

CABINET – 20 DECEMBER 2022

ITEM 4 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Questions	Cabinet Member
<p>1. COUNCILLOR SALLY POVOLOTSKY</p> <p>In 2022 (from January), how many hours / days / permits were granted to Thames Water so far for “emergency work”, and how many of these permits were classified as “emergency” in relation to leaks / broken network / households without water? How many of these permits resulted in enforcement measures and fines due to issues on the original permit issues, for example failure to “make good” the site they worked on in the Highway.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT</p> <p>It is not possible to specifically identify only works in relation to leaks / broken network / households without water on our system. The most relevant category we have would be under “Utility repair and maintenance works”. Works registered under “Immediate notices” are all those which need to start without delay so do not require prior notice. These have two categories: emergency (where there is imminent risk to people or property) and urgent (where there is no service but no imminent danger). The table below provides these figures for permits issued to Thames Water since January 2022.</p> <p>In respect of enforcement data, we only hold data about enforcement measures in relation to all work types for Thames Water, not just those classed as immediate works. These are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Total Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued – 410 (please note FPNs can be issued for a variety of reasons including breaches of permit conditions and noticing failures relating to permit information)• Total Section 74 Notices (S74s) issued – 119 (please note leaks / broken network / households without water on our system)• Total overrun days charged - 399 <p><u>Table of permits issued to Thames Water since January 2022</u> See below</p>

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<p>2. COUNCILLOR SALLY POVOLOTSKY</p> <p>Project Leo has been a groundbreaking smart energy and hyper localised project alongside other countywide innovation. Can the Cabinet Member for Climate Change Delivery & Environment please update us on high level lessons learnt, an all Member briefing and will this Council be accelerating this learning to benefit some of our poorest communities to transition energy decarbonisation and benefit those residents and communities?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR PETE SUDBURY, CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE DELIVERY & ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Project LEO is due to complete at end of March 2023. Work is continuing apace, with ongoing market trials (assessing the potential for local flexibility services to balance energy supply and demand on the low voltage network), continuation of the smart and fair neighbourhood projects (led by project partners, the Low Carbon Hub, with six communities across Oxfordshire) and further development of the data and mapping workstreams. Learnings from across the project are being drawn together into a final report during December and will be widely shared once published (before end March 2023).</p>
<p>3. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</p> <p>Residents in my Division have expressed scepticism about the new paperless Residents' Parking Scheme. Could the Cabinet member please provide data from the first weeks of the new paperless scheme to reassure them that the technology has been a useful investment in saving both time and money?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT</p> <p>As with all new systems the new Residents' Parking Scheme has taken time to bed-in. However, now that this has happened officers report there has been a reduction in the number of chaser calls and emails for permits which would previously have been posted. The system does not currently allow for this to be quantified. Positive feedback has also been received from customers over the 'phone thanking officers, saying how much easier the new system is, and that they look forward to visitors permits moving over to the new system.</p> <p>Full realisation of the scheme will come when virtual visitor permits are delivered. Having a wholly virtual permit scheme will give residents full control of their permits, allowing for self-service. This will remove the waiting times residents face at present due to manual processing of permits.</p>

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<p>4. COUNCILLOR DAN LEVY</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member for Travel & Development Strategy please give an update on the scope of the review of HIF2 (the A40 projects) and the expected timings. It is clearly important that the revised scheme retains the best parts of the superseded version, so can he give an indication of the consultation process that will be undertaken to ensure that this is the outcome?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DUNCAN ENRIGHT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRAVEL & DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY</p> <p>The recent withdrawal of the HIF2 CPO process was as a result of the serious financial pressures we and others face as a result of the highest inflation for decades. We are still committed to delivering the project and officers will be returning to cabinet in the new year with revised plans for the continuation of the project. I agree that it is important that the revised scheme does indeed retain all the best aspects of the previous proposals, and we will be working hard to ensure this is the case. We will take the opportunity to make sure local members are engaged in this process as soon as we have some draft plans to share, as well as take the opportunity to do further appropriate public engagement throughout the process of scheme design and delivery.</p>
<p>5. COUNCILLOR IAN MIDDLETON</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member assure me that residents in my division will be fully and genuinely consulted before the sale or lease of any publicly owned County Council green belt land at Stratfield Brake is agreed by cabinet?"</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR CALUM MILLER, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE</p> <p>Thank you, Cllr Middleton, for your question. As you know from our conversations about this proposal, the cabinet is committed to making sure that decision-making about this proposal from Oxford United FC is conducted in an open and transparent way, informed by the views of residents. This has led the county council to take a number of steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We requested an engagement exercise be undertaken in February 2022 which included a disaggregated response from local residents and which has shaped Cabinet's approach to discussions with the club; • Taking account of those views, we requested that the club focus on a smaller area of land (known as 'the Triangle') within the area they had originally proposed; • We set out very clearly at the start of this month the intention to bring officers' recommendations to Cabinet for a decision to be taken in a public meeting on 24 January 2023;

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="987 220 1957 360">• We have asked the club to publish the information that they provided to the County Council so that the parish councils, sports clubs and members of the public interested in this proposal can review those. <p data-bbox="938 405 1957 699">I am in close touch with the two relevant parish councils (Kidlington, and Gosford and Water Eaton), of which I know you are a member, and will meet with them to have their input before the Cabinet meeting. The public Cabinet meeting on 24 January is the next stage in decision-making. If Cabinet decides to take forward negotiations with the club, there will still be a considerable way to go before any sale or lease is agreed, with opportunities for further input from residents, parishes and other parties at each stage.</p>

Table of permits issued to Thames Water since January 2022 (Question 1)

Work Type	Number of permits	Proposed working days	Proposed calendar days	Actual calendar days
All work types	6472	18401	23680	23603
Immediate notices - all				
Total	3304	10022	13172	13511
Urgent	2786	8741	11521	11825
Emergency	518	1281	1651	1686
Immediate notice (activity type - <i>Utility repair & maintenance works</i>)				
Total	3209	9786	12858	13193
Urgent	2735	8592	11325	11625
Emergency	474	1194	1533	1568