



# County Council

## 14 December 2021

### Agenda

If you wish to view proceedings, please click on this [link](#). However, that will not allow you to participate in the meeting.

Places at meetings are limited. If you still wish to attend this meeting in person, you must contact the Committee Officer by 9am on Wednesday 8 December 2021 and they will advise if you can be accommodated at this meeting and of the Covid-19 safety requirements for all attendees. Requests to speak should be sent to Deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk. You will be contacted by the officer regarding arrangements for speaking.

**Please note that in line with current government guidance *all* attendees are strongly encouraged to take two lateral flow tests in advance of the meeting, one on the morning of the Meeting if possible.**

## Declarations of Interest

### The duty to declare.....

Under the Localism Act 2011 it is a criminal offence to

- (a) fail to register a disclosable pecuniary interest within 28 days of election or co-option (or re-election or re-appointment), or
- (b) provide false or misleading information on registration, or
- (c) participate in discussion or voting in a meeting on a matter in which the member or co-opted member has a disclosable pecuniary interest.

### Whose Interests must be included?

The Act provides that the interests which must be notified are those of a member or co-opted member of the authority, **or**

- those of a spouse or civil partner of the member or co-opted member;
- those of a person with whom the member or co-opted member is living as husband/wife
- those of a person with whom the member or co-opted member is living as if they were civil partners.

(in each case where the member or co-opted member is aware that the other person has the interest).

### What if I remember that I have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest during the Meeting?.

The Code requires that, at a meeting, where a member or co-opted member has a disclosable interest (of which they are aware) in any matter being considered, they disclose that interest to the meeting. The Council will continue to include an appropriate item on agendas for all meetings, to facilitate this.

Although not explicitly required by the legislation or by the code, it is recommended that in the interests of transparency and for the benefit of all in attendance at the meeting (including members of the public) the nature as well as the existence of the interest is disclosed.

A member or co-opted member who has disclosed a pecuniary interest at a meeting must not participate (or participate further) in any discussion of the matter; and must not participate in any vote or further vote taken; and must withdraw from the room.

Members are asked to continue to pay regard to the following provisions in the code that *“You must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself”* or *“You must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned.....”*.

Please seek advice from the Monitoring Officer prior to the meeting should you have any doubt about your approach.

### List of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:

**Employment** (includes *“any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain”*.), **Sponsorship, Contracts, Land, Licences, Corporate Tenancies, Securities.**

For a full list of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and further Guidance on this matter please see the Guide to the New Code of Conduct and Register of Interests at Members’ conduct guidelines. <http://intranet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wps/wcm/connect/occ/Insite/Elected+members/> or contact Glenn Watson on **07776 997946** or [glenn.watson@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:glenn.watson@oxfordshire.gov.uk) for a hard copy of the document.

**If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named on the front page, but please give as much notice as possible before the meeting.**

To: **Members of the County Council**

## ***Notice of a Meeting of the County Council***

**Tuesday, 14 December 2021 at 10.30 am**

**Council Chamber - County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND**



Yvonne Rees  
Chief Executive

December 2021

*Committee Officer: **Deborah Miller***

In order to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, notice is given that Items 3, 7 and 12 will be recorded. The purpose of recording proceedings is to provide an *aide-memoire* to assist the clerk of the meeting in the drafting of minutes.

***Members are asked to sign the attendance book which will be available in the corridor outside the Council Chamber. A list of members present at the meeting will be compiled from this book.***

***A buffet luncheon will be provided***

## **AGENDA**

### **1. Minutes (Pages 1 - 38)**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2021 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 2 November 2021 (**CC1**) and to receive information arising from them.

### **2. Apologies for Absence**

### **3. Declarations of Interest - see guidance note**

Members are reminded that they must declare their interests orally at the meeting and specify (a) the nature of the interest and (b) which items on the agenda are the relevant

items. This applies also to items where members have interests by virtue of their membership of a district council in Oxfordshire.

#### **4. Official Communications**

#### **5. Appointments**

To make any changes to the membership of the Cabinet, scrutiny and other committees on the nomination of political groups.

#### **6. Petitions and Public Address**

#### **7. Questions with Notice from Members of the Public**

#### **8. Questions with Notice from Members of the Council**

#### **9. Report of the Cabinet (Pages 39 - 42)**

Report of the Cabinet Meeting of 16 November 2021 (**CC9**).

#### **10. Treasury Management Mid-Term Review (Pages 43 - 60)**

Report by Director of Finance (**CC10**).

The report sets out the Treasury Management activity undertaken in the first half of the financial year 2021/22 in compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice. The report includes Debt and Investment activity, Prudential Indicator monitoring and forecast interest receivable and payable for the financial year.

***Council is RECOMMENDED to endorse the Council's Mid-Term Treasury Management Review 2021/22.***

#### **11. Dispensation from attending Meetings (Pages 61 - 62)**

Report by Director of Law & Governance (**CC11**).

Under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 85 (1), councillors who do not attend a meeting of the Council during a six-month period will cease to be a member of the Council unless the Council has approved a dispensation before the expiry of that period. Council is asked to grant such a dispensation to Cllr Michele Paule who, for reason of ill-health, is unlikely to be able to attend a meeting of the Council prior to April 2022.

***Council is RECOMMENDED to:***

- (1) approve a dispensation for Councillor Michele Paule from the statutory requirement to attend a meeting of the Council within a six-month period from the last noted attendance;***
- (2) approve that the dispensation last up to and including 30 April 2022.***

### **MOTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

*WOULD MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE THAT ANY AMENDMENTS TO MOTIONS WITH NOTICE MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE PROPER OFFICER IN WRITING BY 9.00 AM ON THE MONDAY BEFORE THE MEETING*

## **12. Motion by Councillor Sally Povolotsky**

“In 2018, at COP24, the UK Government signed up to ‘domestic institutional arrangements, public participation and engagement with local communities’ so localities can play their part in delivering the UK’s ‘Nationally Determined Contributions’ in the Paris Agreement.

In May 2021 the Rt. Hon. Alok Sharma MP, President of COP26, said collaboration would be a key objective of the COP26 climate summit; “Governments, business and civil society (sometimes called ‘non- state actors’ and including local government) need to work together to transform the ways we power our homes and businesses, grow our food, develop infrastructure and move ourselves and goods around.”

Despite these agreements and statements there is still no formal relationship for partnership working between Local and National Government on climate action.

This Council:-

- (a) notes that Cabinet has already adopted the recommendations of the ‘Pathways to Zero Carbon Oxfordshire’ report<sup>1</sup>, the most detailed plan ever made for the decarbonisation of Oxfordshire's economy;
- (b) adds its voice to calls by the Local Government Association and others for a joint local and national government Task Force to work towards ‘net zero’ emissions, able to set appropriate regulations, benchmarks and targets and create long-term funding mechanisms to support local communities and economies to decarbonize; and
- (c) asks the Leader to write to Alok Sharma MP, President for COP26, the Prime Minister, and the Leadership Board of the LGA, informing them of our support for such a Task Force and asking for one to be established as soon as possible.”

<sup>1</sup><https://www.eci.ox.ac.uk/news/2021/0629-pathways-to-zero-carbon-oxfordshire.html>

## **13. Motion by Councillor Kevin Bulmer**

“The pandemic has seen an increase in goods traffic through certain of our villages and market towns. This home delivery phenomenon has coincided with more residents taking the welcome step of increasing the number of journeys they take by bicycle and on foot. As well as serving to make our roads less safe for pedestrians and cyclists, the rise in HGV traffic has contributed to air pollution and affected the wellbeing of residents, who are subjected to the noise and vibrations emitted from larger vehicles.

Many rural roads were not built for the present volume of HGV traffic and it is reasonable to conclude that there will be adverse consequences for the surfaces of many of our highways if this increase does not abate. Moreover, it is a regrettable fact that even where weight restrictions are implemented, they are too often ignored.

This Council resolves to agree a comprehensive HGV route network for Oxfordshire and to facilitate reasonable measures to assist or encourage:

1. Communities to report HGV restriction infringements;
2. Thames Valley Police to take appropriate action against persistent offenders;
3. Technology and haulage companies to incorporate this Council's route network and advisory freight routes within their GPS systems;
4. Delivery firms to switch increasingly to hybrid or electric vehicles; and
5. The installation of appropriate and enforceable 20mph speed limits, together with physical highways restraints, in the areas worst affected.
6. To implement a agreed Cross County wide network of HGV routes."

#### **14. Motion by Councillor Ian Middleton**

"This Council recognises that meat and dairy production is a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and global deforestation and that reducing consumption of these foods is a key part of tackling climate change and improving health outcomes.

The Government's independent Climate Change Committee, advises that meat consumption should be reduced by a fifth, and that public bodies should lead the way by promoting plant-based food options. Leading by example on this, and food waste, should be fundamental components of our commitment to cutting carbon emissions.

Furthermore, in the UK, only 18% of children consume the recommended 5 portions of fruit and vegetables per day, and most young people's diets lack fibre. Providing appealing plant-based school meals along with education on healthy, climate-positive food choices are excellent ways to address these problems.

Council asks Cabinet to:

1. Ensure that food provided at all council catered events and meetings is entirely plant-based, preferably using ingredients sourced from local food surplus organisations.
2. Ensure that Council school meals services have plant-based menus available as part of their regular offer on at least two days per week.
3. Work on outreach to schools and young people to actively influence and inform on food choices and their impact on the environment, health and animal welfare.
4. Encourage and empower students to make informed decisions about the food available in their school.
5. Inspire, promote and support initiatives surrounding food growing, preparation and waste avoidance, especially as part of school and community projects."

#### **15. Motion by Councillor Ian Snowden**

"This Council:

- (i) Acknowledges efforts that this Council has made to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote renewable energy;
- (ii) Recognises that large financial setup and running costs involved in selling locally generated renewable electricity to local customers make impossible for local renewable electricity generators,

- (iii) Recognises that making these financial costs proportionate to the scale of renewable electricity supplier's operation would create significant opportunities for local companies, community groups and councils to be providers of locally generated renewable electricity directly to local people, businesses and organisations, and
- (iv) Recognises that revenues received by local companies, community groups or councils that become local renewable electricity providers could be used to help improve the local economy, local services and reduce local greenhouse gas emissions;
- (iv) Notes that the Parliamentary Environmental Audit Committee has recommended that a Right to Local Supply for local energy suppliers be established to address this.

Council resolves to support the Local Electricity Bill, supported by a cross-party group of over 260 MPs, which, if made law, would establish a Right to Local Supply which would promote local renewable electricity supply by making the setup and running costs of selling renewable electricity to local customers proportionate to the size of the supply company. Council further resolves to ask the Leader of the Council to:

- inform the local media of this decision,
- write to other local MPs, asking them to support the Bill, and
- write to the organisers Power for People, ([info@powerforpeople.org.uk](mailto:info@powerforpeople.org.uk)) expressing its support."

## **16. Motion by Councillor Donna Ford**

"This Council is committed to ensuring that active travel is fully inclusive all year round, including during the Winter, and accepts its responsibility to ensure that all feel safe on our streets and cycle paths.

This Council recognises the need to ensure the safety and security of our residents engaged in active travel and its responsibility in deterring crime and anti-social behaviour.

This Council further commits to maintaining Oxfordshire's publicly maintainable footpaths, cycle paths and rights of way network to make using active travel routes safer and more secure and encourage greater use of them.

This Council resolves to ensure that all overgrowth is cleared from publicly maintainable rights of way including footpaths and cycle paths without delay and ensure that any broken lighting along footpaths and cycle paths are resolved as soon as possible. Moreover, this Council resolves to consider installing additional LED lighting in poorly lit areas and/or those along active travel routes where crime and anti-social behaviour are high or at risk of increasing.

This Council agrees to engage more actively with stakeholders, including Network Rail, residents, landowners and businesses to ensure that they comply more fully with their obligations to clear vegetation on private land and keep public rights of way open. Failure to comply with such obligations should result in action being undertaken more promptly by this council and recharged to private landowners to ensure that all residents, but particularly disabled, elderly and vulnerable residents, are able to walk and cycle safely and securely."

## **17. Motion by Councillor Eddie Reeves**

“This Council considers that fairness, clarity, and transparency are vital for open local democracy.

This Council agrees that all motions put before members should be treated in accordance with these principles, and, importantly, that all amendments to such motions should be tabled in a like manner.

This Council notes a Constitution Working Group is now under way looking at its constitution and that some aspects may need revising to best meet these requirements.

This Council therefore calls on its Constitutional Working Group to:

1. Develop clearer guidelines to protect members and the Monitoring Officer as to what constitutes an acceptable amendment, cognisant of the points set out above.
2. Carefully consider whether the proposer and seconder of a motion should be granted an automatic right of withdrawal of their motion, without recourse to a vote of all members.”

## **18. Motion by Councillor Ian Corkin**

“This Council recognises the importance of maintaining a degree of flexibility in its published meeting dates. Such flexibility can help maintain the integrity of committee expertise by minimising the need for substitutes, improve inclusion by recognising that elected members often have competing commitments, and foster more collegiate working.

This Council notes that a Constitution Working Group is now under way looking at aspects of its constitution that may need revising or updating.

This Council further notes that whilst changes to meeting dates are best avoided, real world experience suggests that a degree of flexibility is both required and desirable to ensure the efficient management of council business. Accordingly, this Council calls on its Constitutional Working Group to firstly, consider the need for such flexibility and the circumstances under which it should be exercised. Secondly, develop a clear and transparent set of guidelines for inclusion in the emerging constitution.”

## **19. Motion by Councillor Sally Povolotsky**

“Transgender and non-binary people face significant disadvantage in society, being highly vulnerable to violence, homelessness, and lack of access to suitable healthcare provision.

Council believes that:

1. All UK law should clearly recognise that trans men are men, trans women are women, and non-binary people are non-binary.
2. Transgender and non-binary people deserve respect and autonomy.
3. It's therefore our duty as community leaders who seek to create an open and tolerant society to speak out against transphobia and discrimination in all its forms.



Council therefore resolves to:

1. Ensure that all Council services, both directly provided and through partners, are fully accessible to all, regardless of their sexuality or gender identity.
2. State publicly that trans rights are human rights and affirm the legal rights of all protected groups under the 2010 equality act.
3. To work with healthcare providers to remove barriers transgender and non-binary people face when accessing medical care.
4. Work to provide at least one gender inclusive bathroom (accessible) where possible in every public building owned or operated by the Council.
5. Ensure that the Council's constitution, policies, forms, and all internal and external communications are;
  - a. Reducing the amount of gender information collected unless absolutely necessary,
  - b. Respecting the pronouns individuals use for themselves,
  - c. Providing opportunities for self-identification beyond the binary "man" and "woman".
6. Encourage and support a network of informal LGBTQIA+ allies across officers and councillors.
7. Support and embrace a Trans Toolkit for OCC staff and associated service groups."

### **Pre-Meeting Briefing**

There will be a pre-meeting briefing on **Monday 13 December 2021 at 1.00 pm** for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Group Leaders and Deputy Group Leaders

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## OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the meeting held on Tuesday, 2 November 2021 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 10.45 am.

### **Present:**

Councillor John Howson and Susanna Pressel – in the Chair

### Councillors:

Juliette Ash	Nick Field-Johnson	Ian Middleton
Brad Baines	Donna Ford	Freddie van Mierlo
Hannah Banfield	Andrew Gant	Calum Miller
David Bartholomew	Stefan Gawrysiak	Michael O'Connor
Tim Bearder	Kate Gregory	Glynis Phillips
Robin Bennett	Jane Hanna OBE	Sally Povolotsky
Felix Bloomfield	Jenny Hannaby	Eddie Reeves
Liz Brighthouse OBE	Damian Haywood	G.A. Reynolds
Kevin Bulmer	Charlie Hicks	Judy Roberts
Nigel Champken-Woods	Tony Ilott	David Rouane
Mark Cherry	Bob Johnston	Geoff Saul
Yvonne Constance OBE	Liz Leffman	Nigel Simpson
Ian Corkin	Nick Leverton	Ian Snowdon
Imade Edosomwan	Dan Levy	Dr Pete Sudbury
Duncan Enright	Dr Nathan Ley	Bethia Thomas
Mohamed Fadlalla	Mark Lygo	Liam Walker
Neil Fawcett	Kieron Mallon	Richard Webber

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

### **64/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

(Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Coles, Fatemian, Fenton, Graham, Murphy, Paule, Sibley, Smith and Waive.

Councillor Alison Rooke (dispensation granted on 14/9/21)

### **65/21 APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY ALDERMAN**

(Agenda Item 4)

The Council had before it a report (CC4), setting out Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 which allowed Councils` to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on former Councillors who had, in the opinion of the

Council, rendered eminent service to the Council as past members of the Council.

On the recommendation of the Group Leaders, Council was invited to confer the title of Honorary Alderman in recognition of their significant contribution to the Council in particular, and for their public service to Ms Anne Purse, Mrs Judith Heathcoat and Mr John Sanders. The Group Leaders spoke in turn, paying warm tribute to the proposed Aldermen.

Ms Anne Purse

**RESOLVED:** (on a motion by Councillor Liz Leffman, seconded by Councillor Tim Bearder and carried nem con) to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on Ms Anne Purse, under section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, in recognition of her significant contribution to the Council in particular and public service in general.

Mrs Judith Heathcoat

**RESOLVED:** (on a motion by Councillor Eddie Reeves, seconded by Councillor Yvonne Constance and carried nem con) to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on Mrs Judith Heathcoat, under section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, in recognition of her significant contribution to the Council in particular and public service in general.

Mr John Sanders

**RESOLVED:** (on a motion by Councillor Liz Brighouse and seconded by Councillor Glynis Phillips and carried nem con) to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on John Sanders under section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, in recognition of his significant contribution to the Council in particular and public service in general.

Once the Alderman had been appointed, the Chair presented each Alderman in turn with a Certificate of Appointment and Alderman Badge.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing .....

## OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the meeting held on Tuesday, 2 November 2021 commencing at 11.00 am and finishing at 3.35 pm.

### **Present:**

Councillor John Howson and Susanna Pressel – in the Chair

### Councillors:

Juliette Ash	Nick Field-Johnson	Ian Middleton
Brad Baines	Donna Ford	Freddie van Mierlo
Hannah Banfield	Andrew Gant	Calum Miller
David Bartholomew	Stefan Gawrysiak	Michael O'Connor
Tim Bearder	Kate Gregory	Glynis Phillips
Robin Bennett	Jane Hanna OBE	Sally Povolotsky
Felix Bloomfield	Jenny Hannaby	Eddie Reeves
Liz Brighthouse OBE	Damian Haywood	Judy Roberts
Kevin Bulmer	Charlie Hicks	David Rouane
Nigel Champken-Woods	Tony Ilott	Geoff Saul
Mark Cherry	Bob Johnston	Nigel Simpson
Yvonne Constance OBE	Liz Leffman	Ian Snowdon
Ian Corkin	Nick Leverton	Dr Pete Sudbury
Imade Edosomwan	Dan Levy	Bethia Thomas
Duncan Enright	Dr Nathan Ley	Liam Walker
Mohamed Fadlalla	Mark Lygo	Richard Webber
Neil Fawcett	Kieron Mallon	

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

### **66/21 MINUTES**

(Agenda Item 1)

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 September 2021 were approved and signed as an accurate record of the Meeting, subject to the amendments set out in the Schedule of Business.

### **67/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

(Agenda Item 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Coles, Fatemian, Fenton, Graham, Murphy, Paule, Sibley, Smith and Waive.

Councillor Alison Rooke – Dispensation granted 14/9/21.

**68/21 OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS**

(Agenda Item 4)

Council held a 'moment of reflection' and paid tribute to the late David Amess MP who had been killed while undertaking his role as an MP in his Constituency.

The Council AGREED to vary the order of business to take Agenda Item 18 (Motion by Councillor Webber on the proposed Reservoir in Oxfordshire) prior to Agenda Item 12 due to the fact that the Motion was time sensitive. It was further AGREED that the Motion would be moved and seconded and put to the vote without debate.

Council noted that Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service were holding an 'open afternoon' at Rewley Road, Oxford on 14 December 2021.

**69/21 APPOINTMENTS**

(Agenda Item 5)

Council noted the following appointments:

**Audit & Governance**

Councillor Ted Fenton to replace Councillor Eddie Reeves.

**Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

Councillor Nick Leverton to replace Councillor Arash Fatemian.

Councillor Damian Haywood to replace Councillor Charlie Hicks.

**70/21 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS**

(Agenda Item 6)

Council received the following petition:

A Petition from Mr Bjorn Watson requesting that the Council commit to providing any extra funds that may be needed for Shrivenham school to ensure that it is built to a minimum of BREEAM Excellent standard (or equivalent) in order to represent best practice in construction performance, put sustainability and wellbeing first, and to make a clear and demonstrable investment in the future of the County's children.

**71/21 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

(Agenda Item 8)

23 questions with Notice were asked. Details of the questions and answers and supplementary questions and answers will be set out in the Annex to the minutes.

In relation to question 3 (Question from Yvonne Constance to Councillor Tim Bearder) Councillor Bearder undertook to provide a written answer on when parish councils had to apply and what funds parishes needed to find in relation to Civil Parking Enforcement.

In relation to question 19 (Question from Nick Leverton to Councillor Mark Lygo) Councillor Lygo undertook to provide Councillor Leverton with a written answer detailing whether there had been any investigation into why South Oxfordshire and Vale appeared to have a higher levels of Covid than other areas in the County.

In relation to question 23 (Question from Andrew Gant to Councillor Duncan Enright) Councillor Enright gave an assurance to share the results of timescales for delivery of the individual elements of the Connecting Oxford Project with Members at the earliest possible opportunity.

## **72/21 REPORT OF THE CABINET**

(Agenda Item 9)

Council received the report of the Cabinet.

In relation to paragraphs 3 and 4 of the report (Question from Councillor Bob Johnston to Councillor Pete Sudbury) Councillor Sudbury gave an assurance that if further slippage occurred on the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy or the Minerals and Waste Development Scheme, he would undertake to bring in additional resource to ensure the projects stayed on course.

In relation to paragraph 3 of the report (Question from Councillor Geoff Saul to Councillor Pete Sudbury) Councillor Sudbury undertook to provide a written answer outlining what actions the Council could take to encourage the production of recycled and secondary aggregates.

In relation to paragraph 5 of the report (Question from Councillor Nick Field-Johnson to Councillor Pete Sudbury) Councillor Sudbury undertook to take forward to the Cabinet the suggestion, (in light of the continued dumping of raw sewage into rivers and the sea), that the Cabinet pass a resolution that Oxfordshire County Council was not only against the policy, but would actively encourage local MPs to pass legislation to prevent the practice continuing.

In relation to paragraph 9 of the report (Question from Councillor Brad Baines to Councillor Duncan Enright) Councillor Enright undertook to join Councillor Baines and other members on a cycle ride around Oxfordshire and other parts of the Country to look at the current state of the Active Travel Infrastructure and look at best practice around the Country.

In relation to paragraph 15 of the report (Question from Councillor Freddie Van Mierlo to Councillor Duncan Enright) Councillor Enright undertook to review and provide Councillor Van Mierlo with a written answer to confirm

whether there would be a segregated cycle path on the Watlington Relief Road and to include Councillor Van Mierlo in any consultations on the issue.

In relation to paragraph 16 of the report (Question from Councillor Ian Corkin to Councillor Jenny Hannaby) Councillor Hannaby undertook to provide Councillor Corkin with a written answer to confirm how many default Social Care assessments had been issued and what was being done to stop the practice.

## **73/21 MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES**

(Agenda Item 10)

Each year, Full Council must adopt a Scheme of Members' Allowances to apply from 1 April of the following year. In particular it must set the amount of a Basic Allowance payable to all members and may make payments for Special Responsibility and Co-opted Members' Allowances.

Accordingly, Council had before it a report which asked members to adopt a Scheme of Allowances to apply from 1 April 2022. Principally, Council's attention was drawn to the recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel in November 2020. Consideration of the recommendations was deferred by Council in December 2020. In adopting a Scheme, the Council must have regard to the recommendations. However, it was the Council's choice whether to accept the Panel's recommendations in whole or in part, or not at all, or to determine any other Scheme.

Councillor John Howson moved and Councillor Susanna Pressel seconded that Recommendation 5 set out in the report and on the face of the Agenda be adopted. Following debate, the Motion was put to the vote and was carried by 5 by 36 votes to 0, with 16 abstentions.

Councillor Howson then moved and Councillor Susanna Pressel seconded that Recommendation 1 set out in the report and on the face of the Agenda be adopted. Following debate, the Motion was put to the vote and was carried by 22 votes to 12, with 19 abstentions.

Accordingly, recommendations 2, 3 and 4 fell.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17.4, seven members stood in their places to request a recorded vote. Voting was as follows:

Councillors voting for the motion (22)

Bearder, Bennett, Fawcett, Gant, Gawrysiak, Gregory, Hanna, Hannaby, Howson, Johnston, Leffman, Levy, Ley, Middleton, Van Mierlo, Miller, Povolotsky, Roberts, Rouane, Sudbury, Thomas, Webber.

Councillors voting against the motion (12)



Baines, Banfield, Brighthouse, Cherry, Edosomwan, Enright, Fadlalla, Lygo, O'Connor, Phillips, Pressel, Saul.

Councillors abstaining on the motion (19)

Ash, Bartholomew, Bloomfield, Bulmer, Champken-Woods, Constance, Corkin, Field-Johnson, Ford, Haywood, Hicks, Ilott, Leverton, Mallon, Reeves, Reynolds, Simpson, Snowdon, Walker.

**RESOLVED:** to adopt a Scheme of Members' Allowances for the financial year 2022/23, and in so doing to:

- 1) adopt the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel made in November 2020 and as set out in Annex 1 to this report;
- 2) adopt an annual index for a four-year period (whereby if no other changes occur to a Scheme, then the Members' Allowances may increase in relation to that index for a period of no more than four years), and that this should relate (as in previous years) to the annual pay award for local government staff.

#### **74/21 COMMITTEE DATES 2022/23**

(Agenda Item 11)

Council had before it the schedule of meeting dates proposed for the 2022/23 Council Year. The Schedule had been drawn up to reflect the various rules about frequency of meetings set out in the Council's Constitution and took into account Bank Holidays and the summer period when meetings were traditionally avoided as far as practicable. The calendar of meetings had also been prepared giving consideration to the calendar of meetings for Cherwell District Council.

Attention was drawn to the following proposed change to previous patterns: move the April Meeting of Council so that it falls outside of the School Holidays.

**RESOLVED:** (on a Motion by Councillor John Howson, seconded by Councillor Susanna Pressel and carried nem con) to agree the schedule of meeting dates for 2022/23 and in particular to agree to waive Rule 2.1 of the Council Procedure Rules to allow the April 2023 meeting of full Council to be held on 28 March 2023 to avoid the Easter School holiday.

#### **75/21 MOTION BY COUNCILLOR RICHARD WEBBER**

(Agenda Item 19)

Councillor Richard Webber moved and Councillor Yvonne Constance seconded the following Motion:

"On 10 July 2018, Council passed a motion unanimously calling on the Leader of the Council to write to Thames Water, Defra, the Environment

Agency and Ofwat, requesting that a second consultation on the proposed Oxfordshire Reservoir be undertaken due to incomplete information or errors on the information used to base their recommendations."

As information in the latest consultation remains incomplete, and what has been provided to support the proposal contains many errors, Council now confirms its position on the TW proposed Reservoir agreed at the Council meeting on the 10 July 2018 in that it remains opposed to the proposal, at least until the case for need has been clearly demonstrated by taking into account and answering the concerns of the whole scientific community.

To this end, Council will be including and taking full account of discussions with and opinions of all sources of independent scientific expertise including the Group Against Reservoir Development (GARD) when considering its response to Thames Water proposals."

The Motion was put to the vote without debate and was carried by 52 votes to 0 (unanimously).

**RESOLVED:** (unanimously)

On 10 July 2018, Council passed a motion unanimously calling on the Leader of the Council to write to Thames Water, Defra, the Environment Agency and Ofwat, requesting that a second consultation on the proposed Oxfordshire Reservoir be undertaken due to incomplete information or errors on the information used to base their recommendations."

As information in the latest consultation remains incomplete, and what has been provided to support the proposal contains many errors, Council now confirms its position on the TW proposed Reservoir agreed at the Council meeting on the 10 July 2018 in that it remains opposed to the proposal, at least until the case for need has been clearly demonstrated by taking into account and answering the concerns of the whole scientific community.

To this end, Council will be including and taking full account of discussions with and opinions of all sources of independent scientific expertise including the Group Against Reservoir Development (GARD) when considering its response to Thames Water proposals.

**76/21 MOTION BY COUNCILLOR EDDIE REEVES**

(Agenda Item 12)

Councillor Eddie Reeves moved and Councillor Yvonne Constance seconded a Motion without notice in accordance with Council Procedure Rule (14.1(v)) to withdraw his Motion. The Motion was put to the vote and was lost by 28 votes to 21, with 1 abstention.

Councillor Eddie Reeves moved and Councillor Yvonne Constance seconded the following Motion:

“This Council supports the work undertaken by members and officers in developing an ambitious Libraries and Heritage Services Strategy, both under the previous administration and the present one.

This Council recognises the funding challenges that face local authorities in their provision of such services, which long predate the current Government and whose services may sometimes be characterised by an era of local government that has long since disappeared.

Given the importance of developer contributions for the provision of, and realisation of improvements to, such vital services, this Council calls on the Leader and Cabinet Member for Community Services to establish a Cabinet Advisory Group to ensure inter alia that the Council’s strategy is:

- i. properly funded;
- ii. sensibly delivered against agreed key performance indicators; and
- iii. cognisant of the need to have the right libraries in the right places, rather than those in which they have historically been placed.

Without prejudice to its work, such a CAG could also advise the Leader and relevant Cabinet Member on:

- i. parts of the county and the country in which libraries have facilitated or hosted joint services, thereby increasing use of public libraries; and
- ii. the wealth and scope of College, University and other private library facilities that exist in Oxfordshire with a view to investigating the possibility of making such facilities – whether wholly or in part – more readily available to residents and, more particularly, adult learners, consistent with the Government’s Lifelong Learning Guarantee.”

Councillor Brad Baines moved and Councillor Hannah Banfield seconded the following amendment as shown below in bold italics and strikethrough below:

~~“This Council supports the work undertaken by members and officers in developing an ambitious Libraries and Heritage Services Strategy. both under the previous administration and the present one.~~

~~This Council recognises the funding challenges that face local authorities in their provision of such services, which long predate the current Government and whose services may sometimes be characterised by an era of local government that has long since disappeared.~~ ***regrets that Library Services across England have been devastated by over a decade of savage cuts by Government to local councils. National funding for libraries has fallen by almost £300 million since 2010, forcing the closure of over 800 libraries in England.***

***This Council recognises that libraries form the heart of local communities and that further cuts to Local Government only undermine this Council’s ability to ensure our Library Service can deliver for those who need and benefit from libraries the most.***

Given the importance of developer contributions for the provision of, and realisation of improvements to, such vital services, this Council calls on the Cabinet Member for Community Services to ~~establish a Cabinet Advisory~~

~~Group~~ **engage directly with members** to ensure ~~inter alia~~ that the Council's strategy is:

- i. properly funded;
- ii. sensibly delivered against agreed key performance indicators; and
- iii. cognisant of the need to have the right libraries in the right places, rather than those in which they have historically been placed.

Without prejudice to ~~its~~**this** work, ~~such a CAG~~ **members** could also advise the ~~Leader~~ and relevant Cabinet Member on:

- i. parts of the county and the country in which libraries have facilitated or hosted joint services, ~~thereby increasing use of public libraries;~~ and
- ii. the wealth and scope of College, University and other private ~~library~~ facilities ~~that exist~~ in Oxfordshire with a view to investigating the possibility of making such facilities ~~— whether wholly or in part — more readily available to residents. and, more particularly, adult learners, consistent with the Government's Lifelong Learning Guarantee."~~

Following debate, the amendment was put to the vote and was carried by 32 votes to 18, with 1 abstention.

The substantive Motion as amended was put to the vote and was carried by 31 votes to 19, with 1 abstention.

**RESOLVED:** (31 votes to 19, 1 abstention)

"This Council supports the work undertaken by members and officers in developing an ambitious Libraries and Heritage Services Strategy. This Council regrets that Library Services across England have been devastated by over a decade of savage cuts by Government to local councils. National funding for libraries has fallen by almost £300 million since 2010, forcing the closure of over 800 libraries in England.

This Council recognises that libraries form the heart of local communities and that further cuts to Local Government only undermine this Council's ability to ensure our Library Service can deliver for those who need and benefit from libraries the most.

Given the importance of developer contributions for the provision of, and realisation of improvements to, such vital services, this Council calls on the Cabinet Member for Community Services to engage directly with members to ensure that the Council's strategy is:

- i. properly funded;
- ii. sensibly delivered against agreed key performance indicators; and
- iii. cognisant of the need to have the right libraries in the right places, rather than those in which they have historically been placed.

Without prejudice to this work, members could also advise the relevant Cabinet Member on:

- iii. parts of the county and the country in which libraries have facilitated or hosted joint services, and
- iv. the wealth and scope of College, University and other private facilities in Oxfordshire with a view to investigating the possibility of making such facilities available to residents.”

**77/21 MOTION BY COUNCILLOR JANE HANNA**

(Agenda Item 13)

Councillor Jane Hanna moved and Councillor Hannah Banfield seconded the following Motion:

“Government planned reforms to integrate health and care by April 2022 are being implemented across Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB) ahead of the Health and Care Bill 2021 and there are many non-elected new decision-makers and groups in place.

We believe Oxfordshire County Council must have freedom to work with partners to respond to the needs of our people, most especially as inequalities have worsened through the pandemic. County councillor democratic involvement at each local and regional level of decision-making is vital as well as ensuring local authority standards of accountability apply to new non-elected bodies.

Oxfordshire statutory committees of Health and Wellbeing and JHOSC are well established Oxfordshire committees. Their role must be core to understanding and tackling inequalities and helping build back sustainable local communities.

New decision-making powers for health and care above Oxfordshire as place must be compelling and accountable. Proposed new powers for ministers to intervene in any local change need to be removed from the Bill. If joint health and care plans are to succeed locally government needs to deliver now on national workforce planning and on its failed pledges in 2017 and in 2019 to deliver a social care settlement fit for the 21st century.

Council calls on and supports the Chair of Wellbeing Board and Chair of HOSC writing to all Oxfordshire MPs seeking their active support for this Council’s position in Parliament and to seek wider support with local partners with view to influencing improvements to reforms.”

Following debate, the Motion was put to the vote and was carried by 48 votes to 0 (unanimously).

**RESOLVED:** (unanimously)

“Government planned reforms to integrate health and care by April 2022 are being implemented across Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire

West (BOB) ahead of the Health and Care Bill 2021 and there are many non-elected new decision-makers and groups in place.

We believe Oxfordshire County Council must have freedom to work with partners to respond to the needs of our people, most especially as inequalities have worsened through the pandemic. County councillor democratic involvement at each local and regional level of decision-making is vital as well as ensuring local authority standards of accountability apply to new non-elected bodies.

Oxfordshire statutory committees of Health and Wellbeing and JHOSC are well established Oxfordshire committees. Their role must be core to understanding and tackling inequalities and helping build back sustainable local communities.

New decision-making powers for health and care above Oxfordshire as place must be compelling and accountable. Proposed new powers for ministers to intervene in any local change need to be removed from the Bill. If joint health and care plans are to succeed locally government needs to deliver now on national workforce planning and on its failed pledges in 2017 and in 2019 to deliver a social care settlement fit for the 21st century.

Council calls on and supports the Chair of Wellbeing Board and Chair of HOSC writing to all Oxfordshire MPs seeking their active support for this Council's position in Parliament and to seek wider support with local partners with view to influencing improvements to reforms."

**78/21 MOTION BY COUNCILLOR BRAD BAINES**

(Agenda Item 14)

Councillor Brad Baines moved and Councillor Bob Johnston seconded the following Motion:

"Oxfordshire County Council believes planning works best when developers and the local community work together to shape local areas and deliver necessary new homes; and therefore, calls on the Government to protect the right of communities to object to individual planning applications.

Oxfordshire County Council also calls on the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to ask them to uphold this vital principle."

Following debate, the Motion was put to the vote and was carried by 51 votes to 0 (unanimously).

**RESOLVED:** (unanimously)

"Oxfordshire County Council believes planning works best when developers and the local community work together to shape local areas and deliver necessary new homes; and therefore, calls on the Government to protect the right of communities to object to individual planning applications.

Oxfordshire County Council also calls on the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to ask them to uphold this vital principle.”

**79/21 MOTION BY COUNCILLOR KIERON MALLON**

(Agenda Item 15)

Councillor Kieron Mallon moved and Councillor Tony Ilott seconded the following Motion:

"This Council notes that Banbury FM wishes to secure a licence to provide a locally run radio station dedicated to North Oxfordshire.

This Council supports the need especially in times of emergency, to provide a genuinely local news outlet dedicated to an established geographical location and conurbation.

Whilst not pre-empting who the provider may be this council supports the aspiration for a local provider to operate the local DAB multiplex and secure a truly local FM community radio licence when they become available.

This Council requests that the leader of the Council writes to Ofcom and the Secretary of State for Digital, Cultural, Media and Sport (DCMS) to convey our support for a local provider to persuade Ofcom of the need for a community minded radio station in the Banbury and North Oxfordshire catchment area."

Following debate, the Motion was put to the vote and carried unanimously (by a show of hands).

**RESOLVED:** (unanimously)

"This Council notes that Banbury FM wishes to secure a licence to provide a locally run radio station dedicated to North Oxfordshire.

This Council supports the need especially in times of emergency, to provide a genuinely local news outlet dedicated to an established geographical location and conurbation.

Whilst not pre-empting who the provider may be this council supports the aspiration for a local provider to operate the local DAB multiplex and secure a truly local FM community radio licence when they become available.

This Council requests that the leader of the Council writes to Ofcom and the Secretary of State for Digital, Cultural, Media and Sport (DCMS) to convey our support for a local provider to persuade Ofcom of the need for a community minded radio station in the Banbury and North Oxfordshire catchment area."

**80/21 MOTIONS BY COUNCILLOR IAN SNOWDON, COUNCILLOR SALLY POVOLOTSKY AND COUNCILLOR IAN MIDDLETON**  
(Agenda Item 16)

The time being after 3.30 pm, these Motions were considered dropped in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.5.8.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing .....



**QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

Questions	Answers
<p><b>1. COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE</b></p> <p>The 3-month suspension of the Green Bin Collections by South and Vale has attracted much critical comment, and service will be restored in October. Visits to my local tip at Stanford have made clear that residents have brought their waste to the County Councils HWRCs which have been forced to manage unprecedented volumes of garden waste. Will the Cabinet Member please report what is the cost to the County Council of the additional waste disposed of by OCC's contractor (W&amp;S) instead of BIFFA, the District Councils' contractor?</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR PETE SUDBURY, CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE DELIVERY &amp; ENVIRONMENT</b></p> <p>This remains an ongoing issue and a truly accurate position and cost cannot be provided, as separate weights for this material are not kept. However, we have estimated additional tonnages received across five of our sites (Oakley Wood, Drayton, Stanford, Dix Pit and Redbridge), based on this assessment we believe additional costs to the County Council of waste delivered to our HWRC's to be around £ 15-20k. This cost purely covers additional transport costs of the material from those sites. There is no additional cost for the treatment/composting of this material as the county Council would have incurred those costs anyway if S&amp;V/Biffa had delivered the waste to the treatment facility direct.</p> <p>However, the County Council is also incurring further costs through the treatment of the material collected by Biffa once the service resumed. Due to the length of time garden waste has been in residents' bins during the suspension some of it has started to become malodorous and anaerobic. This has presented our composting contractor with difficulties composting the waste which requires additional management, processing, and transportation for a proportion of material that needs diverting to other facilities to ensure compliance with relevant environmental legislation. At present this is an ongoing issue and the total costs for this will not be known for the next couple of months.</p>
<p><b>2. COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE</b></p> <p>In the 2019 survey of all councillors about how best to spend DfT grant (later titled 'Active Travel' with fixed conditions) the majority of councillors requested 20 mph for their towns/villages and safe</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR TIM BEARDER, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>I am very grateful that following the Green's own Pete Sudbury had successfully passed a motion calling on this council to act as we did. I was disappointed to see that the previous administration's idea of acting was setting aside a paltry sum of money with which to do so.</p>

<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
<p>school streets. The outgoing administration agreed a budget of £200,000 towards implementing 20 mph, with an outline plan to develop a standard procedure for all towns/parishes to reduce the costs for each parish: eg could Council approve a 20-mph limit for those opting-in to avoid costly speed surveys and consultation in each participating town/parish? Will the Cabinet Member please report on progress on this project, and publish a process and timetable for villages to know when to expect this relief?</p>	<p>We voted for a paradigm shift and we got a parody of a gift.</p> <p>But the Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance has taken the £200,000 you signed off in the budget and got it straight to work with 5 pilot sites that are being delivered before the end of March 2022 and a countywide marketing campaign is also being developed to assist with the roll out of the pilot and future schemes. Officers have allocated £20,000 of the £200,000 for this task.</p> <p>Existing requests for 20mph restrictions that members have made have been recorded by officers for inclusion in a programme going forwards. We encourage projects already in progress to continue as planned but if you wish to understand the potential impact of this new approach or potential future opportunities that may come through the budget setting process Funding to support this new approach is being considered as part of the council's budget setting process. This will be agreed upon by the full council in February 2022. Until a decision on funding is made, local funding will be required to progress any schemes. I hope you will persuade your Conservative colleagues that this time, instead of shuffling the deck chairs, they will join us in backing a step change to make Oxfordshire the first 20mph County in England bringing in a safer pace and making the county a safer place for everyone.</p> <p>The administration has developed a 20mph web page that outlines how members can get a restriction in their areas.</p> <p><a href="#">Requesting 20mph   Oxfordshire County Council</a></p>
<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</b></p> <p>Yes, I don't think Councillor Bearder has answered my question at all. He has spent the entire page on political rhetoric. To do five trials to progress to a common procedure would at least be some</p>	<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</b></p> <p>I am surprised by the question because it is all outlined on the web page where Parishes and Town Councils can request 20mph scheme.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>information I could feed back to my parishes and the effort and the interest at the moment in those villages that are desperate to get 20mph is to know what the process is, what the costs are, what they have to contribute and what the timetable might be. Can you please tell us what common procedure you are actually developing, let us know what process, what procedure and what funds will be needed?</p>	
<p><b>3. COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE</b></p> <p>Residents are now aware that Civil Parking Enforcement has been agreed by each of the District Councils still to exercise this(delegated) power, and we councillors have copies of the information leaflets prepared to introduce the public to the new scheme. Will the Cabinet Member for Highway Management please inform Council when CPE will be rolled out in each District, and what process we can expect to see?</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR TIM BEARDER, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>The rollout from CPE will start from the 1<sup>st</sup> November and from this date Civil Enforcement Officers working on behalf of the county council will be deployed across the new enforcement areas. This will involve a mixture of foot and mobile enforcement while we build up local intelligence and initially, we will focus on the local centres.</p> <p>There will be a period of transition so we are planning on issuing warning notices for a short period, but once the message has got across live PCN's will be issued.</p> <p>We have written to parish and town councils asking their input on enforcement and this will assist us in developing effective enforcement going forward.</p> <p>When you signed off this change on the 13th October 2020 you said, "We cannot expect the police to do it, and the result in our towns is parking mayhem." So, I am sure that you'll agree with me that we don't what that mayhem to continue any longer than it already has under the Conservatives' 16-years in charge of Oxfordshire.</p> <p>Because it has been left so long bad habits have built up, measures that concerned communities put in place to tackle inconsiderate parking have been</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>ignored and some historical signs and lines have become redundant and forgotten. Over a decade of inaction will mean that the shift from police to traffic wardens is more sudden and unwelcome than it ought to have been. There isn't an advertising budget on the planted that would have been sufficient to communicate the change to all those that might be affected but we've taken out Radio and TV adverts, distributed leaflets, and asked members to help spread the word. Still, we anticipate some understandable concern and worry from our residents, and we will take a pragmatic and measured approach to bringing in these changes so that the mayhem that resulted during years of Conservative control are well and truly a thing of the past.</p>
<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</b></p> <p>Thank you, yes again on civil parking enforcement you answer is strong on political noise but doesn't answer my question. What is the process and what is the timetable? I have parishes anxious to implement.</p> <p>What information they have to supply, what funds will they have to find – we need those details please.</p>	<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</b></p> <p>Civil Parking Enforcement came into effect yesterday, what more do you need to know. OK It is all on the website, but I will send the information directly to Councillor Constance.</p>
<p><b>4. COUNCILLOR MARK CHERRY</b></p> <p>As the County Councillor for Ruscote who has lived in Bretch Hill all my life, along with my labour ward councillors in Banbury Ruscote constituents, we have continued to ask if Oxfordshire County Council has funding to resolve parking problems in roads like <b>Dover Avenue, Edmonds Road, Bretch Hill</b> and whether there is a possibility of digging up grass verges for parking spaces. Highway officers have</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR TIM BEARDER, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>I can confirm that in terms of funding there are limited options for this type of proposal as the use of budgets allocated for highway maintenance would not be suitable. The creation of new parking areas in existing green spaces would be unlikely to secure capital funding, which is prioritised against meeting our strategic objectives of encouraging modal shift and improving accessibility and safety on the road network.</p> <p>In the past district councils have funded initiatives to create new parking areas</p>

<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
<p>currently stated that there are no funding solutions at this point in time. Can the cabinet member for Highways Management enlighten me as the local member for Ruscote if there is any future available funding from Oxfordshire County Council to look to resolve the parking problems in Banbury Ruscote.</p>	<p>where public housing is provided, and other opportunities may be through developer contributions. If external contributions were put forward our highway teams would assist in developing a scheme for on the highway.</p> <p>But my experience of Banbury is of a Town that has been forced to take an eye-watering level of development under the Conservatives with much more baked in. I'd suggest that the last thing residents want is the loss of EVEN MORE precious green spaces for yet more cars and I'd urge you to listen to more Joni Mitchell.</p>
<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</b></p> <p>Thank you Chair and thank you Councillor Bearder for your reply. Could I just politely point out that we have got a big development called Bloor homes, Banbury Rise that through development contributions paid for parking spaces and subsidised drop-curbs at Edinburgh Way. Just to note that there is a serious concern about parking in Banbury Ruscote.</p>	<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</b></p> <p>Thank you and I will note that.</p>
<p><b>5. COUNCILLOR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW</b></p> <p>At Full Council in July, I congratulated you and the new administration for recommending that chairs of scrutiny should come from the Opposition. I think this is the right and proper decision and I hope it will be followed by future administrations of all colours. I added a qualification that I was disappointed that you hadn't included Audit &amp; Governance which is in effect a scrutiny committee. You replied by saying that that was under consideration and could change at the Annual Meeting of the Council in May. Has the thinking of the administration advanced in respect of</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR LIZ LEFFMAN, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</b></p> <p>Thank you for your question.</p> <p>I do recall the discussion on this matter.</p> <p>I think it is right that The Constitution Review Working Group, of which I understand you will be a member has the opportunity to consider this point.</p> <p>I understand your reference to the Committee as akin to a scrutiny committee. That is not quite the case. The Audit and Governance Committee has a specific remit with regard to the technicalities of internal control, financial accountability and challenge in relation to governance. It also has powers of decision making</p>

<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
<p>this, but more particularly, would you consider bringing forward a proposal for such a change to Council at the December 2021 meeting? This would mean that the decision could be accounted for in the deliberations of the Constitution Review Working Group which is due to report to Audit &amp; Governance in March 2022.</p>	<p>within those subject areas, which is distinct from scrutiny committees.</p>
<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</b></p> <p>Thank you for your reply. You state that Audit and Governance Committee has a particular remit with regard to the technicalities of internal control, financial accountability and challenge in relation to governance. Surely, that makes it even more important that that committee is Chaired by the opposition? Also, by delaying a decision on this and asking the Constitution Review Working Group to consider it, you are putting Councillor Roz Smith in a position of conflict, as she is the current Chair of Audit and Governance and is on the Constitution Review Working Group – how will you resolve this?</p>	<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</b></p> <p>Thank you for that question Councillor Bartholomew. I can only say without going to the Constitution Review Working Group, that I don't really think there is anything we can much do. We have to go through the Constitutional process on this and the fact that Councillor Smith is on that Working Group, I don't think makes it any more difficult because it is a cross party working group and you have got members on that group as indeed have the other parties. So, I am confident that they will come to the right conclusion, so I think we should leave it up to them.</p>
<p><b>6. COUNCILLOR NIGEL SIMPSON</b></p> <p>The previous administration was successful in attracting government funding of over £700 million to Oxfordshire including the Housing Infrastructure fund bids for Didcot of £215 million and £102 million for the A40 corridor. The cabinet report of September 2017 was clear that the A44/A4260 corridor required a bid of £152 million to include funding for a new Park &amp; Ride as well as improving cycle facilities in</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR LIZ LEFFMAN, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</b></p> <p>The A44/A4260 corridor was the third bid for Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) that was submitted by Oxfordshire County Council in autumn 2017 but only two (Didcot and the A40) made it through to stage 2 of the process.</p> <p>Instead Housing and Growth Deal revenue funding was allocated to the project, which has enabled options assessment work to be carried out on a southbound bus lane and cycle facilities along the A44 between Bladon roundabout and Peartree Interchange and at Kidlington roundabout and along the A4165 to</p>

<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
<p>the area. When will the Leader be submitting a bid for this much needed infrastructure?</p>	<p>Cotteslowe roundabout.</p> <p>Capital funding from the Growth Deal has since been awarded, which will enable the delivery of the bus lane and cycle facilities on the A44 from Cassington Road roundabout down to and including Peartree Interchange and at Kidlington roundabout. These elements are in preliminary design and are expected to be completed by the end of March 2023.</p> <p>Funding for the remaining sections will be sought through developer negotiations and other Government or third-party funding opportunities including for a new Park &amp; Ride/mobility hub on the A44.</p>
<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</b></p> <p>Thank you for your answer. I am pleased that the work is being carried out and that you have been bidding for more funds. The improvements to the cycle paths are welcomed, so is the much-needed crossing at Begbroke. Will the Leader be pursuing every opportunity to obtain funding so the much-needed crossing can be delivered?</p>	<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</b></p> <p>Yes, the answer to that is of course. However, I have to remind Councillors that we are somewhat constrained by the fact that we have to bid into pots in order to get any sort of infrastructure funding from the Government, but we will be making any bids that are relevant to this and to other projects and getting as much money for the County as we possibly can.</p>
<p><b>7. COUNCILLOR EDDIE REEVES</b></p> <p>Given the administration's plans to introduce more 20 mph zones across Oxfordshire, will the Cabinet member for Finance commit to protecting the £2 million budget provided by the previous administration for 'smaller', but nonetheless equally vital, highways maintenance projects, together with any further funding provisions within the MTFP for provision of (i) accessibility schemes, (ii) kerbside maintenance and (iii) vegetation clearance?</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR CALUM MILLER, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE</b></p> <p>As has happened in previous years, we will review the capital programme in light of the administrations priorities and put forward proposals to full council as part of the Capital Programme in February 2022.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</b></p> <p>It is a very straightforward one, yes or no. Will he protect the £2m road safety and accessibility fund in his budget or will he blow it between him and Councillor Bearder on 20mph signs?</p>	<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</b></p> <p>Thank you, I am grateful to Councillor Reeves for repeating his question and I will just refer him to the answer I gave last time.</p>
<p><b>8. COUNCILLOR EDDIE REEVES</b></p> <p>When does the Cabinet member intend to make a decision about the number of household recycling centres open to residents and will he commit to respect the result of relevant consultation exercises in the event that residents tell the Council that they do not want to see any recycling centres closed?</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR PETE SUDBURY, CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE DELIVERY &amp; ENVIRONMENT</b></p> <p>The public engagement exercise was very useful to gather resident opinions on the HWRCs, the services they offer, and their thoughts on ideas for the future. We received some brilliant feedback from residents and are currently analysing the comments. The results will be fed into the options appraisal stage of the process and we hope to return to consult residents on the HWRC strategy (including number of sites and locations) winter/spring 2022/23 before a final decision is made that takes into account reuse and recycling ambitions, carbon reduction objectives and budgetary constraints.</p>
<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</b></p> <p>In principle would Councillor Sudbury like to see more household recycling centres or fewer?</p>	<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</b></p> <p>I have no particular view on that, I will be guided by officers. I have suggested that the Scrutiny Committee might well take this as a piece of work because I would value input from a wise multi-party group on what is I think we could all agree is a wicked program with many moving parts and lots on contradictory drivers.</p>



Questions	Answers
<p><b>9. COUNCILLOR EDDIE REEVES</b></p> <p>On 13 July, the Leader committed to work with Oxford City Council to realise more housing within the City, yet 3,000 homes are now set to be built on land adjoining the City within South Oxfordshire. What will she do to ensure that this trend does not continue and that Oxford's housing crisis is solved by identifying land within the City and building the appropriate strategic and transport infrastructure to facilitate it?</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR LIZ LEFFMAN, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</b></p> <p>There are several allocated sites adjoining or near the City, not just within South Oxfordshire, which address the unmet housing need that was identified some years ago. Looking forward, the Districts and the City are now working on a joint Oxfordshire Plan 2050 and individual reviews of their local plans. Oxford City Council has started the process of reviewing their local plan and an issues consultation and call for sites was carried out over July and August 2021. We will continue to work with City Council officers to identify sites for housing to be allocated in future with the appropriate infrastructure to facilitate their delivery.</p>
<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</b></p> <p>Does Councillor Leffman believe that more of our new homes should be built in the City, given that it is the City that is the engine of economic growth in this County, or would she prefer that new homes be built in our villages and our market towns where necessarily people will have to commute at a considerable personal, financial and indeed carbon cost?</p>	<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</b></p> <p>One thing we absolutely want to avoid is forcing people to commute into the City, absolutely agree with that. It is something that we are going to have to discuss with our City colleagues in the context of the Oxfordshire 2050 Plan and as we are all part of the future Oxfordshire partnership and that will be coming to us as a group, we will have those negotiations when the time comes.</p>
<p><b>10. COUNCILLOR JANE MURPHY</b></p> <p>In 2014 the previous administration ensured that the minimum visit for carers would be 30 minutes unless the client requested otherwise. Can the Cabinet member for Adult Social Care confirm that the current administration will be continuing this good practice?</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR JENNY HANNABY, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE</b></p> <p>Thank you, Councillor Murphy, for your question. As you will be aware, we have recently started a new contract for our homecare support. In this we are moving away from the limited time and task approach to an outcomes-based contract. As a result, I can reassure you that visits exceed 30 minutes with the only exceptions to this are where the task for the carer is brief e.g., visits to prompt someone to ensure medications are taken, in such cases 15 minutes would suffice. Even in these circumstances we are looking at how technology can</p>

Questions	Answers
	assist thus reducing the need for a visit at all.
<p><b>11. COUNCILLOR JANE MURPHY</b></p> <p>What is the Cabinet member for Adult Social Care doing to ensure that there are sufficient carers to protect the most vulnerable residents in Oxfordshire?</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR JENNY HANNABY, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE</b></p> <p>Thank you again Councillor Murphy for your second question. Workforce is a critical and vulnerable element of the support provided to our vulnerable citizens. We have developed in conjunction with Oxfordshire Association of Care Providers (OACP) a local recruitment campaign encouraging people to work with providers within Oxfordshire. <a href="http://proudtocareoxfordshire.org.uk">Home - Proud To Care (proudtocareoxfordshire.org.uk)</a></p> <p>We are working closely with providers to monitor workforce issues. Recruitment continues to be pressured locally and nationally. Where providers indicate there is pressure, we will assist where possible to ensure there is sufficient cooperation and staffing amongst providers of all types.</p> <p>The NHS capacity tracker highlights providers that may have staffing concerns allowing the council to proactively target them with assistance as required.</p> <p>The government announcement relates £162.5m aimed to bolster the dedicated care workforce across the country and is available to be used until March 2022, it's to be used to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support local authorities working with providers to recruit staff.</li> <li>2. To be available to help retain the existing workforce – through overtime payments and staff banks of people ready to work in social care.</li> <li>3. Provide further capacity to support their health and well-being through occupational health.</li> </ol>

Questions	Answers
	As yet no further detail has been produced on Oxfordshire' s allocation but if it was calculated on the same split as the previous workforce grant Oxfordshire would receive £1.5m approx.
<p><b>12. COUNCILLOR JANE MURPHY</b></p> <p>Can the cabinet member for Adult Social Care explain what plans that are in place over the winter period to ensure the safety of vulnerable residents should a provider have financial problems?</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR JENNY HANNABY, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE</b></p> <p>Thank you, Councillor Murphy, for your final and important question. We are regularly in contact with all our providers and operate a dedicated contact point in our contracts team. As you might expect providers will have business continuity plans in place to cover such eventualities and these will be assessed as part of the council's quality assurance activities. Where a provider indicates that they are experiencing difficulties, or our activities indicate that that may be the case we will work with them to ensure that Oxfordshire residents do not go without the care that they need. It is for situations such as this that we have maintained a contingency budget to provide support if needed.</p>
<p><b>13. COUNCILLOR RICHARD WEBBER</b></p> <p>As requested in today's motion to Council "Will you support the request for GARD to be present at future meetings with TW when the reservoir is discussed?"</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR PETE SUDBURY, CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE DELIVERY &amp; ENVIRONMENT</b></p> <p>Thank you for this.</p> <p>I will brief you more fully in response to your motion later. However, the summary position is:</p> <p>I have had meetings with Thames Water and GARD. Both have been very positive. Both have expressed some governance concerns (as have our Council Officers) around the notion of the Council working in partnership with a single stakeholder (GARD). Officers have also pointed out that any formal relationship (such as might bind us to ensuring they are present at all meetings), could appear also to bind us to a particular outcome and be seen to limit the range of responses we could give to the consultation. This is undesirable and should not reflect our starting position in this consultation.</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>Given that we can probably all agree that it is important we get the right answer on this, I have made clear to all parties my position that we should avoid confrontational approaches, and seek to reach a joint understanding and agreement, at minimum on the science, evidence and reasoning behind the potential adoption of any scheme. That approach seems to be welcomed. I will gladly keep you and any other interested members updated with progress as it occurs.</p>
<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</b></p> <p>Thank you, Councillor Sudbury, for your answer. Would he agree with me, (given that we will not be given the opportunity to debate the motion, that everybody has agreed is important enough to go up the agenda today.) that the important element of that motion is one of scientific fairness and independence?</p>	<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</b></p> <p>Thank you, Councillor Webber, for that question. I agree that the first thing that we need to establish is a common agreement as to what the truth is and there are some very large numbers around things like development and droughts and climate change, all of which need to be settled and agreed. As I have remarked to you in the past, my ideal would be to get everyone from both groups lock them in a small room until they came out with a single agreement on the science and the drivers, even if we then choose to disagree on political grounds with the conclusions that were drawn. However, I know that that is not legal so, I will engineer a process that effects that.</p>
<p><b>14. COUNCILLOR DONNA FORD</b></p> <p>Given this administration key priority is to put action to address the climate emergency at the heart of our work can the cabinet member for climate change delivery and environment please explain why in the latest business management and monitoring report the reduction in carbon equivalent emissions from OCC's activities risk is on an upward trajectory ?</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR PETE SADBURY, CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE DELIVERY &amp; ENVIRONMENT</b></p> <p>Thank you for asking.</p> <p>This report is from August and reflects the program put in place and decisions made during the last administration, along with the general problems that have been becoming increasingly obvious post Brexit and due to Covid.</p> <p>The OCC Climate Action plan for 2021/22 includes 20 priority actions, aiming to reduce corporate emissions and enable Oxfordshire's transition to a zero-carbon economy. Some actions set the strategic framework for future initiatives; some</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>deliver projects with direct impact on emissions.</p> <p>The programme is rated as 'green' if 70% of the actions are completed or rated 'green' by their project managers. The threshold for amber is 50-69% and red below 50%.</p> <p>Regarding the specific performance indicators, I understand you have already had the following information:</p> <p>The Q2 report showed an increased number of projects rating as amber. This has been due to a variety of factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Supply chain issues relating to covid and Brexit have extended delivery timelines of a number of projects such as domestic retrofit, with programme delivery now extended to March to compensate.</li><li>• A number of projects led by Property have experienced delays related to the need to give absolute priority to Covid-safe reopening of buildings, along with service restructuring.</li><li>• We have also delayed tendering for a schools' support contract for energy efficiency, which will now go out this month, to allow more time to engage with schools and school stakeholders following the covid period.</li></ul> <p>It seems likely that headwinds due to Brexit and Covid will persist for some time but provided they do not worsen we can adapt our programs to work round this.</p> <p>Putting the Climate emergency at the heart of our work is about a great deal more than the Council's own scope 1 and 2 emissions, which are very small compared to those resulting directly from decisions made by the Council and its Officers, especially around highways and the planning of growth. For example, the 100k homes planned for Oxfordshire by the early 2030s will use the entire County carbon budget for Paris compliance, and roadbuilding facilitates car dependency. Addressing this requires a much broader set of actions. I would be happy to brief you further on this if you would find that useful.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</b></p> <p>Councillor Sudbury, given that in your answer you blamed the Government, BREXIT, COVID and the previous administration, I have one simple question for you. Do you think it is time that you made some decisions, since it has been your responsibility since May?</p>	<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</b></p> <p>Thank you, Councillor Ford. I had no intention of blaming the previous administration, the climate programme set up by Councillor Constance was excellent and what we have is a monitoring process from August which follows that. I am afraid that we do have to say that COVID and BREXIT have had an impact, as most people have noticed when they try to fill up their cars. As for making decisions, I can assure you that there are a great number of decisions that don't have to come to Council or committees or anything else and I am busy making them and I would be very happy to share with her the details of that outside of this Meeting.</p>
<p><b>15. COUNCILLOR DONNA FORD</b></p> <p>Will the leader of this council agree that committees who seek to have recommendations amended based on non-transparent discussions between the chair and deputy chair is unacceptable, undemocratic and will not be tolerated by this administration?</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR LIZ LEFFMAN, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</b></p> <p>Thank you for your question.</p> <p>As Leader of the Council, I would always expect the Constitution to be followed and upheld. In a formal meeting context, procedural advice is always available from the Monitoring Officer or her professional staff, and I would expect such advice to be followed. As members, we learn proper meetings procedure as part of our induction, through taking part in meetings and where necessary in receiving advice from the Monitoring Officer.</p>
<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</b></p> <p>Thank you for you answer Councillor Leffman, will you therefore commit to removing any members of your own administration who adopt this practice?</p>	<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</b></p> <p>I am slightly unclear as to what this practice is Councillor Ford but clearly, we have set up these scrutiny committees because we believe in transparency and we would expect the scrutiny committees to stick to that. We want to have open discussion in a committee, if there are discussions going on that are not transparent, then I think that it is up to us to act on that, but I have no idea what you are talking about.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p><b>16. COUNCILLOR DONNA FORD</b></p> <p>Further to the Times report of 12 October revealing many organisations failing to comply with duties to publicly report their staff gender pay gap, can the Cabinet member for corporate services please confirm that this Council has complied fully with all relevant statutory and regulatory obligations?</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR GLYNIS PHILLIPS, CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES</b></p> <p>The Government extended the deadline for 2020/2021 gender pay reporting from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 to 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021.</p> <p>We confirm that Oxfordshire County Council published the gender pay gap data for 2020/2021 by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 in line with standard reporting timelines and some 6 months ahead of the Government's extended deadline. The gender pay gap report was reported at Remuneration Committee on 25 January 2021 and the committee recommended the report be approved at Full Council on 9 February 2021.</p> <p>The link for the Government portal is <a href="https://gender-pay-gap.service.gov.uk">Gender pay gap for Oxfordshire County Council - GOV.UK - GOV.UK (gender-pay-gap.service.gov.uk)</a> where you can see the report that was submitted and when our next report is due.</p> <p>The information is also published on the Council's website, the link is <a href="https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/file/about-council/GenderPayReport2020.pdf">https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/file/about-council/GenderPayReport2020.pdf</a></p> <p>The next gender pay gap report is due in March 2022 using a data set as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.</p>
<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</b></p> <p>Thank you for your answer Councillor Phillips, and I am glad to see that this County Council submitted their reports in time. Do you agree that the failure of organisations such as the Labour Party to publish this data in accordance with obligations shows complete lack of commitment to equality?</p>	<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</b></p> <p>Thank you, Councillor Ford for your original question, for your supplementary questions the answer is not for this Chamber.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p><b>17. COUNCILLOR VAN MIERLO</b></p> <p>Toilet facilities on laybys either side of the A40 towards Wheatley have been closed. However, the facilities remain in place and have not yet been disconnected. The area now attracts anti-social behaviour and some hard-pressed HGV drivers expecting to find hygiene facilities have been forced relieve themselves in nearby shrubbery.</p> <p>A key reason, alongside Brexit and the pandemic, for the lack of HGV drivers is the unattractiveness of the UK as a place to drive due to the lack of road-side facilities to help maintain basic human dignity and hygiene.</p> <p>Within this context, does the cabinet member for highways agree that it makes sense to bring these services back into use, potentially with a pay-to-use scheme to fund maintenance and solar panels to provide power? Would it be possible for officers to draw up a plan to bring these services back into use to support (a) our freight strategy that encourages use of the strategic network (b) supports government calls to improve infrastructure for drivers and (c) prevents the site falling into disrepair and attracting anti-social behaviour?</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR TIM BEARDER, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>In 2019 following a series of complaints surrounding health &amp; safety concerns, anti-social behaviour, and unsanctioned use of the utilities supply both the north &amp; south bound A40 toilets were subject to a detailed health &amp; safety report, where a number of issues were identified in relation to public health. As a result, the toilets were closed.</p> <p>There has been a number of consultations with the Shotover estate and other interested parties to advise of the strategy to demolish both toilet blocks. Following a number of stakeholder consultations, in early 2021, a project began to isolate the utilities and demolish the toilet blocks.</p> <p>Currently plans devised by the previous administration are underway to redesign the layby, however there are no plans to provide toilet facilities as part of this redesign, which they decided are sufficient services already along the A40.</p> <p>However, this council has heard the response of the Prime Minister to the Driver shortage, when said working in road haulage "should be a great job" but added that there had been an underinvestment in facilities and pay conditions.</p> <p>And we've also listened to the response to the Prime Minister's comments on roadside facilities from the Road Haulage's Rod McKenzie, who said "It requires government commitment to facilitate the development of commercial sites. Government departments however have consistently ignored industry calls to press for cleaner and safer facilities on our roads."</p>



Questions	Answers
	<p>We want to help but have no revenue or capital funds and it will probably astonish you to learn that public toilets are liable for business rates!</p> <p>I will undertake to write to Secretary of State for Transport and request the funds to pay for this work in line with the Prime Minister's aspirations because, having a sanitary place where drivers can relieve themselves is much better than having them do it behind the hedge, which is what is currently happening!</p>
<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</b></p> <p>I would like to thank the Cabinet Member for his answer and wish him luck in pursuing the matter with the Government. However, given the policy of permitting discharge into sewers and rivers one suspects that it won't be long until discharge into bushes is formally permitted by the Government.</p>	<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</b></p> <p>I note his response and thank him for the question.</p>
<p><b>18. COUNCILLOR NICK LEVERTON</b></p> <p>With the sudden upturn in Corona 19 cases and the lower-than-average uptake of the vaccination amongst the BAME community can Councillor Lygo confirm any new initiatives that have been put in place by the current administration to improve this anomaly. The health and wellbeing of all our citizens is paramount and with regard to the BAME communities is he content that we are delivering a robust enough service to them all in the current circumstances.</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR MARK LYGO, CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH &amp; EQUALITY</b></p> <p>On Covid-19 vaccination, I am pleased to confirm that, overall, the uptake of COVID vaccination across the county has been very good, with 95% of our population being vaccinated. Regarding BAME communities, our rates are well above the average for BOB. Thanks to the work of all partners across the system in Oxfordshire.</p> <p>In Oxfordshire, a system-wide Vaccine Delivery Board has been set up which oversees the delivery of vaccination in the county. The board members have been working with faith leaders/local Imams, doctors and trusted leaders across the county, with support from local authorities and voluntary organisations to promote vaccination and successfully deliver pop-up clinics using "Health on the Move" vans.</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>Through the pop-up clinics, vaccinations were offered to various target groups such as the homeless community, shift workers/employees of large businesses (many of whom were from BAME backgrounds), migrant farm workers (fruit and vegetable pickers).</p> <p>In addition, the Board has listened to local communities and has developed and provided information to address vaccine hesitancy in different languages and in different ways, recognising how different communities receive messages, people's cultural and religious beliefs and the ways in which they have been targeted with misinformation.</p> <p>The Vaccine Delivery Board and the team are continuing to talk to local communities, understand their issues and provide information to increase their confidence in the covid vaccine.</p>
<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</b></p> <p>Thank you Chair, thank you Councillor Lygo for the answer. In light of the recent information that has come out of the NHS regarding the vaccinations and pregnant and breast-feeding ladies, can you confirm that we are as part of the program that you have mentioned ,moving that forward with some urgency because there has been a lot of good clarification in those reports.</p>	<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</b></p> <p>Yes, we work closely with the JCDI and Public Health England so if we get any more information, all members will be notified.</p>
<p><b>19. COUNCILLOR NICK LEVERTON</b></p> <p>Can Councillor Lygo confirm the numbers of Oxfordshire residents that received wrong testing results from the Newbury test centre. Can you also confirm any actions that you have implemented to</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR MARK LYGO, CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH &amp; EQUALITY</b></p> <p>Regarding the Newbury Test Centre, we have been assured by UKHSA that only a very small proportion of testing undertaken by Oxfordshire residents has been processed by this laboratory and we have been further assured that everyone affected has been contacted and recalled by NHS Test and Trace for a repeat</p>

<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
mitigate the spread of the virus as a result of the Laboratory errors?	<p>test by 18 of October. Our detailed in-house surveillance of infection rates in the County continues and we are monitoring closely for any potential negative impact of this testing issue on COVID-19 transmission.</p> <p>I trust the above information provide sufficient assurance, but should you have further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.</p>
<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</b></p> <p>Councillor Lygo, there was an anomaly this week in the statistics that came from Chief Executive, my favourite reading on a Saturday morning, I have to say. The anomaly that South Oxfordshire and the Vale seem to have larger uplift than anywhere else, does that get interrogated as to why that is happening.</p>	<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</b></p> <p>I shall get back to you in writing, thank you for your question.</p>
<p><b>20. COUNCILLOR FELIX BLOOMFIELD</b></p> <p>Whilst neurodevelopmental conditions (NDC) such as Autism Spectrum Disorders and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder are themselves not mental health conditions, it is clear that young people with neurodevelopmental conditions are more vulnerable to developing mental health problems. For example, they often find it more difficult to understand and manage their feelings and the feelings of others. They may muddle different emotions or find it hard to understand what is causing them to feel that way. Over time, children with neurodevelopmental disorders may become frustrated and demoralised</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR LIZ BRIGHOUSE, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION &amp; YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES</b></p> <p>The median wait for an NDC assessment is 78 weeks with the longest wait being 3.5 years with currently 1801 children and young people waiting for an assessment. However, the service will often prioritise NDC assessments as a result of the identification of risk issues.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>because of their symptoms. They may develop feelings of a lack of control over what happens in their environment or become depressed as they experience repeated failures or negative interactions in school, at home and in other settings. This means that early access to and assessment by the CAMHS NDC team is imperative.</p> <p>Could the cabinet member for Children, Education &amp; Young Peoples Services please confirm the current waiting time for an appointment with the NDC team and the number of children and young people currently awaiting an appointment?</p>	
<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</b></p> <p>Thank you, Councillor Brighthouse for the answer to my question. Now we know the median wait for assessment is 78 weeks and the longest wait being 3 and half years and 1801 children are currently waiting, what is your view and what are the three most important things you could do to address this for the people of Oxfordshire?</p>	<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</b></p> <p>Thank you, I think what we really need to remember in this Council Chamber is that CAMS is funded through the Health Service and delivered through the Health Service. We are working closely with the Health Service around the waiting times, but of course the impact is on our schools as well as on our children and families that have to wait this length of time. We are looking and considering as a Local Authority how we can deliver a different SEND strategy and that is at the moment being worked on. There were 14 iterations of the work that had been done across all stakeholders to deliver better services for both neuro-diverse children, but also for children who required various therapies. That will be coming to Council, it will be going out for consultation in the New Year, and I hope that you contribute to that. We need to find out what the communities in Oxfordshire and those in particular who are affected by these issues think is the right thing to do, rather than me stand up here and pontificating on three things that I would do.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p><b>21. COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT</b></p> <p>Is the Council administration happy with details in emerging plans for Oxford North for residents to get in and out of the development on foot and by bike, including to Wolvercote primary school, to join up with active travel lanes on Woodstock Road, and to Parkway station (in particular bearing in mind the actual experience of residents of Barton Park)?</p> <p>Can the councillor update us on progress on fixing the rising bollards in Oriel Square and elsewhere?</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR TIM BEARDER, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>The County Council as Local Highway Authority is a statutory consultee to Oxford City Council in making decisions on planning applications. The two Councils worked closely with the applicant over a number of years to develop a scheme that would provide significantly improved walking, cycling and bus infrastructure on the adjacent lengths of A40 and A44. There are obligations on the developer to deliver walking and cycling improvements between the site and Wolvercote Primary school and to work collaboratively with developers of the North Oxford Golf Club site to deliver a cycle link to Oxford Parkway. The County Council are consulting (from 28<sup>th</sup> October) on proposed improvements to the Woodstock Road corridor which will complement quiet routes with a safe and direct route towards the city centre.</p> <p>The Council consider that in terms of walking and cycling accessibility the proposals met or exceeded best practice, relevant guidance, and planning policy in place at the time of the resolution to grant planning permission.</p> <p>I personally feel that the policies of the previous Conservative administration were not robust enough and they merely played lip service to active travel. Instead of committing to a transformational approach they compromised. I welcome the Woodstock Road improvements and planned Banbury Road proposals but there is some much that is not optimal.</p> <p>The Conservatives, in hoc to their colleagues in national government signed up to massively over ambitious road building schemes like the dualling of the A40 between the Wolvercote roundabout and Eynsham this was always going to be incredibly challenging and likely to induce further car dependency - sticking a major entrance and exit from Oxford North further confounds the issues on this part of the network and I have serious reservations about how sensible cycling and pedestrian travel can be preserved in this medley of concrete and tarmac.</p>

Questions	Answers
	We can't reverse everything that has been done but from this point on we will prioritise rail out to the West of Oxfordshire and further enhance our planning policy to protect our most vulnerable road users.
<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</b></p> <p>Thank you for the answer. This is about Active Travel Provision on the emerging Oxford North site. Your answer mentions several details of possible routes in and out of that site, but the one significant omission is that it doesn't talk about how residents are supposed to get from the site itself behind the garage onto the Woodstock Road into Oxford. The answer is that they have to go around the roundabout which takes 5 minutes, parents are not going to do that when they are trying to get their children to Wolvercote Primary School. Leaving aside how we got here, and I asked the same question at the City Council which gave a similar answer which was that the application meets the legal test, but at the same time it is suboptimal for people. Would the Cabinet Member join me in continuing to seek improvements to the Active Travel infrastructure at that site by any means possible, and secondly can I infer.</p>	<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</b></p> <p>Yes, I would like Councillor Gant for his question, I agree with what he said, and I think what we clearly need to do is bolster our policies around preventing this kind of thing from happening again in the future. I would welcome all Council members to partake in that so that we can stop these kinds of things happening again.</p>
<p><b>22. COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT</b></p> <p>Can the councillor update us on progress on fixing the rising bollards in Oriel Square and elsewhere?</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR TIM BEARDER, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>The bollards in Oriel Square are now partially working. The automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) integration is still outstanding and is scheduled to be completed by the end of October.</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>The main reason for the delay was the need to bring in specialist contractors to support final completion, following challenges faced by the main contractor to successfully deliver the required work within the agreed timeframes.</p> <p>The operation has been a complex one because as well as ANPR and the bollard infrastructure, other key elements include an overview camera system and a call centre for remote operation, plus the required internet bandwidth to operate them.</p> <p>The whole episode has been very regrettable, and I would like to take this opportunity to apologise to all the people that volunteered as human bollards. I know that they took a lot of abuse from motorists that were probably trying to break the rules. It shouldn't have happened, and we will be investigating the problems and trying to learn lessons.</p>
<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</b></p> <p>Yes, would he agree with me that the saga of Oriel Square proves that any transport policy is only as good as its enforcement?</p>	<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</b></p> <p>Yes.</p>
<p><b>23. COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT</b></p> <p>Is the councillor able to update us on current plans for Connecting Oxford? In particular, can he confirm if extending the proposed WPL to cover the whole city (including our own car park here at County Hall) is under consideration? What are the proposed timescales? Can he further confirm that the administration regards this project as a key part of a suite of measures, including LTNs and others, designed to improve our city for all who live, work</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR DUNCAN ENRIGHT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRAVEL &amp; DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY</b></p> <p>The Connecting Oxford project consists of a suite of complementary measures designed to encourage travel by more sustainable modes - all key to tackling the climate emergency, inequalities, and public health issues, as well as addressing pollution and congestion. The project team is currently reviewing timescales for delivery of the individual elements, and how the project links with the various other Active Travel initiatives that are underway in Oxford. Cabinet portfolio holders expect to see a proposed realistic delivery timetable in the next few weeks.</p>

<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
and visit, and that these measures should be seen as a whole?	With regards to the WPL, along with colleagues, I have asked officers to prepare advice on the WPL area being extended. This is currently under consideration as part of the wider considerations noted above.
<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</b></p> <p>Thank you, delighted to hear that the over-arching piece of work is being done. He says that Cabinet Portfolio members expect to see the results within a few weeks. Could I ask that that is shared with members and certainly those of us who represent the City at the earliest possible opportunity?</p>	<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</b></p> <p>Yes, happy to give that assurance, in fact the whole Council will need to be involved as will our partners in the City at looking at how we can best move towards an active and public transport first approach to getting around Oxford.</p>



**Divisions-N/A**

## **COUNTY COUNCIL – 14 DECEMBER 2021**

### **REPORT OF THE CABINET**

#### ***Cabinet Member: Climate Change Delivery & Environment***

#### **1. Climate Action Programme Update and Annual Greenhouse Gas Report 2020/21**

*(Cabinet, 16 November 2021)*

Cabinet considered the Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2020/2021 report which was an annual report on the Council's operational greenhouse gas emissions and progress towards the target of net zero by 2030. The report covered the financial year 2020-2021 and the period of greatest operational COVID impact.

Cabinet approved publication of the Greenhouse Gas Report on the Council's website.

#### **2. Sustainable Warmth Fund (SWF)**

*(Cabinet, 16 November 2021)*

Cabinet considered a report which informed Members that OCC had applied to central Government for a grant of £3.37m from the Sustainable Warmth Fund. This money would provide energy-saving home retrofit measures for those most in need and unable to pay.

Cabinet endorsed the submission of the funding bid and approved delegated authority to the Corporate Director Environment and Place in consultation with S151 Officer and Cabinet Member for Climate Change Delivery and Environment to review and conclude legal agreements should the application be successful.

#### **3. Local Aggregates Assessment 2020 and 2021**

*(Cabinet, 16 November 2021)*

Cabinet was provided with a report which informed Members that under the National Planning Policy Framework, July 2021 (NPPF), mineral planning authorities should prepare an annual Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA).

The latest LAA for Oxfordshire was produced in 2019. In 2020 the Aggregates Survey for the 2019 information was the responsibility of British Geological Survey, the results of which were published in August 2021. Hence there had been a delay in producing the LAA for 2020.

Cabinet approved the Local Aggregates Assessments for 2020 and 2021 and authorised the Corporate Director Environment and Place in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Climate Change Delivery and Environment to make any revisions and publish the assessments on the Council website.

***Cabinet Member: Finance***

**4. Treasury Management Mid-Term Review**

*(Cabinet, 16 November 2021)*

Cabinet had before it a report setting out the Treasury Management activity undertaken in the first half of the financial year 2021/22 in compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice. The report included Debt and Investment activity, Prudential Indicator monitoring and forecast interest receivable and payable for the financial year.

Cabinet endorsed the report and recommended that Council also endorse it.

***Cabinet Member: Travel and Development Strategy***

**5. A4095/B4100 Banbury Road Roundabout - Preferred Options and In Principle Use of Statutory Powers**

*(Cabinet, 16 November 2021)*

Cabinet considered a report which sought approval to progress with a junction capacity and sustainable transport improvements project at the A4095 / B4100 Banbury Road roundabout in Bicester.

Cabinet approved the design option and the progression into Design and Procurement Stage 2 of the project. Approval was also given in principle for the use of Statutory Powers. If a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) is required to deliver the project, further approval would be sought from Cabinet.

**6. Banbury Regeneration - Tramway Road Improvements In Principle use of Statutory Powers**

*(Cabinet, 16 November 2021)*

Cabinet was provided with a report which provided details on the Banbury Regeneration - Tramway Road Improvements. The proposals would deliver a new bus and taxi link past the railway station and into the town centre, as well as a new access to Network Rail West Car Park and improvements to pedestrian access.

Cabinet approved the updated design layout and the progression of the layout into Design and Procurement Stage 2 of the project. Approval was also given in principle for the use of Statutory Powers and the preparation of any necessary Side Roads Orders. Further approval would be sought from Cabinet for any CPO or Side Roads Orders.

***Cabinet Member: All Cabinet Members***

**7. Business Management & Monitoring Report**

*(Cabinet, 16 November 2021)*

Cabinet considered reports setting out Oxfordshire County Council's progress towards Corporate Plan priorities for 2021/22 during September 2021.

## CC9

The report updated Cabinet on the delivery of the 21 OCC and joint priority actions set by the Climate Action Programme Board for 2021/22 and the Including Everyone action plan. However, as these were joint reports of OCC and Cherwell District Council, they were not included in the formal recommendation for OCC Cabinet to note.

Cabinet approved the other reports as well as a list of virements set out in an Annex.

**LIZ LEFFMAN**

Leader of the Council

December 2021

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Division(s): N/A

## **COUNCIL – 14 DECEMBER 2021**

### **TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-TERM REVIEW 2021/22**

**Report by the Director of Finance**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**Council is RECOMMENDED to endorse the Council's Mid-Term Treasury Management Review 2021/22.**

#### **Executive Summary**

1. This report covers the treasury management activity for the first six months of 2021/22 in compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice.
2. During the first six months of the year there were no maturities of external debt. The external debt balance remained at £335.38m on 30 September 2021.
3. The average daily balance of temporary surplus cash invested in-house in the six months to 30 September was £472.76m, compared to a budgeted figure of £428.00m. The Council achieved an average in-house return for that period of 0.48%, below the budgeted rate of 0.58% set in the strategy. This has produced gross interest receivable of £1.13m for the six months to 30 September 2021 compared to budget of £0.97m. Whilst the rate achieved is below the budgeted rate, the budget has been exceeded in cash terms due to higher than forecast balances.
4. During the first six months of the year the Council maintained its holding in external funds. Gross distributions from pooled funds have totalled £1.63m in the first six months of the year, exceeding the budgeted figure of £1.38m by £0.25m. Forecast returns for the year are £3.81m, in line with the budget of £3.81m.
5. Link Treasury Services were appointed as the Council's Treasury Management advisors on 1 May 2021 for 3 years after a competitive tendering exercise.

#### **Introduction**

6. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA's) Code of Practice on Treasury Management 2017 recommends that members are informed of Treasury Management activities at least twice a year. This report ensures this authority is embracing Best Practice in accordance with CIPFA's recommendations.
7. The following annexes are attached

Annex 1      Lending List Changes  
Annex 2      Debt Financing 2021/22

Annex 3	PWLB Debt Maturing
Annex 4	Prudential Indicator Monitoring
Annex 5	Link Treasury Services Quarter 2 Benchmarking
Annex 6	Specified & Non-Specified Investments 2021/22

## Strategy 2021/22

8. The approved Treasury Management Strategy for 2021/22 was based on an average base rate forecast of 0.10%.
9. The Strategy for borrowing provided an option to fund new or replacement borrowing up to £100m through internal borrowing.
10. The Strategy included the continued use of pooled fund vehicles with variable net asset value.

## External Context – Provided by Link Treasury Services

11. **Economic backdrop:** The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) indicated in August 2021 that tightening of monetary policy was not on the horizon, weighted against not wanting to stifle economic recovery by too early an increase in Bank Rate.
12. In August, the MPC indicated that they are prepared to look through a temporary spike in inflation caused by events a year ago e.g., the cut in VAT in August 2020 for the hospitality industry, and by temporary shortages which would eventually work their way out of the system.
13. In September 2021 the MPC indicated there had been a marked increase in concern that more recent increases in prices, particularly the increases in gas and electricity prices in October 2021 and due again in April 2022, are, indeed, likely to lead to faster and higher inflation expectations and underlying wage growth, which would in turn increase the risk that price pressures would prove more persistent next year than previously expected. To emphasise its concern about inflationary pressures, the MPC reaffirmed its commitment to the 2% inflation target. The MPC also suggested that it was now willing to look through the flagging economic recovery during the summer to prioritise bringing inflation down next year.
14. Financial markets are now pricing in a first increase in Bank Rate from 0.10% to 0.25% in February 2022, but this looks ambitious as the MPC has stated that it wants to see what happens to the economy, and particularly to employment, once furlough ends at the end of September 2021. At the MPC's meeting in February 2022, it will only have available the employment figures for November 2021; to get a clearer picture of employment trends, it would need to wait until the May 2022 meeting when it would have data up until February 2022. At its May 2022 meeting, it will also have a clearer understanding of the likely peak of inflation.
15. The MPC's forward guidance on its intended monetary policy on raising Bank Rate versus selling (quantitative easing) holdings of bonds is as follows: -
  1. Placing the focus on raising Bank Rate as "the active instrument in most circumstances".
  2. Raising Bank Rate to 0.50% before starting on reducing its holdings.

3. Once Bank Rate is at 0.50% it would stop reinvesting maturing gilts.
  4. Once Bank Rate had risen to at least 1%, it would start selling its holdings.
16. **COVID-19 vaccines.** The roll out of the COVID-19 vaccinations boosted confidence that life in the UK could largely return to normal during the summer after a third wave of the virus threatened to overwhelm hospitals in spring 2021. With the household saving rate having been exceptionally high since the first lockdown in March 2020, there is plenty of pent-up demand and purchasing power stored up for services in hard hit sectors like restaurants, travel and hotels. However, it remains unclear whether mutations of the virus could develop which render current vaccines ineffective, and how quickly vaccines can be modified to deal with them along with implementation of enhanced testing programmes to contain their spread.
  17. **EU.** The slow roll out of vaccines initially delayed economic recovery in early 2021 but the vaccination rate has picked up sharply since then. After a contraction in GDP of -0.3% in Q1, Q2 came in with strong growth of 2%, which is likely to continue into Q3, though some countries more dependent on tourism may struggle. Recent sharp increases in gas and electricity prices have increased overall inflationary pressures but the ECB is likely to see these as being only transitory after an initial burst through to around 4%, so is unlikely to be raising rates for a considerable time.
  18. **German general election.** Following the September general election, the composition of Germany's next coalition government may not be agreed by the end of 2021. A Social Democratic Party led coalition would probably pursue a slightly less restrictive fiscal policy, but any change of direction from a Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union led coalition government is likely to be small. However, with Angela Merkel standing down as Chancellor as soon as a coalition is formed, this is likely to impact significantly on overall EU leadership.
  19. **World growth.** World growth was in recession in 2020 but recovered during 2021 until starting to lose momentum more recently. Inflation has been rising due to increases in gas and electricity prices, shipping costs and supply shortages, although these should subside during 2022. It is likely that we are heading into a period where there will be a reversal of world globalisation and a decoupling of western countries from dependence on China to supply products, and vice versa. This is likely to reduce world growth rates from those in prior decades.
  20. **Interest Rate Forecasts** Link Group, provided the following forecasts on 29th September 2021 (PWLB rates are certainty rates, gilt yields plus 80bps):

Link Group Interest Rate View		29.9.21								
	Dec-21	Mar-22	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24
BANK RATE	0.10	0.10	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.75
3 month ave earnings	0.10	0.10	0.20	0.20	0.30	0.40	0.50	0.50	0.60	0.70
6 month ave earnings	0.20	0.20	0.30	0.30	0.40	0.50	0.60	0.60	0.70	0.80
12 month ave earnings	0.30	0.40	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.60	0.70	0.80	0.90	1.00
5 yr PWLB	1.40	1.40	1.50	1.50	1.60	1.60	1.60	1.70	1.70	1.70
10 yr PWLB	1.80	1.80	1.90	1.90	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.10	2.10	2.10
25 yr PWLB	2.20	2.20	2.30	2.30	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.50	2.50	2.60
50 yr PWLB	2.00	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.30	2.30	2.40

## Treasury Management Activity

### Debt Financing

21. The Council's cumulative total external remained at from £335.38m from 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021. No new debt financing has been arranged during the year. The total forecast external debt as at 31 March 2022 is £313.38m. The forecast debt financing position for 31 March 2022 is shown in Annex 2.
22. At 30 September 2021, the authority had 53 PWLB<sup>1</sup> loans totalling £285.38m, nine LOBO<sup>2</sup> loans totalling £45m and one long-term fixed Money Market loan totalling £5m<sup>3</sup>. The combined weighted average interest rate for external debt as at 30 September 2021 was 4.46%.

### Maturing Debt

23. No debt matured during the first half of the year. The Council is forecast to repay £22m of PWLB debt by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. The details are set out in Annex 3.

### Debt Restructuring

24. The premium charge for early repayment of PWLB debt remained relatively expensive for the loans in the Authority's portfolio and therefore unattractive for debt restructuring activity. No PWLB debt restructuring activity was undertaken during the first half of the year. Opportunities to restructure debt remain under regular review.

### LOBOs

25. At the beginning of the financial year the Council held £45m of LOBO (Lender's Option Borrower's Option) loans where the lender has the option to propose an increase in the interest rate at set dates, following which the Authority has the option to either accept the new rate or to repay the loan at no additional cost. £20m of these LOBOs had options during 2021/22, to the 30 September 2021 none had been exercised by the lender. The Council acknowledges there is an element of refinancing risk associated with LOBOs although in the current interest rate environment lenders are unlikely to exercise their options.

### Investment Strategy

26. The Council holds deposits and invested funds representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves. The guidance on Local Government Investments in England gives priority to security and liquidity and the Council's aim is to achieve a yield commensurate with these principles. The

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<sup>1</sup> PWLB (Public Works Loans Board) is a Government agency operating within the United Kingdom Debt Management Office and is responsible for lending money to Local Authorities.

<sup>2</sup> LOBO (Lender's Option/Borrower's Option) Loans are long-term loans which include a re-pricing option for the bank at predetermined intervals.

<sup>3</sup> In June 2016, the Council's LOBO with Barclays PLC was converted to a fixed rate loan at its current interest rate of 3.95% to mature on the 29th May 2065 with Barclays waiving their right to change the interest rate on the loan in the future.



Council continued to adopt a cautious approach to lending to financial institutions and continuously monitored credit quality information relating to counterparties.

27. During the first half of the financial year term fixed deposits have been placed with other Local Authorities as per the approved lending list, whilst Money Market Funds have been utilised for short-term liquidity. Inter Local Authority lending remains an attractive market to deposit funds with from a security view point.
28. The Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2021/22 included the use of external fund managers and pooled funds to diversify the investment portfolio through the use of different investment instruments, investment in different markets, and exposure to a range of counterparties. It is expected that these funds should outperform the Council's in-house investment performance over a rolling three-year period. The strategy permitted up to 50% of the total portfolio to be invested with external fund managers and pooled funds (excluding Money Market Funds). The performance of the pooled funds will continue to be monitored by the Treasury Management Strategy Team (TMST) throughout the year against respective benchmarks and the in-house portfolio.
29. The UK Bank Rate has remained at 0.10% for the six months to 30 September 2021. Link Treasury Services forecast base rate to stay at 0.10% for the remainder of the financial year, rising to 0.25% for the duration for 2022/23 and rising to 0.75% by the end of 2023/24.
30. The long term lending limit for 2021/22 is £215m. During the first six months of the year the average available cash headroom within that limit was £35m. The TMST explored investment options available for this cash, including the option of investing £25m in Strategic Funds, shorted dated "Cash Plus" funds, as well as longer term deposits with other Local Authorities. However, it was deemed inappropriate to increase exposure to strategic investments above the current levels, due to uncertainty about cash balances for the 10 year time horizon required. In addition to this analysis of shorter dated cash plus funds indicated that the returns were not currently favourable.
31. Because of this it was decided to review these funds in 6 months and to maintain headroom in the longer term lending limit to invest in these if it is in the best interest of the Council.

### **The Council's Lending List**

32. The Council's in-house cash balances were deposited with institutions that meet the Council's approved credit rating criteria. The approved Lending List is updated to reflect changes in counterparty credit quality with changes reported to Cabinet on a bi-monthly basis. Changes to the lending list in the first six months of 2021/22 are set out in Annex 1.
33. In the six months to 30 September 2021 there were no instances of breaches in policy in relation to the Council's Lending List. Any breaches in policy will be reported to Cabinet as part of the monthly Business Management & Monitoring report.

## **Investment Performance**

34. Security of capital has remained the Authority's main investment objective. This has been maintained by following the Authority's counterparty policy as set out in its Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2021/22 and by purposefully reducing exposure to "bail in" banks and favouring deposits with other Local Authorities. As at 30 September 2021, the Council had £350.0m deposited with 34 other Local Authorities with an average deposit total of £10.29m per authority.
35. The average daily balance of temporary surplus cash invested in-house in the six months to 30 September was £472.76m, compared to a budgeted figure of £428.00m. The Council achieved an average in-house return for that period of 0.48%, below the budgeted rate of 0.58% set in the strategy. This has produced gross interest receivable of £1.13m for the six months to 30 September 2021 compared to budget of £0.97m. Whilst the rate achieved is below the budgeted rate, the budget has been exceeded in cash terms due to higher than forecast balances.
36. Temporary surplus cash includes; developer contributions; council reserves and balances; trust fund balances; and various other funds to which the Council pays interest at each financial year end, based on the average three month London Interbank Bid (LIBID) rate.

## **External Fund Managers and Pooled Funds**

37. During the first six months of 2021/22 the Council maintained its holding in external funds. The value of the funds was £103.19m as at 30 September 2021 compared to £100.70m at 31 March 2021. The original purchase cost of the portfolio in March 2019 was £101.0m. Weighted by original purchase value, pooled fund investments produced an annualised income return of 3.26% for the period. These investments are held with a long-term view and performance is assessed accordingly.
38. Gross distributions from pooled funds have totalled £1.63m in the first six months of the year, exceeding the budgeted figure of £1.38m by £0.25m.

## **Prudential Indicators for Treasury Management**

39. The Authority confirms compliance with its Prudential Indicators for 2021/22, which were set as part of the Authority's Treasury Management Strategy Statement. The position as at 30 September 2021 for the Prudential Indicators is shown in Annex 4.
40. CIPFA has issued a consultation on the Treasury Management and Prudential Codes, the outcomes of which will be published in December 2021. The council will adopt the new codes in the 2022/23 Capital and Investment Strategies. The new codes are likely to include a new "Liability Benchmark" for debt financing, and more robust guidance relating to commercial investments.

## **External Performance Indicators and Statistics**

41. Link Treasury Services were appointed as the Council's Treasury Management advisors on 1 May 2021 for 3 years after a competitive tendering exercise.
42. Link Treasury Services benchmark the Council's investment performance against its other clients on a quarterly basis. The results of the quarter 2 benchmarking to 31 July 2021 are shown in Annex 5.
43. The benchmarking results show that the Council was achieving higher than average interest on inhouse investments, with a lower than average credit risk, when compared with other County Councils. This has been achieved by placing deposits over a longer than average duration with institutions that are of higher than average credit quality.
44. Oxfordshire had a higher than average allocation to fixed and local authority deposits when compared with other local authorities in the benchmarking exercise. Oxfordshire also had a notably lower than average exposure to money market funds and banks

## **Training**

45. Individuals within the Treasury Management Team continue to keep up to date with the latest developments and attend external workshops and conferences where relevant

## **Financial and Legal Implications**

46. Interest payable and receivable in relation to Treasury Management activities are included within the overall Strategic Measures budget. In house interest receivable for 2021/22 is currently forecast to be in line with the budgeted figure of £1.94m. Of the forecast £1.94m interest receivable, £1.13m had been realised as at the 30 September 2021.
47. Dividends payable from external funds in 2021/22 are forecast as £3.81m, which is in line with budget.
48. Interest payable is currently forecast to be in line with the budgeted figure of £15.08m.
49. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report save for the need for ongoing collaborative working between the S.151 Officer and the Monitoring Office. CIPFA guidance promotes the need for consultative working and collaboration between these respective roles to promote good organisational governance.

**LORNA BAXTER**

Director of Finance

Contact officer: Tim Chapple – Treasury Manager

Contact number: 07917 262935

November 2021

**Lending List Changes from 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2021**

None

**Pension Fund Lending list changes**

None

**OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL DEBT FINANCING 2021/22**

<u>Debt Profile</u>		£m
1. PWLB	85%	285.38
2. Other Long Term Loans	15%	<u>50.00</u>
3. Sub-total External Debt		335.38
4. Internal Balances		<u>-7.24</u>
<b>5. Actual Debt at 31 March 2021</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>328.14</b>
6. Prudential Borrowing		81.09
7. Borrowing in Advance		0.00
8. Minimum Revenue Provision		<u>-8.53</u>
<b>9. Forecast Debt at 31 March 2022</b>		<b>400.70</b>
<u>Maturing Debt</u>		
10. PWLB loans maturing during the year		22.00
11. PWLB loans repaid prematurely in the course of debt restructuring		<u>0.00</u>
<b>12. Total Maturing Debt</b>		<b>-22.00</b>
<u>New External Borrowing</u>		
13. PWLB Normal		0.00
14. PWLB loans raised in the course of debt restructuring		0.00
15. Money Market LOBO loans		<u>0.00</u>
<b>16. Total New External Borrowing</b>		<b>0.00</b>
<u>Debt Profile Year End</u>		
17. PWLB	66%	263.38
18. Money Market loans (incl £45m LOBOs)	12%	<u>50.00</u>
19. Forecast Sub-total External Debt		313.38
20. Forecast Internal Balances	<u>20%</u>	<u>87.32</u>
<b>21. Forecast Debt at 31 March 2021</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>400.70</b>

## Line

- 1 – 5 This is a breakdown of the Council's debt at the beginning of the financial year (1 April 2020). The PWLB is a government agency operating within the Debt Management Office. LOBO (Lender's Option/ Borrower's Option) loans are long-term loans, with a maturity of up to 60 years, which includes a re-pricing option for the bank at predetermined time intervals. Internal balances include provisions, reserves, revenue balances, capital receipts unapplied, and excess of creditors over debtors.
- 6 'Prudential Borrowing' reflects Prudential Borrowing taken by the authority whereby the associated borrowing costs are met by savings in the revenue budget.
- 7 'Borrowing in Advance' is the amount the Council borrowed in advance to fund future capital finance costs.
- 8 The amount of debt to be repaid from revenue. The sum to be repaid annually is laid down in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, which stipulates that the repayments must equate to at least 4% of the debt outstanding at 1 April each year.
- 9 The Council's forecast total debt by the end of the financial year, after taking into account new borrowing, debt repayment and movement in funding by internal balances.
- 10 The Council's normal maturing PWLB debt.
- 11 PWLB debt repaid early during the year.
- 12 Total debt repayable during the year.
- 13 The normal PWLB borrowing undertaken by the Council during 2021/22.
- 14 New PWLB loans to replace debt repaid early.
- 15 The Money Market borrowing undertaken by the Council during 2021/22
- 16 The total external borrowing undertaken.
- 18-22 The Council's forecast debt profile at the end of the year.

**Long-Term Debt Maturing 2021/22****Public Works Loan Board: Loans maturing during 2021/22**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Amount £m</b>	<b>Rate %</b>
31/12/2021	2.000	4.70%
31/12/2021	10.000	4.65%
31/01/2021	10.000	4.85%
<b>Total</b>	<b>22.000</b>	

### **Prudential Indicators Monitoring at 30 September 2022**

The Local Government Act 2003 requires the Authority to have regard to CIPFA's Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code) when determining how much money it can afford to borrow. To demonstrate that the Authority has fulfilled the requirements of the Prudential Code the following indicators must be set and monitored each year.

#### **Authorised and Operational Limit for External Debt**

Actual debt levels are monitored against the Operational Boundary and Authorised Limit for External Debt below. The Operational Boundary is based on the Authority's estimate of most likely, i.e. prudent, but not worst case scenario for external debt. The council confirms that the Operational Boundary has not been breached during 2021/22.

The Authorised Limit is the affordable borrowing limit determined in compliance with the Local Government Act 2003. It is the maximum debt that the Authority can legally owe. The authorised limit provides headroom over and above the operational boundary for unusual cash movements. The Authority confirms that the Authorised limit was not breached in the first half of 2021/22.

Authorised limit for External Debt	£445,000,000
Operational Limit for External Debt	£420,000,000
Capital Financing Requirement for year	£419,707,000

	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Forecast</b>
	<b>30/09/2021</b>	<b>31/03/2022</b>
Borrowing	£335,382,618	£313,382,618
Other Long-Term Liabilities	£ 17,000,000	£ 17,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£352,382,619</b>	<b>£330,382,618</b>

#### **Interest Rate Exposures**

These indicators are set to control the Authority's exposure to interest rate risk. The upper limits on fixed and variable rate interest exposures. Fixed rate investments are borrowings are those where the rate of interest is fixed for the whole financial year. Instruments that mature during the financial year are classed as variable rate.

##### **Fixed Interest Rate Exposure**

Fixed Interest Net Borrowing limit	£350,000,000
Actual at 30 September 2021	-£102,117,382

##### **Variable Interest Rate Exposure**

Variable Interest Net Borrowing limit	£0
Actual at 30 September 2021	-£23,761,997



**Principal Sums Invested over 365 days**

Total sums invested for more than 364 days limit	£215,000,000
Actual sums invested for more than 364 days	£ 96,500,000

**Maturity Structure of Borrowing**

This indicator is set to control the Authority's exposure to refinancing risk. The upper and lower limits on the maturity structure of fixed rate borrowing and the actual structure at 30 September 2021, are shown below. Time periods start on the first day of each financial year. The maturity date of borrowing is the earliest date on which the lender can demand repayment.

	<b>Limit %</b>	<b>Actual %</b>
Under 12 months	0 - 20	6.56
12 – 24 months	0 - 25	11.03
24 months – 5 years	0 - 35	8.05
5 years to 10 years	5 - 40	26.95
10 years +	40 - 95	47.41

Summary

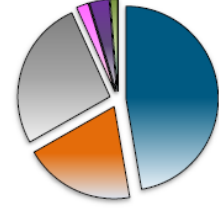
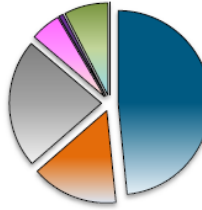
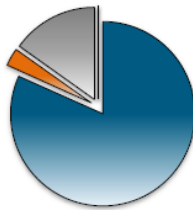
Oxfordshire County Council

Summary Sheet

Oxfordshire County Council	Benchmarking Group3 (10) Basic Portfolio Characteristics	English Counties (18)
WARoR	0.45%	0.18%
WAM	231	90
WATT	401	165
WA Credit Risk	1.13	2.52
Model WARoR	0.44%	0.20%
Difference	0.01%	-0.02%
Model Band	0.40% - 0.49%	0.16% - 0.25%
Performance	Inline	Inline

Asset Breakdown

- Fixed Deposits
- Calls & O/N
- MMFs
- USDBFs
- Struct. Prods.
- Bonds
- CDs



This shows that, at 30 June 2021, Oxfordshire achieved higher than average return for lower than average credit risk.

Investment Instruments – Peer Comparison

Oxfordshire County Council

Peer Comparison

Oxfordshire County Council	Benchmarking Group3 (10) Basic Characteristics	English Counties (18)	Population Average (212)
Principal	£477,154,600	£271,409,423	£99,798,516
WARoR	0.45%	0.18%	0.17%
WAM	231	90	69
WATT	401	165	127
WA Credit Risk	1.13	2.52	2.97
<b>Portfolio Breakdown</b>			
Fixed Deposits	81.69%	47.33%	39.25%
Calls & O/N	3.13%	19.45%	31.86%
MMFs	15.17%	26.42%	25.27%
USDBFs	0.00%	2.11%	1.13%
Struct. Prods.	0.00%	0.00%	0.12%
Bonds	0.00%	3.44%	0.77%
CDs	0.00%	7.70%	1.59%
<b>Institution Breakdown</b>			
Banks	3.13%	37.66%	46.15%
Building Socs.	0.00%	7.07%	4.80%
Government	81.69%	29.75%	21.94%
MMFs	15.17%	26.42%	25.32%
USDBFs	0.00%	5.32%	1.13%
MLDBs	0.00%	0.00%	0.02%
Other	0.00%	1.84%	0.64%
<b>Domestic/Foreign Exposure</b>			
Domestic	84.83%	65.46%	70.00%
Foreign	0.00%	2.47%	3.52%
MMFs	15.17%	26.42%	25.35%
USDBFs	0.00%	5.32%	1.13%
<b>Maturity Structure</b>			
< 1 Month	32.77%	48.43%	58.67%
1-3 Months	6.29%	17.22%	13.82%
3-6 Months	11.53%	21.74%	16.61%
6-9 Months	12.99%	4.13%	5.12%
9-12 Months	18.65%	9.02%	3.79%
12 Months +	17.77%	5.18%	2.00%

This shows that, at 30 June 2021, Oxfordshire achieved higher than average return for lower than average. This was achieved by pursuing a higher than average weighted average maturity and having a higher allocation to government deposits (rather than banks or money market funds) compared to peers.

## Specified and Non Specified Investments 2021/22

**Specified Investments**

<b>Investment Instrument</b>	<b>Minimum Credit Criteria</b>	<b>Use</b>
Debt Management Agency Deposit Facility	N/A	In-house and Fund Managers
Term Deposits – UK Government	N/A	In-house
Term Deposits – other Local Authorities	N/A	In-house
Term Deposits – Banks and Building Societies	Short-term F1, Long-term BBB+, Minimum Sovereign Rating AA+	In-house and Fund Managers
Certificates of Deposit issued by Banks and Building Societies	A1 or P1	In-house on a buy and hold basis and Fund Managers
Money Market Funds	AAA	In-house and Fund Managers
Other Money Market Funds and Collective Investment Schemes <sup>4</sup>	Minimum equivalent credit rating of A+. These funds do not have short-term or support ratings.	In-house and Fund Managers
UK Government Gilts	N/A	In-house on a buy and hold basis and Fund Managers
Treasury Bills	N/A	In-house and Fund Managers
Reverse Repurchase Agreements - maturity under 1 year from arrangement and counterparty is of high credit quality (not collateral)	Long Term Counterparty Rating A-	In-house and Fund Managers
Covered Bonds – maturity under 1 year from arrangement	Minimum issue rating of A-	In-house and Fund Managers

<sup>4</sup> I.e., credit rated funds which meet the definition of a collective investment scheme as defined in SI 2004 No 534 and SI 2007 No 573.

## Non-Specified Investments

<b>Investment Instrument</b>	<b>Minimum Credit Criteria</b>	<b>Use</b>	<b>Max % of total Investments</b>	<b>Max Maturity Period</b>
Term Deposits – other Local Authorities (maturities in excess of 1 year)	N/A	In-house	50%	3 years
Term Deposits – Banks and Building Societies (maturities in excess of 1 year)	Short-term F1+, Long-term AA-	In-house and Fund Managers	50% in-house; 100% External Funds	3 years
Structured Products (e.g. Callable deposits, range accruals, snowballs, escalators etc.)	Short-term F1+, Long-term AA-	In-house and Fund Managers	50% in-house; 100% External Funds	3 years
UK Government Gilts with maturities in excess of 1 year	N/A	In-house and Fund Managers	50% in-house; 100% External Funds	5 years in-house, 10 years fund managers
Bonds issued by Multilateral Development Banks	AAA	In-house and Fund Managers	50% in-house; 100% External Fund	25 years
Bonds issued by a financial institution which is guaranteed by the UK Government	AA	In-house and Fund Managers	50% in-house; 100% External Fund	5 years in-house
Collective Investment Schemes <sup>5</sup> but which are not credit rated	N/A	In-house and Fund Managers	50% In-house; 100% External Funds	Pooled Funds do not have a defined maturity date
Sovereign Bond Issues	AAA	In-house on a buy and hold	50% in-house;	5 year in-house, 30

<sup>5</sup> Pooled funds which meet the definition of a collective investment scheme as defined in SI 2004 No 534 and SI 2007 No 573.

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		basis. Fund Managers	100% External Funds	years fund managers
Reverse Repurchase Agreements - maturity in excess of 1 year, or/and counterparty not of high credit quality.	Minimum long term rating of A-	In-house and Fund Managers	50% in-house; 100% External Funds	3 years
Covered Bonds	AAA	In-house and Fund Managers	50% in-house; 100% External Funds	20 years
Registered Providers	As agreed by TMST in consultation with the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Finance	In-house	50% In-house	5 years

The maximum limits for in-house investments apply at the time of arrangement.

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Division(s): N/A

## COUNCIL – 14 DECEMBER 2021

### DISPENSATION FROM ATTENDING MEETINGS

Report by Director of Law & Governance

#### RECOMMENDATION

Council is **RECOMMENDED** to:

- (1) approve a dispensation for Councillor Michele Paule from the statutory requirement to attend a meeting of the Council within a six-month period from the last noted attendance;**
- (2) approve that the dispensation last up to and including 30 April 2022.**

#### Executive Summary

1. Under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 85 (1), councillors who do not attend a meeting of the Council during a six month period will cease to be a member of the Council unless the Council has approved a dispensation before the expiry of that period.
2. Council is asked to grant such a dispensation to Councillor Michele Paule who, for reason of ill-health, is unlikely to be able to attend a meeting of the Council prior to April 2022. Councillor Paule's last attendance was at Full Council on 13 July 2021 and would otherwise need to attend again before 13 January 2022. If the dispensation is granted, up to the 30 April 2022, then if a further extension is necessary beyond that date, a further decision of Council would be necessary before that date.

#### Legal Implications

3. Under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 85 (1), if a member of the Council fails throughout a six month period from the date of their last attendance at any meeting of the council to attend another such meeting, they shall, unless the failure is approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the authority.
4. As such, Full Council has the discretion to approve a dispensation, based on the circumstances of the case, such that the councillor may not cease to be a member of the Council for failing to attend a meeting in that period.
5. The Monitoring Officer has received formal notification from Cllr Paule, and her Group Leader, Cllr Liz Brighouse, seeking Full Council's approval to grant such a dispensation due to ill-health. The Monitoring Officer is satisfied that, having regard to the circumstances, the Council would be justified in granting the dispensation.

## **Financial Implications**

6. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

**ANITA BRADLEY**

Director of Law & Governance

Contact officer: Glenn Watson, Principal Governance Officer, 07776 997946.

December 2021