mind that we are constrained by rules around local government and in particular, the need to get the best value we can when we dispose of land.</p>
<p>22. COUNCILLOR MICHAEL O'CONNOR</p> <p>Homelessness increased by 175% between 2010 and 2022 according to official figures from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. The situation has become especially acute in this past year. Many</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR TIM BEARDER, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE</p> <p>Homelessness is indeed of national concern.</p> <p>Some of the contributory factors to this are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cost of living crisis • Fuel poverty

district councils face mounting financial pressures due to the cost of temporary accommodation. Could the Cabinet Member tell me whether a review has been carried out of the implementation of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2021-26? Could he set out the key measures of success and whether he feels they have been met?

- The continuing increase in the use of foodbanks
- The over 3 year freeze in the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) leading to many private landlords leaving the market. (Unfrozen in the Autumn statement this year.)
- General affordability of suitable rented and move on accommodation
- A lack of available council accommodation

Following a recommendation from the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board (OSAB) the Housing Directors Group (HDG) was formed and charged with developing a Countywide Action Plan to tackle Homelessness & Rough Sleeping.

The HDG includes senior colleagues from the City and Districts, Public Health, NHS, Police, Probation, Adults and Children's services at OCC and is currently chaired by OCC's Deputy Director of Housing & Social Care Commissioning.

As you would expect, the action plan is a living adaptable plan that has undergone various iterations since its inception in order to react to the changing landscape and to establish priorities with focus, priorities and clear plan of delivery. The plan has been developed by the HDG and the Oxfordshire Homeless Alliance including the Lived Experience

The latest version has been presented to the Chief Executive group and OSAB.

The plan is split into 7 Strands;

- Accountability
- Accommodation and Commissioning
- Proactively Prevent Homelessness
- Timey Move-On
- The Right Home in the Right Place
- Delivery of Service – Rapid Response to Rough Sleeping
- Focus on the Person, not the Problem.

Using these strands, a set of 36 SMART actions have been developed for the life of the plan. (to 2026)

Of the 36 Actions, 2 have been completed and 9 have been agreed by those involved as priority actions for 2023/2024. At least in each of the 7 Strands. It should be noted that the original action plan had over 100 actions and the plan has been distilled to avoid duplications and amalgamated so that none of the original actions are lost. This has made it easier to navigate and prioritise.

The actions are primarily delivered through the Countywide Housing Steering Group (CWSG) and then reported to the HDG. The HDG give strategic direction and unblock any issues if they become “stuck”

Progress has been made on all of the 9 priority areas and are reported on a regular basis.

In brief the priority areas are as follows;

- Procure a Countywide data base on a by names approach
- Develop a strength based approach working with individuals
- Review current buildings held by the Alliance to ensure that they meet the needs of a housing led system
- Benchmarking exercise across all housing authorities to collect information on homeless prevention and produce a shared framework
- Further benchmarking collecting information on practice of mov-on planning and Personal Housing Plans.
- Develop a Countywide report on how to increase a range of arrange of affordable options for single homeless households
- Work with housing and support providers to develop and roll out a consistent and high fidelity model of Housing First.
- Establish and further develop a psychologically informed assessment in the

	<p>City and consider f Districts need similar services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure development of supported housing in line with Housing Led principles. <p>Successes:</p> <p>The Alliance is a true cooperative unique partnership across charities and the homeless pathway. Districts, City and County work collaboratively and treat homelessness as a shared issue and respond to it as a group. It adds strength to address rough sleeping and homelessness.</p> <p>This is the second year of the partnership the and Alliance group has been working on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rough sleepers (data from June 2023): Numbers are down in the Districts. Compared the to the South East; the in average increase in numbers of rough sleepers in Oxfordshire are lower than increase in numbers in South East. • Shared training and upskilling of all their staff. • A Single access panel to manage referrals. • Collaborative approach by the Alliance group in addressing and supporting people with complex needs (this is from staff delivering the services in the ground to senior managers). • Having in place the Out of Hospital Care Model; this team had increased in the last year to address the need to support the discharge of people with complex needs who have no home ; also the number of stepdown bed and step up beds increased from 4 beds to 24 beds. <p>Working in partnership with Health colleagues we are appointing a Strategic Commissioning Officer (Integrated Homeless Services). This post is a 12 month project jointly funded with the Better Care Fund (BCF). The post holder, among other things, will be mapping the services available for homeless households with a focus on prevention of hospital admissions and</p>
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	<p>ensuring move on out of hospital.</p> <p>In addition, using Health money from the Advance Discharge Fund (ADF) we are due to appoint 2 18 Month posts; Strategic Lead - Housing Commissioning and a Commissioning Officer – Housing. These officers will be helping with the creation of an accommodation framework to ensure we are able to commission services for those in the most need. The right homes for the right people in the right place.</p> <p>These are the key measures of success and I am satisfied that considerable progress is being made as demonstrated above.</p>
<p>23. COUNCILLOR GLYNIS PHILLIPS</p> <p>I was pleased to see that the Barton Advice Centre shared £300k grant funding with other Advice Centres across the County in this financial year. This was in recognition of the increased demand for their services because of the cost of living crisis. Given that the cost of living crisis is still a harsh reality for many, is Cabinet planning to continue supporting advice centres in the next financial year?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR NATHAN LEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, INEQUALITIES & COMMUNITY SAFETY</p> <p>The £300,000 of funding towards advice centres was part of a much broader Cost of Living programme funded by the government’s Household Support Fund (£6.72m) and additional council funding of £2.8m. This has enabled an extensive programme of support to be delivered. We have been advised that there will be no Household Support Funding in 2024/25, so it will not be possible to provide a programme with the same level of support as this year. As such, it is unlikely that there will be additional funding for advice services next year.</p> <p>The council already funds the provision of advice services through one contract and one grant funding agreement which total £310,231. These are the Oxfordshire Adult Specialist Advice Service commissioned by Adult Social Care, and the Benefits in Place programme grant funded by Public Health.</p> <p>The Oxfordshire Specialist Advice Service is commissioned by Adult Social Care to provide free, independent and impartial advice to assist people with benefits, debt, budgeting and other financial and welfare issues, and specialist intervention, thereby maximising incomes and helping people to make the best use of the money available</p>

<p>SUPPLEMENTARY: Given that we are in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis and the estimate for unclaimed benefit varies between £7bn and £19bn in the UK, is there anyway that the recommissioning of the Oxfordshire Specialist Advice Service in November can be targeted to meet the needs of our most disadvantaged residents?</p>	<p>to them.</p> <p>Benefits in Place (BiP) is an advice service which aims to reduce the health inequalities of individuals suffering financial hardship, by maximising service user's income and improving their wellbeing and health. The service offers a county-wide digital connector and referral system for Health Professionals, foodbanks, pharmacies, social prescribers, and other place-based organisations.</p> <p>The re-commissioning of the Oxfordshire Specialist Advice Service (due in November 2024) presents an opportunity for Adult Social Care and Public Health to work together to provide a longer term and more sustainable funding offer to the advice services sector through a jointly procured contract rather than two separate arrangements.</p> <p>We are currently in the stages of putting together a business plan and determining the available budget and contract length for this joined up approach. We held a stakeholder event on 12th October which has helped to shape our plans. The business case will explore the various options for procurement including whether the procurement is in lots or one whole service that can be bid for and will be taken for a lead member decision in Jan/Feb 2024.</p> <p>RESPONSE: We'll go away and think about that for sure. The broader picture is that we're putting together the Business Plan in the budget available for next year. The government haven't said that there's any funds available yet, so we will be more restricted in what we have to offer but we'll definitely listen to ideas.</p>
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<p>24. COUNCILLOR GLYNIS PHILLIPS</p> <p>You are aware of the ongoing safety issues affecting school children, pedestrians, and cyclists living in Barton Park. A resident has sent you a comprehensive list of accidents - the latest on 14 November - and near misses going back over 3 years. Can you advise what measures are in place to reduce traffic speed at the Barton Park/Northway junction?</p> <p>Have you talked to the police about enforcing the 20mph speed limit along Barton Fields Road and especially outside the Barton Park Primary School and what has been done to install measures to keep our children safe?</p> <p>SUPPLEMENTARY: To ask if you agree to meet with me, the Headteacher of Barton Park Primary School and other residents to discuss the options for making residents in this community to feel safer?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>Barton Fields Road is not yet adopted highway, so responsibility still lies with the developer Grosvenor. There is a Traffic Regulation Order in place for the 20mph speed limit, so in theory, enforcement can already take place. Barton Fields Road has been designed with a 20mph speed limited in mind, with the alignment of the road outside the school designed to calm traffic speeds.</p> <p>With regards to the Northway/Barton Fields Road junction, the speed limit has been dropped to 50mph and there is a no 'U-turn' Traffic Regulation Order in place to help prevent unauthorised vehicle movements. ANPR monitoring of this junction is planned and will be installed once the works have been adopted.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Yes, absolutely. I'd be delighted to do that at the earliest possible opportunity.</p>
<p>25. COUNCILLOR IAN CORKIN</p> <p>It is now more than 12 months since the Fair Deal Alliance spent £30,000 of</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR NEIL FAWCETT, CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY & CORPORATE SERVICES</p> <p>The 'Living Wall/Parklet', was outside County Hall in Oxford from August 2022 – December 2022.</p>

<p>council tax payers money building a “living wall” in the councillors carpark at County Hall. At the time, it was claimed they were “trailing green infrastructure that could potentially improve air quality in areas most in need of improvement” and that the “£30,000 price tag includes the full cost of the pilot and a subsequent review”.</p> <p>Could the cabinet member for Climate Change, Delivery & Environment please:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment on the efficacy of that specific structure in improving air quality around County Hall • Make available to all members a copy, or link to, the subsequent review • Confirm how the structure has been used since it was removed from the councillors carpark • Confirm its whereabouts now 	<p>Project Principles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor air quality is the largest environmental risk to public health in the UK, as long-term exposure can cause chronic conditions such as cardiovascular and respiratory diseases as well as lung cancer, leading to reduced life expectancy. Recent modelling by Kings College London (2019) exploring the health impacts of air pollution, estimates that roadside air pollution in Oxford stunts lung growth in children by 14.1% and living near busy roads within the city increases the risk of hospitalisation from stroke by 7.4% • The Living Wall was designed to demonstrate what can be achieved using green infrastructure in a small space. Using specific plants, sensors, and renewable energy, it tackles air pollution while increasing wellbeing. The Proof-of-Concept was equipped with sensors monitoring air bound pollutants, pollution and soil fertility, moisture, growing conditions, and the weather. The whole system was self-contained and ‘circular’, meaning the main living wall runs and waters itself. • This Parklet was a demonstrator but also a functional unit that collected data on Particulate Matter (PM2.5), weather, including precipitation, UV, wind speed, as well as soil health, water quality, moisture and energy generated from solar. The plants used are known for their adaptive absorption of pollinations and some of the soils used add benefits like water retention, as well as being more sustainable, peat free or by products from industrial food processes (like Coir). <p>Project Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of the pilot was to gather evidence of whether green infrastructure can improve air quality in areas most in need of improvement and identify projects which are likely to have the greatest environmental
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	<p>impact. The evidence can then support responsible decision making and potential business models. These could include the use of moss to reduce cost of verge maintenance whilst ensuring both continued highway visibility and the co-benefits of green infrastructure evidenced in this pilot.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project provided data that improves LA knowledge of air quality, and the steps and measures LA can implement to reduce exposure to air pollution and Particulate Matter (PM) • The objective of the was pilot to evidence how green infrastructure can improve air quality in areas most in need of improvement and identify projects which are likely to have the greatest environmental impact. The evidence can then support potential other business models. <p>Project Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live Data Monitoring: Live data and monitoring of the walls was an important part of this project –The live dashboard combined data primarily focus on air quality. • Following a review of the project the results from the County Hall installation, using the Living Wall’s sensors, showed that air quality improved by 10-20 per cent. On some occasions this level was even higher. • The project achieved its objectives by building up evidence to show the impact living walls can have for areas of high pollution. It also provided useful feedback on roadside planting, for projects such as Oxford’s Broad Street pedestrianisation. Installations as part of existing infrastructures, for example installing moss wall panels on the side of the buildings and the potential for other installations including green bus stops. <p>Lessons Learned</p>
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<p>SUPPLEMENTARY: Will you please undertake to share that data and if it's proved right, I will attend the vegan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The prototype triggered some adverse reaction as well as positive responses. A more proactive approach could have been taken in communications in order to ensure proper understanding of the benefits. • Additional benefits that could be explored in subsequent research: Benefits in placemaking, including mental health and community enhancement. Green infrastructure and green spaces have been shown to improve local experience and provide health benefits. Acoustic benefits, especially close to busy areas: Moss walls may be able to reduce noise pollution. Some of the above might be beneficial to indoor as well as outdoor spaces. <p>Follow Up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once the Living Wall was removed we explored other use cases for the structure including detailed discussions with Oxford Brookes University's School of Architecture (part of the Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment), where it could help researchers continue to investigate how green infrastructure can improve air quality. Although discussions around this progressed Brookes decided that the timing was not right for installation and the location available was not suitable to make the highest impact. The structure has not been used since and has been kept in storage, free of charge, by the environmental consultants who built the structure. <p>It has been an important project in helping understanding how green infrastructure can not only influence place making but also support/evidence future opportunities for a Zero Carbon Oxfordshire.</p> <p>RESPONSE: I'm not sure what the supplementary was in that. I guess that the fundamental question was that of value of money to the Council. The answer to that is that it depends on how useful the outcome is. I'm not a scientist so I haven't looked through lots of data on the efficacy of the outcome. The people who did the trial were</p>
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<p>lunches until 2025.</p>	<p>and without having reason not to trust them, I trust the outcome they come to. I very much hope that the research which was done proves to be useful in other settings. I know there is a science behind the interaction of plants and air quality, and obviously it would be good if we can find ways to use plants more effectively to improve air quality. In the long-term, this may turn out to be good value for money or it may not.</p>
<p>26. COUNCILLOR TED FENTON</p> <p>To what extent is the Oxfordshire Library Service reliant on volunteers rather than paid staff?</p> <p>SUPPLEMENTARY: To what extent is the Oxfordshire Library Service reliant on volunteers rather than paid staff?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR NEIL FAWCETT, CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY & CORPORATE SERVICES</p> <p>Thank you Cllr Fenton for your question and I am very pleased to confirm that Oxfordshire Library Service is fortunate to benefit from the support of over 800 volunteers, who collectively provided 18,851 hours of volunteering support to libraries during 2022-23. Whilst these levels are down on pre-pandemic levels (1,144 volunteers, providing 34,476 hours support in 2019-20) they are still substantive and demonstrate a fabulous commitment from them to support their local communities.</p> <p>Around half of the volunteer support is focused on enhancing our activities and events programme across the entire branch network. This includes such volunteering roles as rhymetime, code club, family history, reading groups and digital helpers. The rest of the support goes towards sustaining our current level of opening hours and core operational delivery in our 22 Community Supported Libraries. This sees volunteers working alongside council staff at those sites, and through Friends Groups who coordinate the volunteers and, in some cases, fundraise to supplement staffing budgets at those libraries.</p> <p>RESPONSE: The key figures are that we currently have the support of over 800 volunteers supporting activities in our library service, who between them provide 18,851 hours of volunteering support in the 2022-23 year, which is absolutely fantastic and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank them and Cllr Fenton for giving me the opportunity to say that. Around ½ of their work is by supporting extra-curricular activities in our libraries, such as our volunteers who help people with digital learning and as we mentioned earlier, helping with things like bus pass applications and so on. ½ also helps to sustain opening hours and core library</p>

	<p>functions, mainly in the half of our libraries which are smaller. The figures are below the level that we got up to pre-pandemic. Obviously, there was then a drop-off, particularly because there were periods of closure, and the team are basically trying to build those numbers back up. But yes, volunteers play an incredibly important part in helping us still have a service and in the long run and future direction of local government funding, I suspect we will rely on them even more in the future and we need to ensure that we operate in a way that recruits and supports and retains them in providing that support to our service.</p>
<p>27. COUNCILLOR FREDDIE VAN MIERLO</p> <p>How does International Recruitment impact on social care, particularly adult social care and the associated workforce? In considering this, how is the Council identifying and recognising risks associated with international recruitment of overseas staff and how are those risks being managed and mitigated?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR TIM BEARDER, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE</p> <p>Before answering the specific question of international recruitment, it is worth taking a moment to reflect on some of the broader political and economic factors that have had, and continue to have, an impact on health and social care here in the UK.</p> <p>The two biggest of these are undoubtedly the impacts of Brexit and the Covid pandemic. There has been much written around these subjects, and it is not the intention to repeat those arguments here but it is worthwhile considering the impacts that continue to be observed together with the further shocks of energy cost hikes resulting from the Russia and Ukraine conflict.</p> <p>Due to the timing of Brexit and the Covid Pandemic, it remains difficult to separate the two in terms of impact on the economy. However, there are some economic models that show a decrease in GDP is evident (some sources cite a reduction of 5.2%/ £3bn in the final quarter of 2021), therefore limiting the headroom government has to increase health funding. Indeed, funding programmes remain short term and pressure driven which lends weight to this view. As has been well publicised, there remains a need for a greater level of funding in the Social Care Sector and a comprehensive national workforce plan.</p> <p>This is also a view that Brexit has exacerbated the financial pressures of the cost-of-living crisis on many people, leaving many with the choice of heating their homes or</p>

eating. Some sources have estimated that by the end of 2021, Brexit had added £210 to the average annual food bill. With the Russia, Ukraine conflict and the resulting impact on the supply and cost of energy supplies, the cost of living remains high with no signs of immediate easing. This has its own obvious impacts on the health outcomes of individuals, particularly amongst the most vulnerable.

However, whilst the Council has been successful in stabilising the local provider market, this does stand in a delicate position. Recent announcements, including an increase in the national minimum wage, will likely add pressure to local government and social care pay.

We would therefore echo the calls made in the ADASS (Association of Directors of Adult Social Services) Spring Survey 2023; to improve social care, boost our economy and enable carers to continue working Government needs to commit to increasing support to carers and improve workforce pay: recognising that international recruitment is a key part of building workforce capacity but is not a long-term fix together with a fully funded, long-term plan to transform social care to ensure everyone in England can get the care and support they need when they need it.

Turning to the workforce, concerns were voiced from the outset as to the effect Brexit would have on the UK's health and social care workforce, with an already high dependence on health workers from abroad and the ending of free movement between the EU member states. This has been addressed in changes to the Visa rules but whilst there has been a surge in international recruits, there are questions about the ethics of recruiting from countries that are themselves facing often critical shortages of health workers together with a number of inherent risks that need to be recognised and managed.

With well publicised shortages across the adult social care sector, many providers are recruiting from overseas following a change in Visa rules and the addition of Adult Social Care workers to the Shortage Occupation List in February 2022.

There are a number of factors that both employers and employees need to be aware of when considering international recruitment, due to the complex nature of the process. These include:

- High costs of recruitment (Average cost £6k per employee)
- HR/ Admin Resource
- Management of expiration and renewal timeframes e.g.
 - Certificates of Sponsorship are valid for 12 months (renewal requests should be made within 3 months of expiry)
 - Skilled Worker Visa renewal applications up to 60 days before expiration
- Pastoral care and support
- Training (including culture)

Costs to be paid as an employer include the Sponsor Licence, Certificate of Sponsorship and Immigration Skills Charge. The application costs for a sponsorship licence will vary depending on size of business from £536 for an organisation employing 50 or less with assets under 5m to £1476 for larger organisations.

Whilst international recruitment offers opportunities to grow and diversify the adult social care (and broader health and social care) workforce, there are inherent risks that need to be recognised and managed. We are aware The CQC has noted a significant rise in referrals of modern slavery abuses towards overseas care workers and several stories have made the national news of late.

Some of these risks, already identified by the Council and our partners include:

- Failure by sponsoring employers to follow the correct legal framework and processes as set out by the Home Office resulting in suspension/ revocation of licences
- Poor understanding or of the legal framework and duties by the employee resulting in breaches of contract
- Poor information sharing between central government and local authorities around individual license suspensions and revocations

It is important to note that issues with licenses does not automatically mean there is an instance of exploitation. To date, the Council is not aware of an instance where relevant bodies have prosecuted a modern slavery case in County. Should the Council become aware of such practices it would consider it a material breach and would terminate arrangements with immediate effect.

The Council is committed to supporting out providers in the recruitment of international employees as an important way of developing capacity within the workforce here in Oxfordshire.

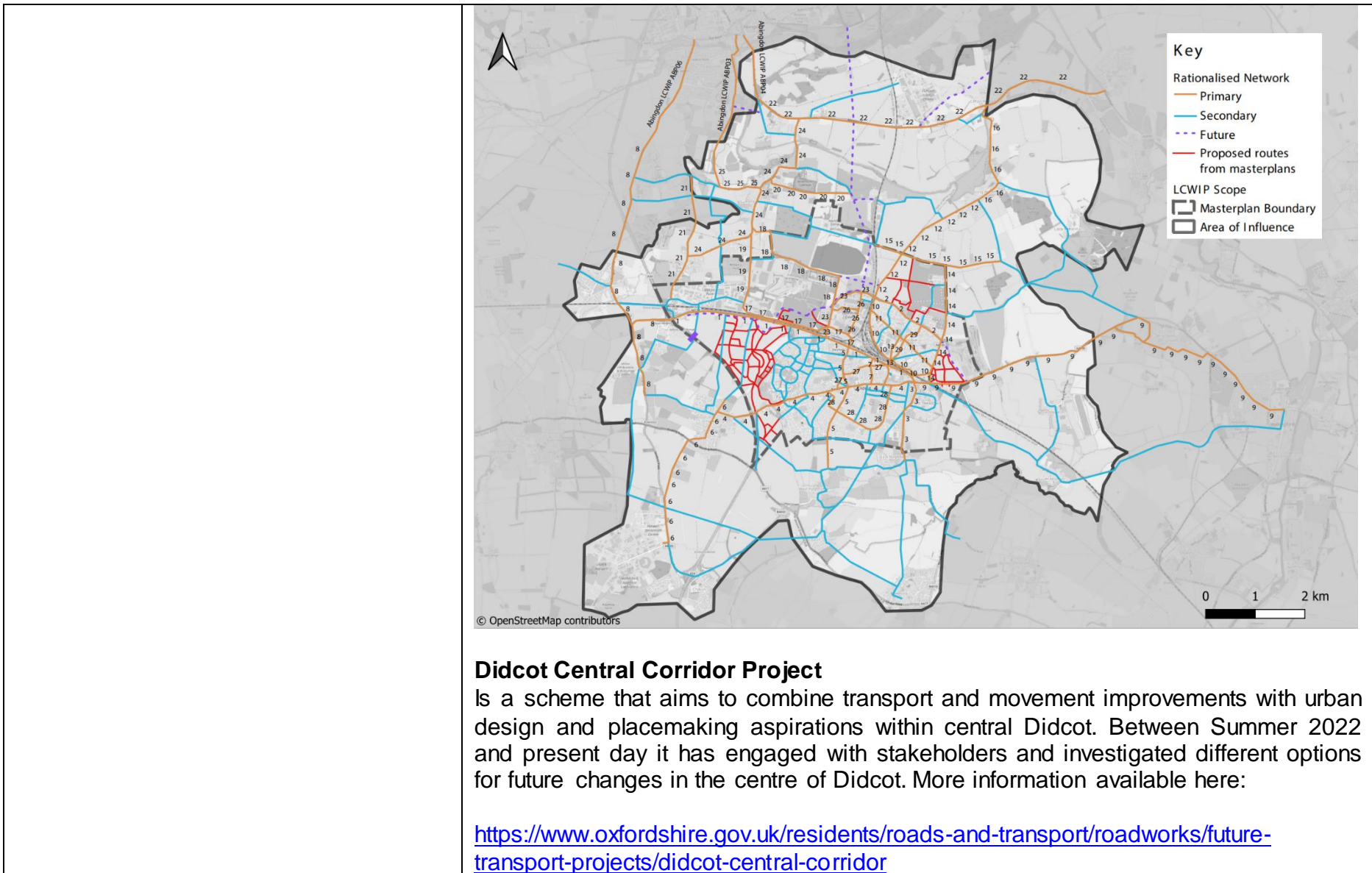
The Council has an Ethical Procurement and Modern Slavery statement, currently in the process of being updated.

Within procurement frameworks and service specifications, as relate to adult social care, the Council clearly states that providers, within its supply chain, shall adhere to all and any applicable legislation and policy guidance in relation to the recruitment and management of staff. Where there is an opportunity for a specification to include conditions relating to workforce, international recruitment and modern slavery are referenced.

Under the Visa and Certificate of Sponsorship rules there are a number of eligibility criteria that need to be met by both the employer and the potential employee. The Council recognises this can be a complex area and are working with our numerous

	<p>partners and stakeholders to ensure that we are up-dating existing initiatives, identifying new risk and continuously seeking to mitigate and newly identified risks.</p> <p>In particular, the Council is working closely with SE ADASS, Oxfordshire Association of Care Providers, Skills for Care, Oxford City Council and other agencies such as the Police Service</p> <p>The council's Quality Improvement Team will uncover issues related to these workers through their monitoring of the providers we engage with. These findings will be shared with our partners such as Oxford City Council, Safeguarding and the Police to ensure that appropriate action is taken. We can also ensure that those workers are given the advice they need to understand their rights, their options and where they can go for more help.</p> <p>The council can, and has, used this information as justification to terminate or suspend contracts with a provider that violates these workers rights.</p> <p>In addition, we are promoting webinars for providers and distributing leaflets to workers to help raise awareness of mistreatment of workers. We are improving the flow of information from Home Office through our connections with ADASS and using digital solutions to better understand the risk posed by license revocation through development of the Capacity Tracker, PowerBI tools and the publicly available UKVI licensee list.</p> <p>The Council is committed to continuing the work with our Partners to ensure key issues are addressed. Through our partnerships we continue to raise the issues and share learnings back to central government.</p>
<p>28. COUNCILLOR ROBIN BENNETT</p> <p>Is there any update on the creation of a safe road crossing for the A415 at Tollgate Road, Culham, in particular for</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>The newly formed Highway Schemes team is aware of the request for a safe road crossing for the A415 at Tollgate Road, Culham and the initial £100k S106 contribution. This request will be added to the team's list of potential scheme</p>

<p>those walking and cycling towards Europa School?</p>	<p>investigations for the 2024/25 financial year. However, it should be noted that £100k isn't likely to be sufficient to provide a pedestrian and cyclist crossing at the signal junction and therefore further funding will need to be identified. Going forward, Matt Archer, Operational Manager, Highway Schemes can be contacted for further information.</p>
<p>29. COUNCILLOR ROBIN BENNETT</p> <p>When can local residents expect more information about the Didcot Area Travel Plan, including in the area affected by HIF1?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR JUDY ROBERTS, CABINET MEMBER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY</p> <p>The Didcot Area Travel Plan (DATP) is a collection of multiple projects that all feed into the creation of a holistic transport strategy for the area. Some of these ongoing projects are explained below, and links provided to relevant information.</p> <p>Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) Between October 2022 and present day, OCC Officers have been working with the Didcot Garden Town Team and their consultant in the creation of the first Didcot Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). This has included site visits and auditing of routes, the creation of and regular meetings of a steering group, and two public consultations. The Didcot LCWIP is being considered for approval at OCC Cabinet Member Decision on Thursday 14th December by Cllr Andrew Gant. The LCWIP is a core key component of the DATP, ultimately helping to promote and deliver a significantly improved walking, wheeling and cycling network in this area, as funding allows. It helps with securing funding towards walking, wheeling and cycling schemes in the area from Government funding opportunities, developers, and other funding sources.</p> <p>The documents are available on the OCC CMD agenda webpage here: https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=29083</p> <p>This is an extract from the LCWIP (Appendix B) showing the identified routes:</p>



Didcot Central Corridor Project

Is a scheme that aims to combine transport and movement improvements with urban design and placemaking aspirations within central Didcot. Between Summer 2022 and present day it has engaged with stakeholders and investigated different options for future changes in the centre of Didcot. More information available here:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/roadworks/future-transport-projects/didcot-central-corridor>

<https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/didcot-central-corridor>

Strategic Active Travel Network

The Strategic Active Travel Network (SATN) is a long-term plan for a network of walking and cycling routes across Oxfordshire, including many in and around the Didcot area. This work has been underway from approximately December 2022 to present, with the final consultation July-August 2023. More information available here: <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/satn>

Mobility Hubs

Also known as Transport Hubs, are places where modal interchange occurs. Work is ongoing countywide, including the DATP area, to identify potential locations for future mobility hubs.

Stakeholder Workshops

As a first stage in creating a DATP, a project to understand the existing transport situation and to gain local stakeholder views of the transport issues (current and future) in the area was undertaken. After preparatory work, ten stakeholder workshops were held between November 2022 and January 2023 to help inform the DATP at an early stage. Each workshop had an introductory presentation to set out the transport context behind the Didcot Area Travel Plan. This ensured stakeholders were up to speed with current major transport schemes that are being built or planned for, and underlying policy drivers such as the Climate Emergency and some of the key principles in the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP). The following five questions were used to structure an interactive part of the workshops. These questions are largely mode based, to ensure that discussions and subsequent input covered a wide range of transport elements.

- Do existing routes enable you to easily travel by active transport modes?
- Does the existing bus network enable you to easily travel to key destinations?

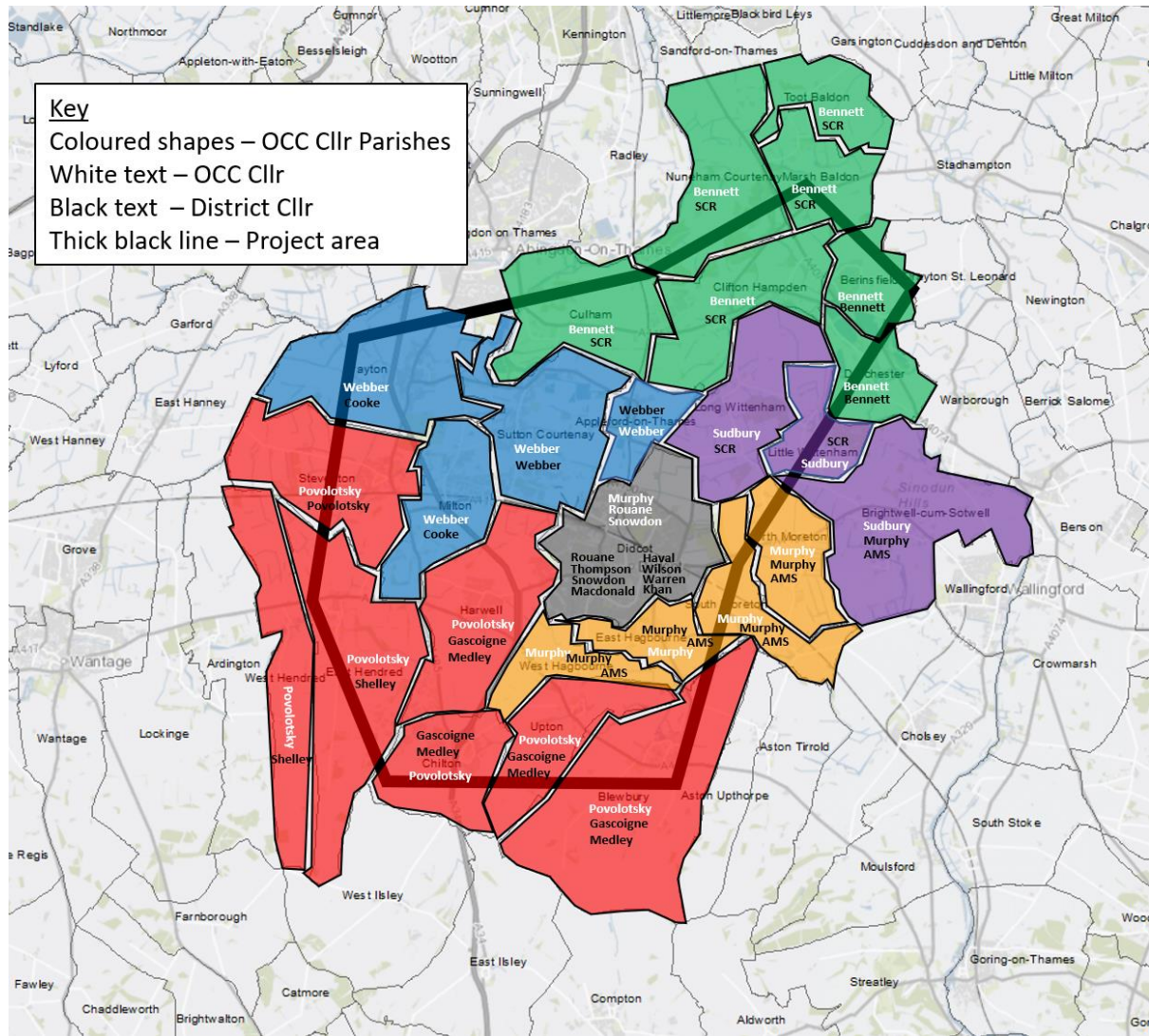
- How accessible is the existing rail network?
- How can transport hubs be implemented?
- Discussion on demand management measures.

The responses from this exercise will be used to inform future DATP work.

Over 100 stakeholders were invited to participate in these workshops to help inform the DATP including:

- All OCC Councillors within the plan area (see map below)
- All District Councillors within the plan area (see map below)
- All Parish Councils in the plan area (see map below)
- Didcot Town Councillors (see map below)
- Milton Park
- Culham Science Centre
- Harwell Science and Innovation Campus
- Didcot Garden Town Sounding Board for Businesses
- Didcot First
- Didcot Chamber of Commerce
- South and Vale District Council Officers
- Schools
- Bus and rail operators
- Walking and Cycling user groups
- Disability groups
- Sustrans
- British Horse Society
- Emergency Services

The coloured polygons on this map show the Parish Councils that were invited to participate in workshops, and the OCC and District Councillors also invited to the workshops:



<p>SUPPLEMENTARY: Will you work with local members, myself and Vale councils to locate and release infrastructure funding to actually make sure some of these schemes do actually happen?</p>	<p>Team Restructure Throughout 2022 and 2023 a restructure has been ongoing within Oxfordshire County Council, with the most relevant to the DATP project being the creation of a specific 'Travel Plans Team Area' tasked with the responsibility for writing the plans (including DATP) aligned with LTCP. When in post, these Officers will be able to help further progress the DATP by pulling together the many interlinked projects. Policy 52 of the LTCP, available at the following link, helps to explain some of the elements and purposes of the Area Travel Plans: https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/file/roads-and-transport-connecting-oxfordshire/LocalTransportandConnectivityPlan.pdf</p> <p>Officers are working to create an interim report on the Didcot Area Travel Plan explaining the progress to date, explaining the links between many ongoing projects in this area, and to set out the future work required including further stakeholder engagement. This is expected to be available in February / March 2024. The full Didcot Area Travel Plan completion is linked to successful recruitment into the new 'Area Travel Plans Team' which was recently created through the staff restructure, but does not currently have any posts filled.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Yes, of course I will assure you that I'd love to work on those as well and having been to the two scrutiny meetings this week, I'm very keen to put a real highlight on areas that may well help to deliver some of these projects.</p>
<p>30. COUNCILLOR ROBIN BENNETT</p> <p>Many villages in my division are keen to hear the status of the new Minerals and Waste Plan, can you provide an update on where this process has got to?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR PETE SUDBURY, DEPUTY LEADER and CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE DELIVERY & ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Work continues on the Minerals and Waste Local Plan including preparing the evidence base, assessing the effectiveness of existing policies and reviewing the various sites that have been submitted for consideration to date. We are also awaiting a new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and a proposed change</p>

	<p>to the plan-making system that we need to consider in terms how these may impact on timescales for the plan. We are expecting the updated NPPF to be released before the end of the year at which point we will consider further any implications that arise from it. Notwithstanding this, the next step in the process is to have further engagement to take place with our residents and other stakeholders on the vision and objectives for the plan, which are officers are preparing to undertake in the new year.</p>
<p>31. COUNCILLOR IAN MIDDLETON</p> <p>Flooding is now a major concern in many areas of the county including in my division in Yarnton where a proposed development on Spring Hill (the clue is in the name) in Begbroke threatens to make existing flood threats in the villages below even worse in years to come. Yet in official responses to such applications, planning authorities have to rely on inadequate and outdated provisions in the NPPF which fail to take account of the rapidly worsening situation across the country as a result of climate change. Does the Cabinet Member agree that as the Lead Local Flood Authority we should be given far greater preventative powers to resist applications in such areas and in the meantime could he apply pressure for a more forceful intervention by OCC on grounds of flood risk in the case of the Spring Hill application which is currently</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR PETE SUDBURY, DEPUTY LEADER and CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE DELIVERY & ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>As the Lead Local Flood Authority, Oxfordshire County Council has a statutory consultee role for major development in relation to the surface water drainage of that development including the use of SuDS. In this role we follow the National and Local Standards in relation to the requirements for runoff and utilising SuDS measures. The LLFA is not responsible for setting policies in relation to planning.</p> <p>Planning policy locally for new development is set by the Local planning authority in this instance Cherwell DC where they are able to set their own local requirements for sites and allocate development appropriately. The evidence for this should be set out in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment that sets out the existing flood risk, supports policy in relation to planning matters and should be considered a living document. This is the mechanism for resisting inappropriate development.</p> <p>In planning terms new development does not have to improve existing issues only make sure that it does not increase flood risk. Both National and local standards include allowances for climate change.</p> <p>The LLFA remit is to provide an assessment of the surface water proposals and whether they meet the standards. The onus in planning is on the developer to provide information that shows this. In this instance based on the information we have received the proposals meet those standards.</p>

<p>going through planning appeal having so far been refused on other grounds?</p> <p>SUPPLEMENTARY: Should we not be lobbying government about the requirements on developments for improvements in known historical flooding areas rather than just accepting assumptions that they will not make things worse?</p>	<p>As the LLFA we have other roles under the Flood and water management act to investigate flooding incidents and we are currently working with the District and Yarnton flood defence group on these matters.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Yes.</p>
<p>32. COUNCILLOR IAN MIDDLETON</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member provide me with a progress update on plans to install a much needed controlled crossing across the A44 in Begbroke which was approved for funding around a year ago and has since been further approved after the consultation process?</p> <p>SUPPLEMENTARY: Could Cllr Gant please give me his reassurance that the funding for the project is absolutely secure and provide a definitive timescale for the completion of the project as soon as possible?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>We have had recent issues with our third party signal designers Telent, who took a lot longer over their element of the design than anticipated, this has meant the programme has slipped. However, I can report that have very recently just received their design, which will allow us to finalise the overall design, and to progress the project.</p> <p>Unfortunately this has meant the delivery of the project has slipped into the next financial year, that said, with CMD approval and budget confirmed, we are committed to delivering this project as practically, and as soon as possible, I will shortly be updating the programme to inform the Cllr Middleton.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Yes, as it says in the answer, the CMD approval and the budget are confirmed. I'd like to thank him for his championship of what he has quite rightly described as a much-needed controlled crossing. I'll be out there to meet with the Parish Council at least once, possibly twice myself and it's very disappointing that it's slipped because of the failure of an external contractor.</p>

<p>33. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>Our council has money to give out to residents who are 'struggling with living costs'. However, they can apply only if they have 'no other income or savings'. Please can you tell me who this is aimed at, whether the information is reaching them and how much take-up there has been so far?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR NATHAN LEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, INEQUALITIES & COMMUNITY SAFETY</p> <p>The Residents Support Scheme was established in June this year to enable anyone experiencing crisis to apply for help with the cost of food, energy or essential household items. This is an emergency fund aimed at ensuring that support goes to those experiencing crisis and most in need. We do not have the resources to 'top-up' general incomes or means tested benefits and so we fully acknowledge that this scheme cannot possibly support all of those struggling. As such, people need to demonstrate that they have no other way of paying for the help they are requesting. This approach ensures that the fund will be available throughout the year, and enables residents to be signposted to other forms of support that they haven't taken up.</p> <p>We have seen good take up of the scheme. We have built publicity gradually so that we build to a sustainable application level. Up to the end of October we had received 2,238 applications and have paid out £255,000 in support. Applications are ramping up; we saw almost double the number in October compared to September. The scheme is promoted through a range of partners including Advice centres, city and district councils, social prescribers, housing associations and other third sector support organisations. We also have adverts up in libraries, community centres and GP surgeries.</p> <p>In addition to the Resident Support Scheme, the wider Cost of Living programme for 2023/24 also provides the following support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food support for families in the school holidays if they are entitled to Free School Meals • A Cost of Living payment of £450 to recipients of Housing Benefit, and no other benefits. This group is not eligible for the government cost of living
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<p>SUPPLEMENTARY: Can the County Council please provide long-term grant aid to these advice centres as it used to?</p>	<p>payments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for Better Housing Better Health • Funding for VCS Advice Centres • Hospital Discharge Support • Funding to provide additional reduction to Council tax bills for people receiving Council Tax Support • Doubling the Discretionary Housing Payment funding received by the city and district councils • Delegated funding for the city and district councils to spend on Cost of Living initiatives • Additional funding for the Oxfordshire Community Fund’s Cost of Living grants programme <p>Further details of the programme are set out in a recent report to Scrutiny.</p> <p>RESPONSE: I can’t make that guarantee right now, but I’ll definitely look it up.</p>
<p>34. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>Greater Manchester has introduced a £1-a-night levy on hotels and serviced apartments. Are we lobbying the government to be allowed to do the same, and if so, what has the response been?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAN LEVY, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE</p> <p>A levy on visitors appears to be an excellent suggestion. However it isn't clear that we have the legal powers to raise such a levy, and nor is it clear whether such powers would reside with the County Council or with Oxford City and the other district councils.</p> <p>Manchester's charge is designed to fund the innovative Manchester Accommodation</p>

<p>SUPPLEMENTARY: Are we lobbying the government to be allowed to do the visitor levy and if so, what has the response been?</p>	<p>Business Improvement District rather than as a supplement to the income of the local authorities there.</p> <p>Clarity from central government would be appreciated.</p> <p>RESPONSE: I think it would be excellent if we could do what you suggest. I don't know if we're lobbying specifically on that, but we are lobbying the government in many areas that are related to finance, related to our powers and I'm sure that, if it hasn't been already, will be added to the list.</p>
<p>35. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>The proposal to allow cycling all day in Cornmarket Street and Queen Street, Oxford, is extremely controversial. Some months ago we were promised public consultation, but all has gone quiet. Why is that?</p> <p>SUPPLEMENTARY: You so far haven't</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>Over the past six months, we have sought initial feedback of the proposals talking to many stakeholders, both internal and external, including county and city officers, the town centre manager, cycling and walking groups and members of the City Inclusive Transport and Movement Focus Group. We found very strong feelings among some individuals and groups both for and against the proposals.</p> <p>Considering these divergent views, we consider it important to undertake more monitoring during a typical period under the current regulations. We proposed to do this during September when university students return. The purpose of the monitoring will be to set a baseline and better understand the behaviour and interactions of both pedestrians and cyclists and to understand whether there are specific issues around some users such as despatch riders.</p> <p>The findings of this monitoring will then be reported to the Cabinet Member for Highways for a decision at a public meeting whether to proceed with the experiment to permit cycling in Queen Street and Cornmarket.</p>

<p>consulted the public on this, or the city and county councillors so I wondered why this was?</p>	<p>RESPONSE: Well, I think that the response does make that clear and it does indeed say that there has been many stakeholders, including county and city officers and members of the City Inclusive Transport and Movement Focus Group, so I believe that has in fact happened. The response sets out the process of getting to the right place on this important issue, which is essentially in two stages. Firstly, there is this targeted engagement with stakeholders, then monitoring normal conditions when students are present, then a full public consultation after that. But, I would just take this opportunity to say that this does need to be seen in the context of a wider vision and ambition for the city centre. Queen Street and Cornmarket is absolutely essential to that. There is a bit of an anomaly, let's face it, on Queen's Street is that half of it is open to all cycles all of the time and the other half of it is open to some cycles all of the time, and other cycles some of the time. Which is just confusing. Clearly, we need to think about what is the best way forward for that. The Central Oxfordshire Movement and Place Framework is currently being developed; that is absolutely key as it gives the real opportunity to have better place-making and better places on the back of this Council's commitment to transport policy and deliver things like a cleaner, greener, easier city centre.</p>
<p>36. COUNCILLOR IAN CORKIN</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member for children's services please confirm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many children we care for under the age of 16 were placed in unregulated accommodation from March 2022 until April 2023 • How many occasions the council used unregulated accommodation • The total number of days purchased and the associated 	<p>COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES</p> <p>I have provided the reply to each of your questions relating to the number of children in our care who were placed in an unregistered setting including the number of occasions, number of days and costs. The responses are based on the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. They are set out below supported by the table setting out the number and cost each month.</p> <p>1. How many children we care for under the age of 16 were placed in unregulated accommodation from April 2022 until March 2023?</p> <p>There were a total of 18 Children We Care For placed in unregistered</p>

cost.

settings in the 12 months between April 2022 and March 2023.

2. How many occasions the council used unregulated accommodation

The service placed the children in an unregistered setting on 18 occasions.

3. The total number of days purchased and the associated cost.

A total of 18 Children We Care For were placed in an unregistered setting for a total of 1,991 days between April 2022 and March 2023.

Please see the table below that sets out the days in each month related to all 18 children.

**Children in Unregistered
Placements - April 2022 to
March 2023**

Month	No. of Children Aged Under 16	Cost in Month	No. of Days in Month
	No.	£'m	No.
Apr	6	0.476	125
May	7	0.541	216
Jun	7	0.707	193
Jul	8	0.682	246
Aug	6	0.553	186
Sep	7	0.771	154
Oct	7	0.617	217
Nov	4	0.393	120
Dec	5	0.576	153

<p>SUPPLEMENTARY: Will you undertake to not support any budget that does not bring forward detailed proposals to deal with the disgraceful treatment of our most vulnerable children?</p>	<table border="1" data-bbox="808 210 1487 371"> <tr> <td>Jan</td> <td>7</td> <td>0.590</td> <td>212</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Feb</td> <td>4</td> <td>0.344</td> <td>76</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mar</td> <td>3</td> <td>0.328</td> <td>93</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>18</td> <td>6.579</td> <td>1,991</td> </tr> </table> <p>RESPONSE: Yes, of course, it would be much easier to do that if central government would give us the sort of funding we need for these children. When I joined the Council ten years ago, we had about 500 children in care. In the last financial year, that got up to 800. It is now down to about 700. As Cllr Corkin knows, and I thank him and other councillors who are reviving the work we are doing with corporate parenting for these children, some of the children taken into corporate parenting care on Friday afternoon. There are no registered placements in the south-east region for them and effectively we are forced, like many other local authorities, to use unregistered accommodations. The good news is that of those small number of those we have in unregistered accommodation, is that the setting they are currently in are trying to register with the appropriate authorities. I would ask him and all those in his party if they can do anything possible to speed up the registration process, so that people who want to become registered can become registered as quickly as possible, so that we can have a situation where we have no children in unregistered placements and then we can probably be leading most of the country, and certainly most of the shire counties.</p>	Jan	7	0.590	212	Feb	4	0.344	76	Mar	3	0.328	93	Total	18	6.579	1,991
Jan	7	0.590	212														
Feb	4	0.344	76														
Mar	3	0.328	93														
Total	18	6.579	1,991														
<p>37. COUNCILLOR DAVID ROUANE</p> <p>The council will soon be invited to bid for funds from those districts which collect Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for county transport projects. Can the cabinet member assure councillors from those areas that a system exists to ensure that:</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR JUDY ROBERTS, CABINET MEMBER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY</p> <p>Yes, I can confirm that a system exists between the County Council and South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils when bidding for CIL monies, which covers a range of services including transport. The bidding process starts with the services identifying CIL compliant and deliverable projects based on meeting agreed Council strategies. Going forward, the bidding process will continue to prioritise Council objectives of which active travel will of course be key given the</p>																

<p>a) the plans put forward for funding support projects in line with the council's policy of promoting active travel (e.g. projects identified in Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans),</p> <p>b) that funds are spent within the areas which raise CIL and not used to cross subsidise areas which do not, and</p> <p>c) that the money is spent in a timely manner.</p> <p>SUPPLEMENTARY: Can the Cabinet Member give me an assurance that she will look at the £32m worth of projects that have now been put forward as part of the Didcot (something) so that some of this money could actually be spent on active travel projects rather than on the usual road projects?</p>	<p>approach set out in LTCP.</p> <p>I can also confirm that the CIL monies once collected are spent on projects within the related district council boundaries to support development in their areas. In respect of the final question, delivery of infrastructure can take time in terms of project inception, design, collecting CIL and then implementation; However, please be assured that the monies are always spent as expeditiously as possible in order to deliver the infrastructure for which the developer contributions have been collected in a timely manner.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Yes, I can assure the Councillor that I will do everything I can to make sure that we are going to implement our current policies that are on the statute books for the County Council in all the designations of 106 and CIL money. It's not going to be a quick fix, but I will do my best to make sure as each one comes through, to make sure that those principles of active travel are high on the list.</p>
<p>38. COUNCILLOR FREDDIE VAN MIERLO</p> <p>Red Kite View is a new development in Watlington of 183 homes, many of which have been occupied for several years and is nearing completion. The development requires a pedestrian link and improvements to Cuxham Road, avoiding the need to walk a narrow pavement on</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>Technical approval has recently been issued as well as approval of the technical wording within the draft S278 agreement. The S278 agreement is now currently with the developer's solicitor for comment. OCC's solicitor is aware of the urgency surrounding the delivery of these works.</p> <p>Therefore, a date for when the works will begin cannot be confirmed. But, as stated above, officers will look to expedite the agreement to ensure works can start as soon</p>

<p>Britwell Road with heavy traffic to access the town centre. The link is to be delivered via an S278 agreement. However it is still not completed despite conversations around delivery 'before the summer' and then 'before Christmas'. Will the cabinet member commit to meeting with officers to urgently speed up delivery?</p>	<p>as possible.</p>
<p>39. COUNCILLOR FREDDIE VAN MIERLO</p> <p>How much does the council estimate Fix My Street saves the council each year in reduced staffing costs thanks to residents self-reporting issues? The effectiveness is threatened when residents become disheartened by reports that are closed without response and when promises to fix issues within 28 days are not followed through. Will the Cabinet Member review how we can maximise the use of FMS to benefit residents and the council?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>Fix My Street (FMS) does not release any savings in the E&P Directorate. We still have a statutory responsibility to have the roads of Oxfordshire inspected by professional trained officers. This is carried out at given frequencies based on a number of factors. The benefit of FMS is to give residents a convenient channel to report to us issues of concern often with more accurate information than could be achieved over the phone or by email. This is particularly true when photos are added by the resident. Accepting public reports is not a statutory responsibility but is an expectation of most residents and helps us to secure funding from the DfT (incentive funding). 60-70% of issues reported each month in the pothole category meet our intervention thresholds and are therefore fixed within 28 days. We have no records of any safety defect repair taking longer than the 28 days since the first quarter of this year, when we had unprecedented levels of reports due to the bad weather a tiny minority took longer than this timeframe. For those that we do not fix, either because they are below our intervention thresholds or outside our remit, we send a message back to the resident explaining this. Closure of a Fix My Street without response happens very rarely, and for a variety of reasons, and the Systems and Data team continue to work with the developer and internal teams to get this number to zero.</p>
<p>40. COUNCILLOR BETHIA THOMAS</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAN LEVY, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE</p>

<p>Previously, when Cllr Miller held the finance and property portfolio, he was kind enough to take an interest in several property matters within my division. Some of these have been resolved but one, locally known as the “Faze Building” on the Highworth Road, Faringdon, remains derelict, with no decision yet taken on its disposal.</p> <p>I understand that council needs to seek best value on sites like this, but it has been intimated in the past that community value could be factored into the decision-making process when seeking to come to a conclusion on the property’s future. Given that Faringdon is in dire need of community and amenity space, could the cabinet member detail any updates on the future of this property.</p>	<p>The property department has been working diligently with the portfolio to identify future needs for investment and disposal.</p> <p>The former Faze accommodation /depot site in Highworth Road is vacant, and we will be engaging with our service on any possible future needs in the area in Jan ‘24.</p> <p>If there is no operational need, the property will be declared on the disposal list. It is then the intention to bring the property and land to the market in early 2024. This will give community groups the opportunity to put forward their proposals along with other interested parties. All options can then be considered for the future use of the building/land.</p> <p>Councils are obligated to seek best value when disposing of property, although part of this value can be assessed on the basis of community usage.</p>
<p>41. COUNCILLOR LIAM WALKER</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on upgrades on the Cotswold Railway line in particular with regards to the dual line to Hanborough and the expansion of the car park at Hanborough Station.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR JUDY ROBERTS, CABINET MEMBER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council are active Members of the North Cotswold Line Task Force and will be hosting the next Board Meeting at County Hall on Friday 23 February 2024. We will be restarting a ‘Hanborough Station sub-group’ in the New Year with representation from GWR/Network Rail, West Oxfordshire District Council and other key local stakeholders, including Blenheim Palace. The first task of the sub-group will be to take stock and review all existing studies and work in relation to Hanborough railway station. We are drafting a new OxRail 2040 strategy (to be</p>

<p>SUPPLEMENTARY: I wondered as the local member for Hanborough and a local resident in Hanborough, that I'd be able to sit on the re-established sub-group?</p>	<p>adopted as a sister document to our LTCP) and this will include aspirations for infrastructure improvements such as double-tracking and electrification. These will mesh well with GWR's exciting plans for new rolling stock and the development of business cases for additional services. The County Council has an adopted 'Mobility Hubs Strategy' to maximise integration of the railway network with other (onward) travel modes – Hanborough station would fit well with this strategy.</p> <p>RESPONSE: I've not actually been to one of these meetings, but I'm certainly looking forward to it. Yes, I'm very interested in this particular project. I think it may well have an ability to really add a massive amount to the east-west rail and to the whole of our report that was done about improving the connections and the way they all go through the Oxford station, of which we know is currently receiving a lot of attention. So, yes it would be really nice to get this project in-line with everything else in the area and make sure that it works.</p>																		
<p>42. COUNCILLOR LIAM WALKER</p> <p>How much money has been spent on '20s Plenty' colouring and activity packs for children in Oxfordshire?</p> <p>SUPPLEMENTARY: Does he not think that this money could be better spent on himself getting his crayons and maps out,</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="813 916 1339 1145"> <thead> <tr> <th>Activity</th> <th>Detail</th> <th>Cost</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>KS1 packs</td> <td></td> <td>£4,419.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>KS2 packs</td> <td></td> <td>£4,419.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Delivery 1</td> <td>67 schools</td> <td>£804.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Delivery 2</td> <td>21 schools</td> <td>£302.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Total</td> <td>£9,944.40</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>RESPONSE: No. I'm interested that we get to the end of this long section of this meeting that Cllr Walker wants to take colouring pencils out of the hands of little children in our primary schools. Do I think it's justified to spend under £10,000</p>	Activity	Detail	Cost	KS1 packs		£4,419.00	KS2 packs		£4,419.00	Delivery 1	67 schools	£804.00	Delivery 2	21 schools	£302.40	Total		£9,944.40
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Total		£9,944.40																	

<p>identifying the potholes that need to be fixed?</p>	<p>delivering resources to a total of 88 schools in order to help children understand the benefits of slower speeds outside their schools? Yes, I absolutely do. I think it's a fantastic thing to do and I'm sorry you've chosen to oppose it.</p>
<p>43. COUNCILLOR LIAM WALKER</p> <p>Can he confirm how many Fix Penalty Notices have been issued to utility companies by the council's network management team for the year 2023 along with a breakdown for what offences?</p> <p>SUPPLEMENTARY: What is his plan to get a grip of this [Fix Penalty Notices by the Council] to ensure that the Council is setting a better example, or does he need another colouring book to help him?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>For information in the table below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 05 Section 70 = offences relating to reinstatement notification (incorrect/late registrations etc) • 06 Section 74 = noticing offences (late stops etc) • 08 Regulation 19 = working without a valid permit/late submission of immediate notice • 09 Regulation 20 = breach of permit conditions <p>RESPONSE: I will investigate that particular point, which is a fair one and get back to him.</p>

Count of FPN number	Column Labels				
Row Labels	05 - Section 70	06 - Section 74	08 - Regulation 19	09 - Regulation 20	Grand Total
AIRBAND COMMUNITY INTERNET LTD	1	1	1	6	9
BT	5	82	29	83	199
Cornerstone Telecommunications Infrastructure Limited		1			1
E S PIPELINES LTD	1			3	4
EE Ltd		3			3
ENERGY ASSETS PIPELINES LTD				1	1

CC1

ESP ELECTRICITY	2	4		3	9
Fibre & Wireless Networks		3	2	10	15
GIGACLEAR LIMITED	105	147	13	84	349
HS2 LTD	2	114			116
HUTCHISON 3G LTD				1	1
INDEPENDENT WATER NETWORKS LTD		1		2	3
Internetty.uk		2		1	3
LAST MILE ELECTRICITY LIMITED (Formerly GLOBAL UTILITY CONNECTIONS)	4	5		5	14
mua Electricity Limited	1			8	9
Mua Gas Limited	2				2
National Grid Electricity Distribution (West Midlands)	12	20	8	38	78
NATIONAL HIGHWAYS		33		1	34
Netomnia Limited	2	19		7	28
NETWORK RAIL		10		7	17
Nexfibre Networks Limited	10	42		14	66
Open Fibre Networks Limited			1		1
OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL	6	1233	22	125	1386
SCOTTISH AND SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION (SSEPD)	40	64	12	119	235
SEVERN TRENT WATER		1	1		2
SOUTHERN GAS NETWORKS PLC	20	101	60	166	347
SWISH FIBRE LTD	16	26	3	37	82
THAMES WATER	20	610	64	573	1267
Trooli Ltd		1			1
UK POWER DISTRIBUTION LTD	3	2		1	6
UK POWER NETWORKS EASTERN & LONDON			1	15	16
VIRGIN MEDIA		5	10	7	22
VODAFONE GROUP	1	1		1	3

CC1

VONEUS LIMITED	7	12	1	42	62
WALES AND WEST UTILITIES LTD	1	2		8	11
ZZOOMM PLC		3			3
Grand Total	261	2548	228	1368	4405