

County Council

12 December 2023

Schedule of Business

and revised Annex 2 for Item 14

County Hall, New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk Fax: 01865 783195 Media Enquiries 01865 815266

Agenda Item 27

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING OF COUNCIL – 12 DECEMBER 2023

SCHEDULE OF BUSINESS

ITEM/TIME	ITEM	PROPOSALS (M = Motion; SEC = Seconder; Am = Amendment S = Statement; Q = Question; REC = Recommendation to be determined)
1 10:30	Minutes To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2023 (CC1a on page 1) and the minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2023 (CC1b on page 5) and to receive information arising from them. See amendment to CC1b in Annex 1	
2	Apologies for Absence Councillor Constance	
3	Declarations of Interest	
4 10:35	Official Communications Chair's activities since the last meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 hosting with St Helen's Church in Benson• 6th December – County Lights switch on, jointly hosting with Preservation trust in the Castle Courtyard followed by refreshments at County Hall	

	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	
5	<p>Appointments</p> <p>Council is requested to approve the following change:</p> <p>Audit & Governance Committee – Councillor Glynis Phillips to replace Councillor Trish Elphinstone</p>	
<p>6</p> <p>10:45</p> <p>50 mins</p>	<p>Petitions and Public Address</p> <p><i>Any person may address the Council on an item on the agenda subject to the provisions in CPR 10.2 of the Constitution</i></p> <p>Petitions – 2 minutes to speak</p> <p>Public Address – 2 minutes to speak on this occasion (reduced from 5 minutes at the discretion of the Chair – CPR 10.3)</p>	<p>Petitions</p> <p>Katie Nellist - SEND</p> <p>Public Address</p> <p><u>Item 12</u> Alison Chisholm</p> <p><u>Item 13</u> Julie Maberley Barry Gooch</p> <p><u>Item 17</u> Richard Harding Kiera Bentley Derek Stork Barry Gooch Alison Semple Olly Glover</p>

		<p><u>Item 18</u> Claire Brenner</p> <p><u>Item 19</u> John Skinner Danny Yee Robin Tucker Chris Heron Zuhura Plummer Richard Parnham Emily Kerr Jemima Hunt Tony Eaude Gabriele Santi Alexandra West Clinton Pugh</p> <p><u>Item 21</u> Robert Aitken Ian Reissmann Daniel Leveson</p>
<p>7.</p> <p>11:35</p> <p>5 mins</p>	<p>Questions from Members of the Public</p> <p>See Annex 2 for questions and responses. One supplementary question allowed for each.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Richard Parnham 2. Bernadette Evans 3. Peter West 4. Anne Gwinnett 5. Anne Stares 6. David Henwood 	
<p>8.</p> <p>11:40</p> <p>30 mins</p>	<p>Questions with Notice from Members of the Council</p> <p>See Annex 3 for questions and responses. One supplementary question allowed for each.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cherry to Gant. 2. Reeves to Howson. 3. Coles to Gant. 4. Coles to Gant. 5. Bartholomew to Sudbury. 6. Reeves to Levy. 	

	<p>7. Graham to Sudbury. 8. Fenton to Fawcett. 9. Bartholomew to Gant. 10. Bartholomew to Gant. 11. Povolotsky to Sudbury. 12. Reeves to Leffman. 13. Corkin to Leffman. 14. O'Connor to Gant. 15. O'Connor to Levy. 16. O'Connor to Bearder. 17. Phillips to Ley. 18. Phillips to Gant. 19. Corkin to Fawcett. 20. Fenton to Fawcett. 21. Van Mierlo to Bearder. 22. Bennett to Gant. 23. Bennett to Roberts. 24. Bennett to Sudbury. 25. Middleton to Sudbury. 26. Middleton to Gant. 27. Pressel to Ley. 28. Pressel to Levy. 29. Pressel to Gant. 30. Corkin to Howson. 31. Rouane to Roberts. 32. Van Mierlo to Gant. 33. Van Mierlo to Gant. 34. Thomas to Levy. 35. Walker to Roberts. 36. Walker to Gant. 37. Walker to Gant.</p>	
<p>9. 12:10 15 mins</p>	<p>Cabinet Report (Pages 21-24) Adult Social Care (Tim Bearder) Pg 21: Item 1 Community & Corporate Services (Neil Fawcett) and Finance (Dan Levy) Pg 21: Item 2 Finance (Dan Levy) Pg 22: Item 3</p>	<p>Q Rouane (1) Q Bartholomew (2) Q Phillips (2) Q Povolotsky (2) Q Bartholomew (3) Q Baines (3)</p>

	<p>Item 4</p> <p>Pg 23: Item 5</p> <p>Item 6</p>	<p>Q Bartholomew (4) Q Baines (4) Q O'Connor (4)</p> <p>Q Bartholomew (5) Q Baines (5)</p> <p>Q Bartholomew (6) Q O'Connor (6) Q Edosomwan (6) Q Povolotsky (6)</p>
<p>10.</p> <p>12:25</p> <p>15 mins</p>	<p>Gender Pay Gap Report</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>Council is RECOMMENDED to receive the Gender Pay Gap Report and approve for publication.</p>	<p>M Fawcett SEC Leffman S Pressel S Hanna S Smith S Middleton</p>
<p>11</p> <p>12:40</p> <p>10 mins</p>	<p>Treasury Management Mid Term Review</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>Council is RECOMMENDED to note the council's treasury management activity in the first half of 2023/24.</p>	<p>M Levy SEC Leffman S Baines S Miller S Smith</p>
<p>12:50</p> <p>30 mins</p>	<p>LUNCH</p>	
<p>12</p> <p>13:20</p> <p>30 mins</p>	<p>Future Council Governance Group – Final Report</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>See amendment in Annex 1.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATIONS:</p> <p>1. To establish an Education and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee comprising nine elected members. Terms of reference to follow.</p>	<p>M Gawrysiak SEC Smith Am Brighthouse SEC Elphinstone S Hicks S Pressel S Povolotsky S Hannaby S Smith S Johnston S Hanna S Sudbury S Howson</p>

	2. 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).	
<p>13</p> <p>13:50</p> <p>10 mins</p>	<p>Electoral Review: Local Government Boundary Commission for England Draft Recommendations</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>The Council is RECOMMENDED 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To request that the areas affected by the community governance review determined by the 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 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). 	<p>M Gawrysiak SEC Fawcett S O'Connor S Baines</p>
<p>14</p> <p>14:00</p> <p>10 mins</p>	<p>Committees and Review of Political Balance</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p>	<p>M Chair SEC Vice-Chair S Brighthouse S Baines</p>

	<p>RECOMMENDATION</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 3. To remove the Horton Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee from the list of Council committees as future scrutiny of Horton Hospital will be incorporated within the activities of the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. 	
<p>15</p> <p>14:10</p> <p>15 mins</p>	<p>Independent Remuneration Panel</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>The Council is RECOMMENDED to adopt the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<p>M Chair SEC Vice-Chair S Johnston S Sudbury S van Mierlo S Leffman S Middleton</p>

	award. This will be limited to the four-year term of each council.	
<p>16</p> <p>14:25</p> <p>5 mins</p>	<p>Audit & Governance Committee Terms of Reference</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>The Council is RECOMMENDED 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).</p>	<p>M Smith SEC Baines</p>
<p>17</p> <p>14:30</p> <p>30 mins</p>	<p>Motion by Councillor Sally Povolotsky</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>See amendment in Annex 1.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>This Council notes that</p> <p>1. Public consultations carried out in the last 18 months were for a scheme design 50%</p>	<p>M Povolotsky SEC Am Enright SEC S Field-Johnson S Sudbury S Johnston S Roberts S Miller S Hannaby S Hanna S Webber</p>

	<p>smaller than that now being taken to the Secretary of State for approval.</p> <p>2. Vale of White Horse District Council also stands against the designs on the table for SESRO as the local planning authority</p> <p>3. Despite thousands of responses by Oxfordshire residents on SESRO, none of the issues presented have been addressed comprehensively.</p> <p>This Council resolves to</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>3. Investigate a Water Resource Task and Finish CAG option and create a Water Resource Champion.</p>	
<p>18</p> <p>15:00</p> <p>15 mins</p>	<p>Motion by Councillor Eddie Reeves</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>See amendment from proposers in Annex 1</p> <p>The findings of the residents' survey, as more particularly revealed to councillors on 19 October 2023, are deeply troubling for the Council. They indicate that the Council's budget and strategic priorities are not aligned with residents' expectations.</p> <p>Elsewhere there is further evidence of this administration's lack of sound financial management. The previous Conservative Independent Alliance administration achieved an average of 91% of ambitious savings targets, whereas the September Business Management Report projects just 71% achievement of savings for the current financial year.</p>	<p>M Reeves SEC Bartholomew S Hicks S Povolotsky</p>

	<p>Of particular concern is the projected overspend of £11.8m in Children's Services, taking the corresponding directorate spend to £180.9m.</p> <p>Despite these issues, the administration often gives the impression that the Council's next budget will not require cross-party support for it to pass.</p> <p>This Council:</p> <p>a) Resolves to ask the Cabinet to take the results of its residents' survey more seriously in its emerging budget plans; and</p> <p>b) Asks the administration's Cabinet to more fully engage with political group leaders and backbench colleagues, as appropriate, on the budget and the Council's strategic priorities.</p>	
<p>19</p> <p>15:15</p> <p>30 mins</p>	<p>Motion by Councillor Michael O'Connor</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>This Council notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It was recorded in 2013 that 'operational capacity has already been reached or exceeded on much of [Oxford's] road network.' Most of Oxford's busiest roads have since seen significant further rises in motor traffic. 2. The Council has not effectively engaged Oxford's communities on transport. Too many feel their communities have been divided, their voices not heard, and concerns ignored. 3. The evaluation report for the East Oxford LTNs notes that there have been 'large increases in traffic near The Plain roundabout' as traffic is funnelled down three radial routes. 4. Now is the time for pragmatic and fair solutions to long-standing congestion problems, including those exacerbated by LTNs, and for listening to all our 	<p>M O'Connor SEC Elphinstone S Lygo S Enright S Brighthouse S Fadlalla S Povolotsky S Gant S Leffman S Johnston S van Mierlo S Smith S Ley S Bearder S Levy S Pete Sudbury S Howson</p>

	<p>residents, building on the motion unanimously passed by Council on 7 November.</p> <p>Council urgently requests Cabinet to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Investigate opening a direct route for motor traffic between Iffley Road, Cowley Road and St. Clement's, such as Rectory Road and Marston Street, to facilitate traffic dispersion. 6. Investigate installing traffic lights on The Plain to improve traffic flow. 7. Investigate measures to reduce private school traffic on The Plain, such as a school street on Cowley Place. 8. Investigate opening the Littlemore Road filter to motor traffic outside school travel hours and provide traffic calming, segregated cycle lane, and pick-me-up service to key amenities. 9. Create a taskforce to work with local communities and councillors to make other targeted, meaningful improvements to tackle congestion. 10. Bring proposals to Cabinet within three months. 	
<p>20</p>	<p>Motion by Councillor Mark Cherry</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>Council requests Cabinet to consider approving the Councils for Fair Tax declaration.</p> <p>This commits Councils to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead by example and demonstrate good practice in our tax conduct, right across our activities. • Ensure IR35 is implemented robustly and contract workers pay a fair share of employment taxes. 	<p>M Cherry SEC Baines S Hicks S Johnston S Levy</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not use offshore vehicles for the purchase of land and property, especially where this leads to reduced payments of stamp duty. • Undertake due diligence to ensure that not-for-profit structures are not being used inappropriately by suppliers as an artificial device to reduce the payment of tax and business rates. • Demand clarity on the ultimate beneficial ownership of suppliers, UK and overseas, and their consolidated profit & loss position, given lack of clarity could be strong indicators of poor financial probity and weak financial standing. • Promote Fair Tax Mark certification especially for any business in which we have a significant stake and where corporation tax is due. • Support Fair Tax Week events in the area, and celebrate the tax contribution made by responsible businesses that are proud to promote responsible tax conduct and pay their fair share of corporation tax. <p>Council also requests the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer supporting calls for urgent reform of UK procurement law to enable local authorities to better penalise poor tax conduct and reward good tax conduct through their procurement policies.</p>	
21	<p>Motion by Councillor Stefan Gawrysiak</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council has 97 Short Stay Hub Beds ('SSHBs'), which are widely distributed across the county. They are used to support Oxfordshire residents who are medically ready for discharge from acute hospital beds but who need a short period of bed-based reablement to help them get ready for living in their own home.</p>	M Gawrysiak SEC Reeves S Brighthouse S Povolotsky S Bearder S van Mierlo S Hanna S Sudbury S Hannaby

	<p>Currently, SSHBs in Henley have full occupancy and are supervised well by medical professionals at the Hart and Bell Henley surgeries.</p> <p>SSHBs had been due to be cut by one-third to 63, with the Council removing Henley's SSHBs without consultation among local GPs, nor proper scrutiny by elected members before local intervention. This is unacceptable and must not be repeated.</p> <p>This Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deplores any future reduction in SSHBs without consultation and scrutiny; and 2. Requests that members be fully appraised of the reasons for removing Henley's SSHBs, which serve a population of c.140,000 across South Oxfordshire, without reasonable geographical provision being maintained across the county. <p>This Council further strongly disapproves of the words of Cllrs Leffman and Bearder, who have stated that the location of short stay hub beds would be based on market factors rather than geography when the beds are purchased as part of an open-market tender.</p> <p>This Council requests that the Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Takes executive action to ensure that the 34 SSHBs cut by the administration can be restored at short notice; and 4. Ensures that Adult Social Care, together with SEND improvement, is a key priority in the next budget cycle. 	
22	<p>Motion by Councillor Donna Ford</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p>	<p>M Ford SEC Fenton S Elphinstone S Povolotsky</p>

	<p>Councillors note the increasing number of vacant bank and building society buildings on our high streets, which are largely the result of technological change. The loss of community banking services is of concern to many residents, especially older constituents and those with disabilities and adaptive needs.</p> <p>Buckinghamshire Council has set up a Banking Hub in Buckingham library for people to access banking services in the town centre.</p> <p>Established in partnership with Buckinghamshire Council through its Buckingham and Villages Community Board, with the support of Buckingham Town Council and community representatives, the temporary Banking Hub provides local people with access to banking services. This offers a counter service operated by the Post Office, where customers of all major banks and building societies can carry out regular cash transactions. It also offers a Community Banker service where customers can talk to their banking provider about more complicated issues. Community Bankers work on rotation, with a different bank or building society available on each day of the week, to ensure fair and equitable access to major banking and building society customers.</p> <p>Council requests the relevant Cabinet Member for Community and Corporate Services and the Cabinet Member for Finance to take a lead from forward-thinking colleagues at Buckinghamshire Council and, working with its Town Council, and District Council partners, invite banks and building societies that have left – or are due to leave – our high streets to explore opportunities to work with this Council to set up similar banking hubs within appropriate Council libraries.</p>	
23	<p>Motion by Councillor Eddie Reeves</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p>	<p>M Reeves SEC Snowdon S Povolotsky</p>

	<p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>This Council recognises that the voice of small and medium-sized enterprises ('SMEs') have, too often, been overlooked.</p> <p>This Council resolves to request the Leader of the Council to appoint a Small Business Champion to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide a single point of contact for local businesspeople, including those running co-operatives, and • advise Members attending Cabinet and relevant scrutiny committees of the impact of Council policies on the county's SMEs. 	
<p>24</p>	<p>Motion by Councillor David Rouane</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>Pride in the appearance of the public realm is important to our residents. Ensuring that streets and pavements are accessible, level, without hazards, clear of weeds and vegetation is essential for preventing long term damage to the footways, improving accessibility for all, visibility, reducing the chances of accidents, and also allowing people to have pride in their neighbourhood.</p> <p>Council resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the difficulties in maintaining weed clearance to a high standard in view of the expanding network of highways, and in the context of over a decade of budget cuts; and 2. Acknowledge the justified phasing out of glyphosate and herbicide-based methods based on health and environmental grounds; and 	<p>M Rouane SEC Ley</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Recognise that the Council has a statutory duty to keep pavements free of weeds and hazards; and 4. Request the Cabinet Member for Transport Management to consider options for alternative methods of weed removal, and scheduled maintenance that are both cost-effective and environmentally friendly, including supporting the work of towns and parishes, local groups and individuals, that can be developed and trialled around the county, and for ongoing consideration of other methods. 5. Request that the Cabinet Member for Finance give due consideration to the findings of this report as part of the 2024/25 budget setting. 6. Embrace collection of green matter from weeding and grass cutting and ask the Cabinet Member for Climate Change Delivery and Environment to consider the feasibility of a county owned Anaerobic digester facility. 	
25	<p>Motion by Councillor Robin Bennett</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>Oxfordshire is renowned for its music excellence and heritage. As well as being something many of us enjoy, live music is a major contributor to the local economy; a 2017 study found that in Oxford, the estimated total annual spend on live music was £10.5 million, supporting an estimated 350 FTE jobs.</p> <p>This Council's excellent music service provides a vital introduction to music for many young people.</p> <p>However, recent years have been extremely challenging for local music, with several</p>	M Bennett

	<p>venues closing because of development pressures, and a shortage of accessible spaces for young musicians to practice and learn.</p> <p>The recent decision to remove the music course from Oxford Brookes University's curriculum will not only impact students and staff, but also local music more generally. Many previous graduates of Oxford Brookes music courses continue to work in the arts in Oxfordshire in a wide variety of fields, including teaching in our schools.</p> <p>Taken together, these changes are damaging to Oxfordshire's standing as a place to embark on a music career, and risk leaving opportunities and facilities available only to those who can afford to pay for them.</p> <p>Council asks the Leader to write to the Vice Chancellor of Oxford Brookes expressing Council's concern about the loss of the music course, and asks cabinet to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider how to promote wider access to music facilities and lessons for young people - Review options, such as a heritage trail, for celebrating Oxfordshire music across the county - Support efforts to establish community-led venues. 	
<p>26</p>	<p>Motion by Councillor Michael O'Connor</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>This Council notes that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Housing is a human right. 2. This country is experiencing a housing crisis. 3. Oxfordshire is one of the most expensive places to live in the UK, with house prices in Oxford alone averaging 	<p>M O'Connor</p>

	<p>£500,000 according to Land Registry figures.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Many of our staff find it hard to live in Oxfordshire due to the cost of housing, exacerbating difficulties in recruitment and retention. 5. Housing is one of the most significant influences on population health as it is a key 'building block' of health. 6. Demand for services such as social care is affected by lack of affordable and healthy housing. 7. The housing crisis has contributed to a sharp rise in the number of people who are homeless and people sleeping rough in Oxfordshire. 8. Every pound invested in homeless support generates an estimated £2.80 in wider savings and benefits according to PwC. <p>Therefore, this Council resolves to declare a housing crisis and requests that Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Undertake a survey of Council-owned land to identify sites on which genuinely affordable housing could be built, including for council employees. 10. Investigate innovative methods of financing genuinely affordable housing, such as a Revolving Loan Fund for community housing projects. 11. Establish a Countywide Housing Commission aimed at developing pragmatic solutions to our housing crisis with partners. 12. Continue to resource homelessness prevention and efforts to support those who are homeless or sleeping rough, taking a housing-first approach. 	
--	--	--

AMENDMENTS

Agenda Item 1:

Minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2023, item 80/23

Append to the first paragraph: "I would also like to remember all the people caught up in other conflicts across the world."

Agenda Item 12 – Future Council Governance Group – Final Report

Amendment to be moved by Councillor Liz Brighthouse and seconded by Councillor Trish Elphinstone

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To establish a **Children, Education and Young People Overview and Scrutiny** Committee comprising nine elected members. Terms of reference to follow.
2. 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).

Agenda Item 17 – Motion by Councillor Sally Povolotsky

Amendment to be moved by Councillor Duncan Enright

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, **Thames Water, OFWAT**, CPRE, ~~political leaders in this chamber and the County Councillors in the proposed zone of development~~ this chamber
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.~~

Agenda Item 18 – Motion by Councillor Eddie Reeves

Amendment to be moved by Councillor David Bartholomew and seconded by Councillor Eddie Reeves

The findings of the residents' survey, as more particularly revealed to councillors on 19 October 2023, are deeply troubling for the Council. They indicate that the Council's budget and strategic priorities are not aligned with residents' expectations.

Elsewhere there is further evidence of this administration's lack of sound financial management. The previous Conservative Independent Alliance administration achieved an average of 91% of ambitious savings targets, whereas the September Business Management Report projects just 71% achievement of savings for the current financial year.

Of particular concern is the projected overspend of £11.8m in Children's Services, taking the corresponding directorate spend to £180.9m.

Despite these issues, the administration often gives the impression that the Council's next budget will not require cross-party support for it to pass.

This Council:

- a) Resolves to ask the Cabinet to take the results of its residents' survey more seriously in its emerging budget plans; and
- b) Asks the administration's Cabinet to more fully engage with political group leaders and backbench colleagues, as appropriate, on the budget and the Council's strategic priorities.
- c) Notes that, via email, the Leader belatedly sought to engage with opposition parties on 28th November, after the deadline for motions had passed, just one day before the Budget Consultation was published and just two days before the all member briefing,**

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>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>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>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>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,</p>

	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>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 pharmaceutical deliveries and support visits by the charities be given unfettered access through ANPR camera-monitored zones?</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 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>

This page is intentionally left blank

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>1. 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 available from Oxfordshire County Council for signage and so forth?</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>
<p>2. 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</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES</p> <p>Response to follow.</p>

<p>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>3. COUNCILLOR ANDREW COLES</p> <p>The 1st anniversary of the damage caused to Witney's historic main bridge, when a drunk-driver crashed into it, has just passed. Could the Cabinet member please outline the timetable for repair.</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 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.</p>

<p>4. 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</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>
--	---

<p>prioritise this much-needed work before anyone else is injured?</p>																								
<p>5. 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>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. 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>6. 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="831 1046 1883 1401"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Financial Year</th> <th>Planned Savings</th> <th>Delivered Savings</th> <th>Delivered Savings</th> </tr> <tr> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> <th>%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2023/24 (Sept 2023 forecast to November Cabinet)</td> <td>28.2</td> <td>20.0</td> <td>71%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022/23 outturn report</td> <td>17.8</td> <td>7.6</td> <td>43%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021/22 outturn report</td> <td>16.1</td> <td>13.7</td> <td>85%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020/21 outturn report</td> <td>21.8</td> <td>21.3</td> <td>98%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	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%
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%
<p>7. 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>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> <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>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>8. COUNCILLOR TED FENTON</p> <p>On average, how many Blue Badge and Bus Pass applications are received per</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR NEIL FAWCETT, CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY & CORPORATE SERVICES</p>			

<p>month by OCC? What percentage of applications in each category are approved and what are the main reasons for refusal in those cases which are not?</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>			
		<p>Average number received per month</p>	<p>Average number approved</p>	<p>Reason for refusal</p>
	<p>Blue Badge</p>	<p>407</p>	<p>90%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not meeting the criteria • Applying under the wrong criteria • Unable to supply supporting documents
	<p>Concessionary Bus Passes</p>	<p>580</p>	<p>90%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not meeting the criteria
<p>9. 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 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>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>10. 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>11. 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</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>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>12. 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 not the time to be seek greater efficiencies by returning to the question of unitary local government in Oxfordshire?</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 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>13. 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>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>14. COUNCILLOR MICHAEL O'CONNOR</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</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>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>15. 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 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>16. 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 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?</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 • 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 <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>

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 City and consider f Districts need similar services.
- Ensure development of supported housing in line with Housing Led principles.

Successes:

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.

This is the second year of the partnership the and Alliance group has been working on:

- 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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 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>17. COUNCILLOR GLYNIS PHILLIPS</p> <p>I was pleased to see that the Barton Advice Centre shared £300k grant funding with other Advice Centres across</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</p>

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?

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.

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.

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 to them.

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.

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.

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>18. 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>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>19. COUNCILLOR IAN CORKIN</p> <p>It is now more than 12 months since the Fair Deal Alliance spent £30,000 of 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</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>Project Principles</p>

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".

Could the cabinet member for Climate Change, Delivery & Environment please:

- 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

- 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).

Project Objectives

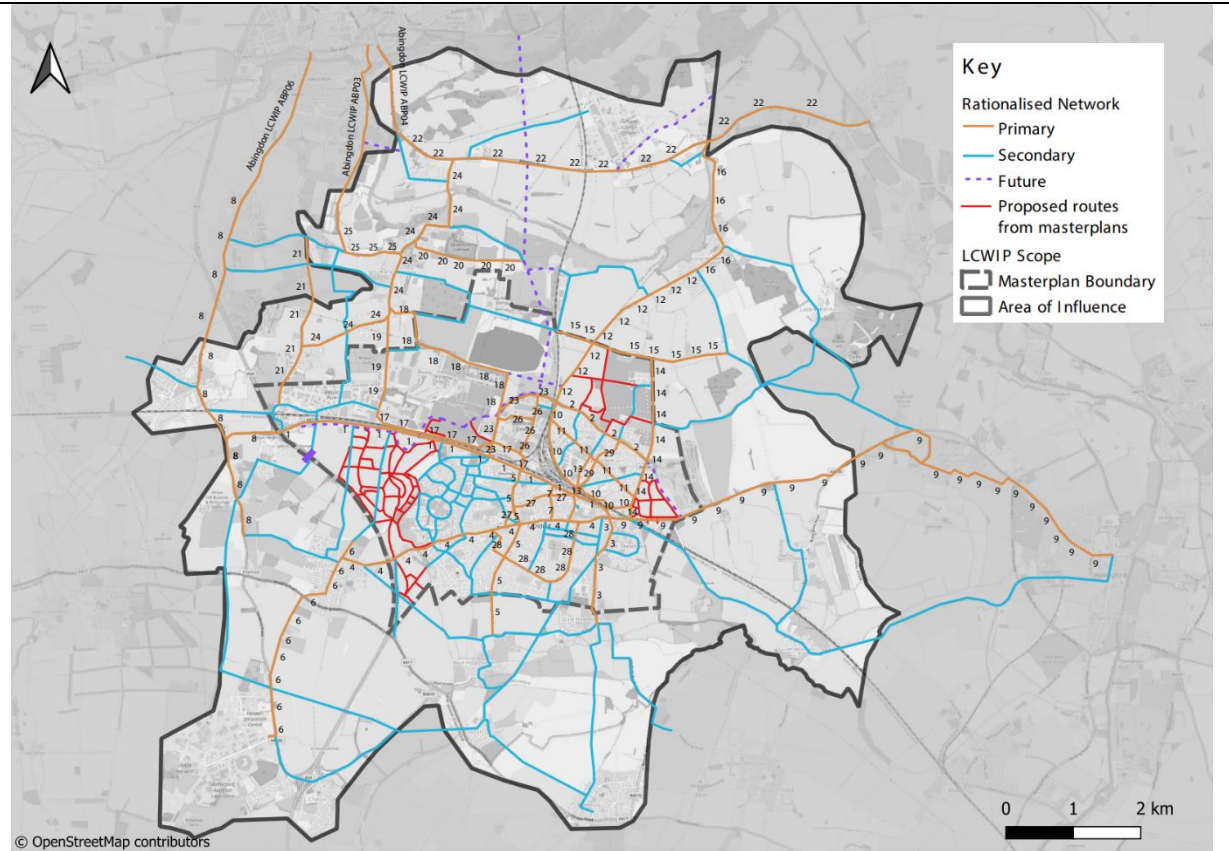
- The purpose of the pilot was to gather evidence of whether green infrastructure can improve air quality in areas most in need of improvement and identify projects which are likely to have the greatest environmental impact. The evidence can then support responsible decision making and potential business models. These could include the use of moss to reduce

	<p>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>
--	--

	<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>
20. COUNCILLOR TED FENTON	<p>COUNCILLOR NEIL FAWCETT, CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY & CORPORATE SERVICES</p> <p>Response to follow.</p>

<p>To what extent is the Oxfordshire Library Service reliant on volunteers rather than paid staff?</p>	
<p>21. 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>Response to follow.</p>
<p>22. 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 those walking and cycling towards Europa School?</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 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>23. COUNCILLOR ROBIN BENNETT</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR JUDY ROBERTS, CABINET MEMBER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY</p>

<p>When can local residents expect more information about the Didcot Area Travel Plan, including in the area affected by HIF1?</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)</p> <p>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?

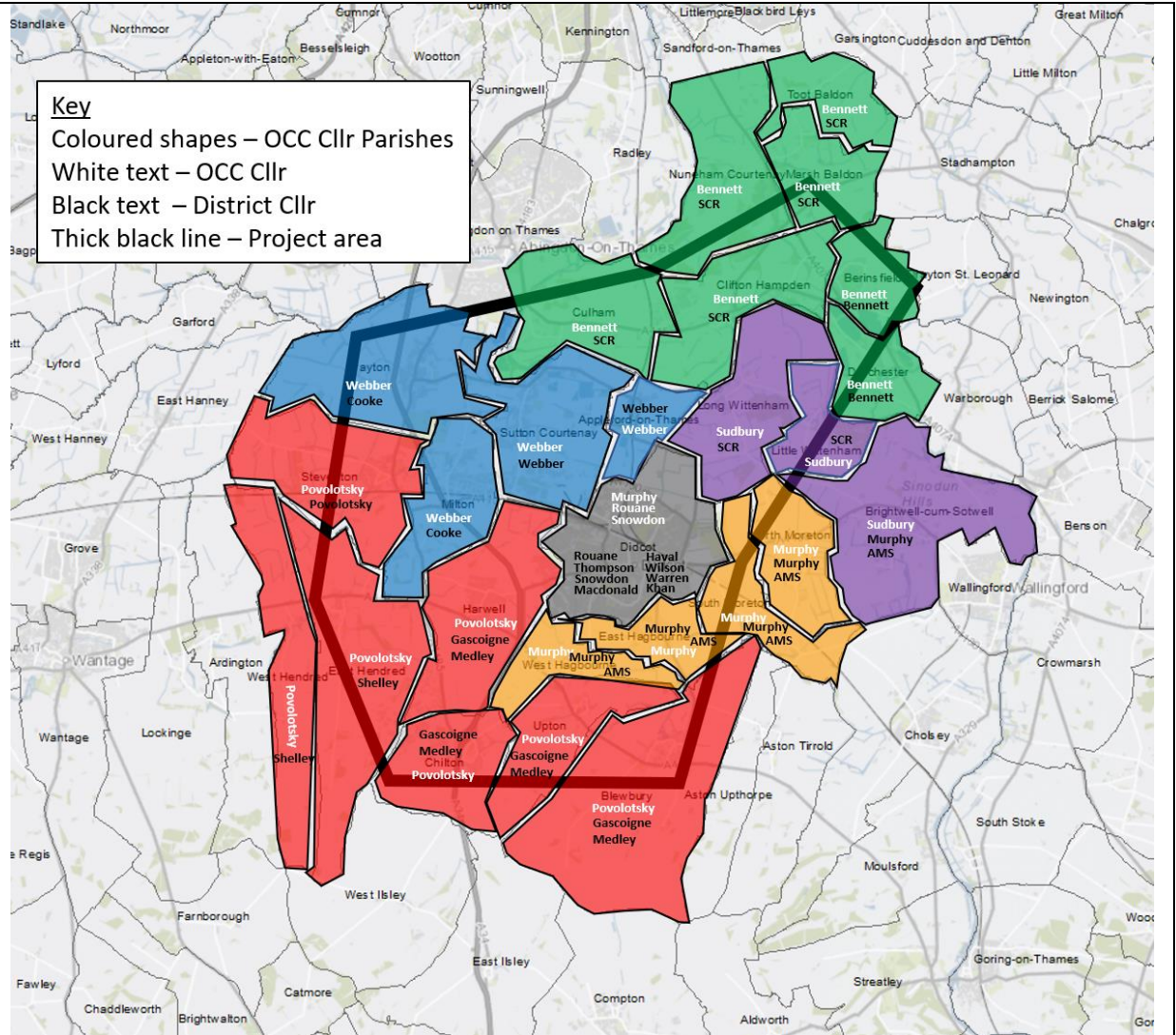
- How can transport hubs be implemented?
- Discussion on demand management measures.

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:



Team Restructure

	<p>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>24. 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 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</p>

	and objectives for the plan, which are officers are preparing to undertake in the new year.
<p>25. 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 going through planning appeal having so far been refused on other grounds?</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>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>26. 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>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>27. 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</p>

	<p>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 payments. • 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>28. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>Greater Manchester has introduced a £1-a-night levy on hotels and serviced</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</p>

<p>apartments. Are we lobbying the government to be allowed to do the same, and if so, what has the response been?</p>	<p>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 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>29. 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>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>30. COUNCILLOR IAN CORKIN</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES</p>

Could the Cabinet Member for children's services please confirm:

- 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 cost.

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.

1. How many children we care for under the age of 16 were placed in unregulated accommodation from April 2022 until March 2023?

There were a total of **18 Children We Care For** placed in unregistered 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

	<p>Jun 7 0.707 193</p> <p>Jul 8 0.682 246</p> <p>Aug 6 0.553 186</p> <p>Sep 7 0.771 154</p> <p>Oct 7 0.617 217</p> <p>Nov 4 0.393 120</p> <p>Dec 5 0.576 153</p> <p>Jan 7 0.590 212</p> <p>Feb 4 0.344 76</p> <p>Mar 3 0.328 93</p> <p>Total 18 6.579 1,991</p>
<p>31. 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>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>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 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>

c) that the money is spent in a timely manner.	
<p>32. 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 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>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 as possible.</p>
<p>33. 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</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>Response to follow.</p>

<p>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>34. COUNCILLOR BETHIA THOMAS</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>COUNCILLOR DAN LEVY, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE</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>35. COUNCILLOR LIAM WALKER</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR JUDY ROBERTS, CABINET MEMBER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY</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>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 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>36. COUNCILLOR LIAM WALKER</p> <p>How much money has been spent on '20s Plenty' colouring and activity packs for children in Oxfordshire?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="831 826 1357 1051"> <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>	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
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																	
<p>37. COUNCILLOR LIAM WALKER</p> <p>Can he confirm how many Fix Penalty Notices have been issued to utility</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>For information in the table below:</p>																		

companies by the council's network management team for the year 2023 along with a breakdown for what offences?

- 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

Count of FPN number Row Labels	Column Labels				Grand Total
	05 - Section 70	06 - Section 74	08 - Regulation 19	09 - Regulation 20	
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
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
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

Political proportionately calculations

The political groups' notional entitlements to membership of committees is shown in red below. The proposed number of seats is in black.

The total number of committee places is 106. Of those, the Liberal Democrat Green Alliance is entitled to 39 seats, the Conservative Independent Alliance is entitled to 37 seats and the Labour and Co-operative Party is entitled to 24 seats. There are four non-aligned councillors and six seats are available to them after the seats have been allocated to the political groups.

Committees	Liberal Democrat Green Alliance	Conservative Independent Alliance	Labour and Co-operative Party	Non-aligned Independent
Audit & Governance Committee (7 County Councillors)	3.29 4	3.14 3	2.00 2	
BOB HOSC (7)	2.56 3	2.44 2	1.56 2	
Charlotte Coxe Trust Committee (5)	1.83 2	1.75 2	1.11 1	
Corporate Parenting Committee (9)	3.29 3	3.14 3	2.00 2	0.57 1
OJHOSC (7)	2.56 3	2.44 2	1.56 2	
People Scrutiny (9)	3.29 3	3.14 4	2.1 2	

Committees	Liberal Democrat Green Alliance	Conservative Independent Alliance	Labour and Co-operative Party	Non-aligned Independent
Pension Fund Committee (7)	2.56 3	2.44 2	1.56 2	
Performance & Corporate Services Scrutiny (9) *	3.29 3	3.14 3	2.00 2	0.57 1
Place Scrutiny (9) *	3.29 3	3.14 4	2.00 2	
Education and Young People Scrutiny (9)	3.29 3	3.14 3	2.00 2	0.57 1
Planning & Regulation Committee (12)	4.38 4	4.19 4	2.67 3	0.76 1
Remuneration Committee (6) *	2.19 2	2.10 2	1.33 1	0.38 1
Overall current number of seats (106)	36	34	22	6
Overall entitlement	35.78 36	34.22 34	21.78 22	6.22 6