

QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

ANNEX 2

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

	Answers
<p>1. COUNCILLOR SURINDER DHESI</p> <p>I have had complaints that patients have been discharged from hospital without any Care plans. What process is there to make sure our vulnerable patients don't slip the net and ensure patients have Care Packages when they are discharged?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR JUDITH HEATHCOAT, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE</p> <p>When patients are discharged from hospital an assessment of their ongoing needs is made by a multi-disciplinary team within the hospital. Those patients who are able to return home independently (possibly with the support of family and friends) do leave without a care plan as one isn't required. Where someone is vulnerable and care needs are identified, the patient is referred to the Home Assessment and Reablement Team (HART). This service operates the nationally recommended discharge-to-assess model, i.e. the service makes a full assessment of a person's needs once they are at home, in their own environment, and develops a care plan to meet those needs. HART aims to support people to regain as much independence as possible. Following any period with HART if someone requires a long term care package, HART make the referral for this and continue to provide support until the new provider is in place.</p>
<p>2. COUNCILLOR SURINDER DHESI</p> <p>With Care Providers very concerned about staffing issues and being able to deliver service due to the effects of Brexit .Is there a strategy in place to look at different ways of working and ensuring that we have a backup</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR JUDITH HEATHCOAT, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE</p> <p>The Council has been aware for some time of the challenges in the social care workforce, and led the development of a comprehensive workforce strategy for the social care sector in 2014. The strategy includes a 15-point framework for action aimed at increasing workforce capacity and capability.</p>

<p>plan?</p>	<p>The sector in Oxfordshire is notably over-reliant (more so than other geographical areas) on key groups of workers, including women, older workers, and foreign workers. Approximately 34% of the social care workforce in the county was born overseas, equivalent to around 5,000 workers. Roughly 50% of these workers originate from other EU countries. Providers have reported a significant drop off in interest and applications from EU workers since the 2016 referendum.</p> <p>The Council has identified the impact of Brexit on the supply of social care workers as a corporate risk. Officers are working to assess the nature of the risk and the actions that should be taken to address this. Key actions and work areas already identified in the adult social care workforce strategy are likely to form part of the solution, including actions to increase the capacity and capability of the workforce. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of initiatives aimed at helping social care employers to improve the competitiveness of social care's job offer • A recruitment campaign aimed at increasing the number of people interested in working in social care • Partnership initiatives with stakeholders including DWP / Job Centre Plus, local learning providers and social care providers, aimed at developing new routes into social care • Work with social care providers to ensure that all new recruits are supported with learning and development opportunities to improve employee retention.
<p>3. COUNCILLOR SURINDER DHESI</p> <p>Schools in Oxfordshire have the highest truancy levels compared to rest of the country and have been ranked 25 percentile. About 14% of secondary schools pupils skipped 10% of their classes compared to 12.3% of</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR STEVE HARROD, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION</p> <p>It is probably helpful if I start by clarifying the nature of the data given in the question. These data relate to the Autumn/ Spring term 2016/17 and refer only to secondary schools and to those pupils who were persistently absent (which means that they have missed 10% or more of available lessons). We should also be aware that persistent absence is not, necessarily, the same as</p>

<p>pupils nationally. What is the Council doing to reducing truancy in the County?</p>	<p>'truancy' or unauthorised absence. Nevertheless, this does put Oxfordshire in the lowest quartile for this indicator which is, of course, not where we want to be.</p> <p>Responsibility for addressing attendance issues lies, principally, with the schools themselves. However, the local authority does work with schools to empower them to address those issues. This is done through workshops and training, some of which are provided free of charge. Schools may buy in additional services, particularly in relation to the need, on occasions, to engage with the legal system.</p>
<p>4. COUNCILLOR STEWART LILLY</p> <p>Research for the Children's Commissioner for England, Anne Longfield, has suggested that 80% of young carers are 'off the radar'. The researchers asked every English local authority for the numbers of young carers they support. The data supplied by 118 councils showed they are supporting 28,000 aged 5-17. But this figure is massively short of the 166,000 young carers identified in England by the 2011 Census. The Commissioner commented: "This report poses significant questions for local authorities about how they identify, assess and support young carers. "It is absolutely unacceptable to have so many children with considerable caring responsibilities going under the radar, invisible to the authorities and denied the opportunities available to other children." What view does the Cabinet Member for</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR MELINDA TILLEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES</p> <p>Oxfordshire completed its data return for this young carers' lightning review. The OCC Young Carers' Manager was the only local authority representative who contributed at the professionals focus group held at the Children's Commissioner Office.</p> <p>In Oxfordshire we have a Young Carers Service which is considered a national leader in the work undertaken to identify, assess and support children with caring roles. OCC Children's Services take their legal duty towards young carers and their families very seriously; we are aware that 70% of the referrals to the young carers service are not known to any children's safeguarding services at the point of referral and therefore we have a very robust young carers assessment process in place. This ensures that children's needs are identified.</p> <p>Our work with schools to identify and support young carers as vulnerable learners is well embedded locally and recognised nationally. Working in partnership with schools enables us to identify children at an early stage ensuring they meet best outcomes.</p>

<p>Children's Services take of the Commissioner's comments?</p>	
<p>5. COUNCILLOR NEIL FAWCETT</p> <p>What is the process for monitoring whether employment growth in the County is in line with the projections on which the Strategic Housing Market Assessment was based?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The Strategic Housing Market Assessment was based on economic forecasting work undertaken by Cambridge Economics in February 2014. The consultant's report concluded that under a Committed Economic Growth scenario, total employment in Oxfordshire is forecast to increase by around 88,000 over 2011-31, or 4,400 jobs pa (1% pa). The same economic forecasting work informed the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) target of creating 85,600 new jobs by 2031.</p> <p>The Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership has been monitoring jobs growth at a high level using data from the Office of National Statistics on job density and total jobs comprising of employee jobs, self-employment, HM Forces and government supported trainees. The refreshed Strategic Economic Plan (autumn 2016) explains that there is a lag in the production of national data but ONS data suggests the total number of jobs in Oxfordshire increased from 378,000 to 399,000 between 2011 and 2013 i.e. an increase of 21,000 jobs in two years. Employment growth since 2011 has been stronger than indicated by the employment forecasts used by the SHMA and the SEP.</p> <p>On the other hand housing growth over the last five years has fallen significantly short of the SHMA target of 5,000p.a. with only some 11,660 homes being completed. The table below shows an uneven distribution of delivery across the County</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Housing Completions 2011-16 Compared to SHMA (Source: LPA's Monitoring Data)</p>

	SHMA Annual Housing Need	SHMA 5year Housing need figure 2011-16	Housing Completions 2011-16	Total Completions as a % of SHMA need figure	
Cherwell	1,140	5,700	3,031	53%	
Oxford City	1,400	7,000	1,371	20%	
South Oxon	775	3,875	2,732	71%	
Vale	1,028	5,140	3,065	60%	
West Oxon	660	3,300	1,464	44%	
Oxfordshire	5,003	25,015	11,663	47%	

<p>6. COUNCILLOR NEIL FAWCETT</p> <p>What is the current timetable for the development of a full diamond interchange on the A34 at Lodge Hill?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>At the moment, we are waiting to hear on a funding application to Government for the scheme.</p> <p>We hope to hear about this next month.</p> <p>If funding is successful then we will commence detailed design this coming financial year, working closely with colleagues at Highways England on the design, with delivery programmed to be complete in 2020/21.</p>
<p>7. COUNCILLOR NEIL FAWCETT</p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member ensure that permission will only be given for roadworks to take place in the vicinity of Drayton Road, Marcham Road or Ock Street in Abingdon in periods when traffic levels are low and that any traffic lights are managed to take account of morning and evening traffic flows.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Yes we will, though we cannot predict incidents on the A34 that may impact on alternative routes.</p>

<p>8. COUNCILLOR CHARLES MATHEW</p> <p>Would the Cabinet Member for Local Government, Business, IT and Customer Services confirm that the Broadband coverage for Oxfordshire will reach 95 per cent by the end of 2017 except for West Oxfordshire? What will the figure be for West Oxfordshire and why is it different from the rest of the county?</p> <p>Did West Oxfordshire's alternative with Cotswold Broadband prove satisfactory and how much coverage will it have by the end of 2017? I have communities crying out for broadband services.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR CARTER, CABINET MEMBER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS, ICT & CUSTOMER SERVICES</p> <p>I am very pleased to confirm that we are on track to deliver 95% coverage for Oxfordshire by the end of this year (Dec 17) with the exception of West Oxfordshire. Members will be aware that our programme has been praised by government and by BT as one of the highest performers nationally.</p> <p>In West Oxfordshire, unfortunately, we believe that coverage is likely to remain at around the 90% mark following the collapse of the contract with Cotswold Broadband. Members may recall that in 2015, West Oxfordshire decided, alone, that they did not want to take advantage of the County Council's contract with BT and constructed their own arrangement which has now unravelled. We understand that West Oxfordshire will be looking to re-tender again but clearly, for West Oxfordshire residents this will mean it is very unlikely that the situation will be any different by the end of this year.</p> <p>We are doing our best to help and we have taken steps with West Oxfordshire agreement to ensure that rural primary schools do not lose out and that communities on the district boundary are helped by us within the legal and contractual limits.</p> <p>This month has seen the launch of the next phase to support the most hard to reach communities in the final 5% of the county with the exception of West Oxfordshire. We expect to reach another 2000 properties through a continuation of the BT roll-out into 2018 and with no further Council funding.</p>
<p>9. COUNCILLOR CHARLES MATHEW</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member for Schools please encourage Oxfordshire state schools</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR STEVE HARROD, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION</p> <p>I agree that there may well be benefits accruing from greater partnership with the independent sector. This was borne out by the independent/ state school</p>

<p>more engagement with charitable private schools in Oxfordshire to share some of the latter's' expertise to enhance the cooperation to help achieve a better level of education, artistic and sporting activity within Oxfordshire? Is there contact presently?</p>	<p>partnerships (ISSP) programme set up in 1998 by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) in conjunction with the Sutton Trust, with the aim of providing structure and funding for the co-operation between the sectors. The OFSTED evaluation of the scheme, released in March 2005, concluded that the programme was a valuable and cost-effective way to develop relationships between the two school sectors, with many partnerships continuing beyond their initial funding period.</p> <p>I should however add an important cautionary note and point out that it isn't simply a matter of independent schools automatically being better than state; any co-operation should be two way.</p> <p>We are not aware of any formal, funded, links between the LA and the independent sector at the moment. There may however be local arrangements of which we have no central record.</p>
<p>10. COUNCILLOR CHARLES MATHEW</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Minister for Property confirm that Carillion were paid a bonus for completion under budget of the new Classroom block at Bartholomew School, Eynsham and how much was paid? Could she also explain how this has been accepted when the build still has outstanding concerns and the final accounts have not been settled, some eighteen months after handover.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE, CABINET MEMBER FOR PROPERTY, CULTURAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES</p> <p>I can confirm that Carillion have not been paid a bonus for the project at Bartholomew school at Eynsham. However the framework contract does have a pain/gain mechanism under which Carillion contribute to the costs if they exceed the agreed maximum price (AMP) or OCC make a gain payment if the contractor's actual costs come in less than the AMP. No payment is made against this item until the defects period is signed off and the final account is agreed.</p> <p>With regards to Bartholomew school partial possession was granted in November 2015 to allow access to the 8 Classroom science block. Practical Completion was issued on the 17th June 2016 and the project is currently in the 12 months defect liability period. A further inspection will take place at the end of the defects period when any defects identified must be rectified by Carillion before they can be signed off. Any works required to address the defects are normally carried out in agreement with the school during holiday</p>

	<p>periods to minimise disruption.</p>
<p>11. COUNCILLOR SAM COATES</p> <p>Given that an increasing number of services are becoming ever more reliant on voluntary efforts and partnerships with charities, would the leader agree that it is time to undertake a 'capacity survey' of charities and volunteers who may be engaged in the support of a wide variety of County services in the future?</p> <p>The intention of the review would be to determine which services may be sustained via voluntary efforts, and where costs and the need for specialist workers make services unsustainable with third sector partners.</p> <p>A capacity survey will at least establish that simply considering that responsibilities can be passed over to the voluntary sector continually is unsustainable.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>The Council currently contracts OCVA to provide support to the Voluntary and Community Sector in Oxfordshire. The contract was awarded to OCVA and began in April 2016, the contract value is approx. £170k per annum to deliver the following outcomes:</p> <p>Outcome 1 – Voluntary and community organisations have access to the relevant information, advice and tools necessary to increase their effectiveness and build their capacity to function effectively. Voluntary sector organisations are raising the role and importance of the sector in delivering services, influencing policy and shaping Oxfordshire’s rural and urban communities, supporting networking and co-ordination across the sector.</p> <p>Outcome 2 – Volunteering (social action) is promoted and developed</p> <p>Outcome 3 – Communities across Oxfordshire are supported and empowered to identify issues, find their own solutions and become more active, working in partnership with others where required.</p> <p>As part of the contract deliverables under outcome 1 a study was completed in the Cherwell area looking at the capacity within the sector. I have attached a copy of this report for you. Although the report set out to achieve the outcomes outlined in your question you will see in the conclusion of the report the limitations that prevented it from addressing all the issues.</p> <p>I think it is also worth noting that the County Council is not seeking to pass responsibilities to the voluntary and community sector but encouraging them to consider where possible an enhanced provision of complementary services to our statutory provision. For this reason it is unlikely that we would be expecting the voluntary sector to support specialist workers making it</p>

	unsustainable for them to operate.
<p>12. COUNCILLOR SAM COATES</p> <p>Excluding the many hundreds of thousands of pounds already spent by both sides in this devolution debate hiring extremely expensive international accountancy firms, how much has been spent so far on promoting the One Oxfordshire proposal? This could include officer time, public (but really private) consultation forums at £35 per participant, hiring a telephone canvassing company, literature, travel , websites and all the other costs that have been spent. Would the Leader admit that given the inconclusive results this has been a massive waste of public money that could well have been better spent on cash strapped services?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>We did not spend any money ‘promoting’ One Oxfordshire, but did ensure that residents and other stakeholders were aware of the draft proposal so they could provide feedback to improve the final document. That is exactly what has happened. To be helpful, I can tell you we have spent about £30,000 on informing people about the proposals and how they can have their say. We also paid £50,000 for the services of an independent research company to conduct a face-to-face survey and in-depth workshops with residents. This is rather less than the combined £250,000 that has been earmarked by three councils to oppose the proposals at all costs, without putting forward any alternatives. The Councillor might also be interested to hear that a survey of a representative sample of residents showed 70% support for a single unitary council. If we had not commissioned this independent research, we would have only heard from a vocal minority.</p>
<p>13. COUNCILLOR SAM COATES</p> <p>The UK has second-highest number of deaths from NO2 pollution in Europe, according to a new reports this week (*) and Oxfordshire has its share of locations that fail EU air quality standards test. Progressive solutions seem remarkably slow to have any effect especially in the City. Would the Portfolio holder agree that a renewed effort must be made if we are to save the lives of literally thousands of people in Oxfordshire who will die from respiratory diseases if</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>County Council’s Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) sets out three main goals, one of which is to ‘reduce emissions, enhance air quality and support the transition to a low carbon economy’. LTP4 sets out to achieve this goal through a number of objectives including minimising the need to travel, reducing the proportion of journeys made by private car by making the use of public transport, walking and cycling more attractive and influencing the location and layout of development to maximise sustainable travel.</p> <p>Within Oxford, the ten year trends from Oxford City Council’s data collection and analysis shows that nitrogen dioxide (NO2) levels have dropped by typically 35% at roadsides in the city centre. The Low Emission Zone</p>

<p>nothing is done?</p> <p>(*)https://theguardian.com/environment/2016/nov/23/uk-has-second-highest-number-of-deaths-from-no2-pollution-in-europe</p>	<p>introduced by the city and county councils in 2014 has played a key role in achieving this drop. Oxford has led the way in driving down emissions from traffic, but clearly there is more still to do.</p> <p>The county council's adopted Oxford Transport Strategy (OTS) recognises the challenges brought about through Nitrogen Dioxide emissions across the city. In Oxford a citywide Air Quality Management Area was declared in 2010, with targets set for keeping Nitrogen Dioxide emissions at safe levels (below 45 µg/m³ by 2020). Working towards these targets, the OTS sets out a range of ambitious proposals for reducing transport-related noise and air pollution including proposals to reduce traffic and to promote quieter, lower emission vehicles.</p> <p>Progress is currently being made in this regard. Both the county council and Oxford City Council, who manage and monitor air quality in Oxford, are currently working on a joint zero emission zone study for the city in line with the ambition of the OTS to start rolling out a city centre zero-emission zone for all vehicles.</p> <p>We don't have any concrete proposals as yet outside Oxford. We do work with the Districts on air quality issues and, for example, will soon be carrying out traffic surveys in Wallingford that will help us to understand the potential to improve air quality in the town.</p>
<p>14. COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS</p> <p>Would the Portfolio holder investigate the claims that the installation of new blue rich light bulbs (1) in our street lighting systems is having deleterious effects on people's health, ecology, road safety and sky glow? The claim is that this new bulb although saving money generates migraines and insomnia.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>I can confirm that the replacement LED street lights that have been used within Oxfordshire have a very small amount of blue content. This is due to the fact that light emitting diodes (LEDs) that have been specified to have a warmer colour temperature of between 3000 to 4000 Kelvin (see attached). We have also installed over four thousand LED units which dim after 10:00pm (i.e. reduced power & light output) without any recorded health issues within Oxfordshire.</p>

<p>Would the portfolio holder at least investigate this claim?</p> <p>(1) see http://www.lightaware.org as well as http://www.lightmare.org</p>	<p>The 3000-4000K LED lantern makes the color look more natural and provides better lighting for facial recognition for security and CCTV cameras etc. There are a number research papers, particular from American websites, that have questioned the health risks of blue light which involves LED TV, interior & external lighting, smart phones and tables etc. However for a health issue to occur you would be required to directly stare into the light source for a long period of time (i.e. over 5 hours and the LED having a colour temp of 6000K and above without a diffuser).</p> <p>A report by Public Health England (CRCE-RDD 01-2016) also looked at the effect of LEDs on the human body and confirmed that LEDs can be known to suppress the body's melatonin production which may impact on "circadian rhythms" (the body's daily cycle), leading to sleep deprivation. However this is only provided that you are constantly looking at the light source. It says additional 'non-visual stimulation' may have short-term benefits for road safety but, according to the report, repeated exposure at night may be detrimental to health, depending on the dose, i.e. the light exposure received by a person.</p> <p>In its conclusion the report acknowledges that, compared to other existing lighting technologies, LEDs present valid energy- efficient options for lighting. However it ends: "Consideration should be given to reducing the correlated colour temperature of LED lighting to avoid potential adverse effects on melatonin production in the evening", although it does say the science is not yet mature enough to state a threshold.</p>
<p>15. COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS</p> <p>A number of Councils that operate as LEA's are considering a Fair Work Charter for teachers working in local schools. This obviously would be focused on classroom contact hours but would also include cover time for absent colleagues, holiday</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR STEVE HARROD, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION</p> <p>I am happy for the Fair Work Charter to be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the Teachers Joint Committee and Workforce Steering Group to explore what appetite, if any, there is for it amongst the recognised teacher trade unions. In the meantime I would hope that the leaderships of all schools give serious consideration to the national working party reports about reducing teachers' workloads.</p>

<p>entitlement, sickness arrangements, In Service Training time and numerous other issues in the mix to create a Fair balance of work commitment.</p> <p>Although such a Charter could not be directly introduced as policy in the Academy sector given that they mostly came in line to back the remuneration policy devised two years ago would the Portfolio holder give a commitment to enter into consultations with the local teachers trade unions to produce such a local Fair Work Charter.</p>	
<p>16. COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS</p> <p>Before the control of the County Pensions Investments are handed over to the Brunel Trust (and effectively the Chancellor of the Exchequer) would the Pensions Committee make a firm decision to divest investment in the Fossil Fuel industry?</p> <p>This process has been commenced now by a number of public sector pensions groups and is based on the simple analysis that fossil fuels are finite and that investment in this area is not in the long term interest of public sector pensioners in securing the value of their assets. Would he agree that such a move would illustrate that the Oxfordshire Pension Fund had foresight in its investment strategy?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR STEWART LILLY, CHAIRMAN OF THE PENSION FUND COMMITTEE</p> <p>Before answering the specific questions, I would like to correct the misconceptions apparent in the preamble. The Oxfordshire Pension Fund Committee will not be handing over control of its investments to the Brunel Pension Partnership. As has been clearly stated throughout this process, the Committee will retain responsibility for agreeing its own investment strategy, including its allocation to the different investment classes, and its approach to how environmental, social and corporate governance issues should be taken into account in all investment decisions. The Brunel Company will then be responsible to appointing the individual fund managers to deliver the investment strategy agreed by the Oxfordshire Pension Fund.</p> <p>The Committee agreed its Investment strategy Statement on 10 March 2017 and this is available for you to read on the Fund's website. The Statement does not include any decision to divest investments whether in the fossil fuel industry or elsewhere. The Statement does recognise that environmental, social and corporate governance issues, including climate change, can have materially significant investment implications and as such</p>

requires our Investment Managers to monitor and assess the risks when selecting and retaining investments. We also require our Investment Managers to engage with companies to address known issues and risks, and where they believe that this engagement is not resulting in sufficient progress to address the risk, then divestment will be considered. We believe that such a process which considers each individual investment on its merits, investing in companies with superior potential returns after adjusting to the known risks including those associated with climate change is the best way of meeting our fiduciary responsibilities to the scheme employers and beneficiaries, and the best way of demonstrating foresight in our investment strategy.

A blanket policy to divest in the fossil fuel industry without any regard for the individual circumstances, and the consequences for the Fund's remaining investments in companies which in many ways depend on the fossil fuel industry would appear to show very limited foresight. Total, the French energy company is the 4th largest oil and gas company in the world and therefore one you would be looking to divest from. However, it is also the 2nd largest photovoltaic solar energy operator, and this, along with its clear policies in the area of climate change and sustainable development make it a very attractive long term investment, whilst also addressing the challenges of climate change.

Climate change is an issue which impacts on all sectors of the economy, and true foresight recognises this, and leads to engagement with companies in each sector to ensure that they have business plans which address the challenges stemming from climate change (as well as the other environmental, social and corporate governance risks). Our strategy allows us to challenge investments in Cruise Companies and Airlines which are ignoring the issues associated with their heavy fuel use and associated emissions, whilst allowing us to invest in fossil fuel companies like Total who are at the forefront of developing alternative and renewable energy supplies. Our strategy rather than simple divestment can therefore be seen to be sustainable and in the best interests of all our stakeholders.

<p>17. COUNCILLOR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW</p> <p>At the October meeting of the Cabinet Advisory Group on Income Generation, I put forward a 'Speed Tube Protocol' proposal that I believe would not only dramatically improve OCC Highways' response to planning applications, but also raise some £200,000 pa. The report due to the CAG in November did not happen and the CAG was subsequently disbanded. In view of this, I arranged a meeting in January with yourself and the Interim Director E&E Ops and it was agreed the feasibility of the proposal would be properly investigated. Some six months have now passed since I initially put forward the proposal and I have not been advised about recent progress, so I would be grateful for a full update on the matter.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Officers are grateful of the suggestion of a Speed Tube Protocol and have indeed met with Cllr Bartholomew to understand the proposal in more detail. Unfortunately due to the level of development the locality teams are currently responding to it has not been possible to investigate this proposal in any more detail. They do, however, plan to undertake an initial review exercise and provide some initial comments that will centre around practicality and viability of the proposal. This work will be led by the South & Vale locality team, and will be delivered during May to allow for resource to focus on the South Oxfordshire District Council Local Plan process. Once an initial review and comments are compiled officers will meet with Cllr Bartholomew to discuss outcomes and any possible next steps leading from this first piece of work.</p>
<p>18. COUNCILLOR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW</p> <p>In June 2016 I alerted OCC Highways to road safety issues relating to the presence of loose gravel/silt on a road in Rotherfield Peppard. Although not a major issue in itself, the report did highlight a matter of much greater concern. OCC Highways asserted that loose gravel/silt constituted 'debris' and it was the responsibility of South Oxfordshire District Council to clear it. SODC refuted this and</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>In response to the question raised, the responsibility for clearing or cleaning the highway can be a cause for confusion. Both the County Council and District have a responsibility; however this is related to the powers under which each act and cleaning operations are often determined due to the cause. The cleanliness of roads is the responsibility of the District Council, while the upkeep and maintenance belongs with County Council.</p> <p>The District Council are responsible for the cleanliness and upkeep of the district's streets. To do this, they operate under a code of practice issued</p>

<p>maintained it was an OCC Highways' responsibility. After months of inter-council squabbling, OCC fixed the particular problem on an exceptional basis, but the general issue does not appear to have been addressed, despite frequent reminders from me. I now have another parish complaining that some of their country lanes have been turned into dirt tracks with the recent wind and rain and I do not know how to best advise them. What is being done to resolve the question of responsibility in relation to this matter?</p>	<p>under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. This defines the standards to achieve. Roads are cleaned at varying frequencies according to their nature and use and the District Council often define this.</p> <p>For South Oxfordshire District Council;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - town centres are cleaned once a day and mechanically swept once a week; - town centre car parks are cleaned three times a week; - outer town areas are cleaned once a week and mechanically swept once a month; - large villages are cleaned on a rotation basis ; - small villages are cleaned on request. <p>The responsibility for inspecting and repairing faults on the highways, carriageway, footpaths and verges rests with Oxfordshire County Council. In addition the County Council is responsible for the clean-up of vehicle parts, traffic accident debris, oil, gravel, sand, mud and dropped cargo on the road. These responsibilities are derived from the Highways Act 1980 section 41 and 150.</p> <p>Therefore, where an obstruction (for example as a result of a spillage) presents a safety risk, Oxfordshire County Council is responsible. For general cleanliness and road sweeping necessitated by environmental conditions, the District Council are responsible. Please see the links below for specific information.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/local-street-cleaning http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/environment/street-cleaning</p>
<p>19. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>It is very regrettable that the officers who organise traffic regulation orders are so over-</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>I share your concern that our staff are over-worked but I'm afraid that is the nature of local government these days. I know the new Director of</p>

<p>worked. There have been some embarrassing failures to meet deadlines in recent months, notably the prestigious new Go Ultra Low Oxford Residential On-street Charging project. This is an innovative government funded project run by Oxford City Council and Oxfordshire County Council to trial electric car charging technologies on streets where off-street parking is unavailable. Multiple suppliers and volunteers were working towards a date which has now been delayed by a month. The resolution of a problem in my division has also been delayed, putting children's lives at risk. The reputation of the Council is being damaged by such delays and the Cabinet member needs to find a way of speeding up this work.</p>	<p>Infrastructure Delivery is working on a staff restructure which will try to better balance the competing needs of budget constraints and growing demands for services with a thriving local economy; he and his staff are also reviewing working practices to ensure limited resources are used in the most efficient way.</p> <p>With regard to the provision of On-Street Charging Bays, I have agreed to hold an additional Cabinet Member Decisions Meeting on 3rd April where I will consider objections received to the proposals. It would not be appropriate to comment further pending receipt of the officer's report and any representations made directly at that meeting. I understand that whilst there has been a delay, the overall project is still on track.</p> <p>Concerning the site within your Division, I am told that officers are utilising the opportunity of a nearby development which requires alteration of the CPZ traffic order to make the changes you have requested – again as it's something which is subject to formal consultation I don't think it would be appropriate for me to comment further.</p>
<p>20. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>One of the most damaging cuts to the Council's budget last year was the cutting of all bus subsidies. Some parts of the County have managed to bring in small replacement services, often staffed by volunteers, but the isolation of older people and rural isolation have certainly been increased as a result of this deplorable cut. Is there any intention to review the effects of the cut and to confront the government with the shocking consequences of their war of attrition against local authorities?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>We have and will continue to offer support to those who are affected by the withdrawal of subsidies and monitor monthly the response to both the Comet and Community Transport Support</p> <p>A number of communities with help from the Council have been able to arrange local services. Currently there are more than 60 local schemes in the county with 1,300 volunteers providing 25,000 journeys each year. A number of communities continue to look into the feasibility of how a local service might work for them, again with Council guidance.</p> <p>The Oxfordshire Comet Service has proved to be a success, with over 120 members. Over the coming months the Council will be looking at ways to</p>

	increase the capacity of the service.
<p>21. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>Please can you come up with an <i>accelerated</i> strategy to improve air quality in the County? There are some parts of the City where air quality is certainly damaging our health, and especially the health of our children. It is not good enough to aim to begin bringing in a zero emission zone in 2020 – we need to see progress before that.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The County Council adopted Oxford Transport Strategy (OTS) sets out a range of ambitious proposals for reducing transport-related noise and air pollution including proposals to reduce traffic and to promote quieter, lower emission vehicles. The County Council and Oxford City Council, who manage and monitor Oxford’s air quality, are working closely together to address this challenge, for example through the Go-ultra low project. We are also jointly commissioning a report into delivering a zero emission zone is expected to be completed in early spring. This will enable both council’s to continue to work together to further develop interventions for the city that will start to see the rolling out of a city centre zero-emission zone for all vehicles.</p>
<p>22. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</p> <p>What progress is being made towards the establishment of a free special school in Didcot?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR STEVE HARROD, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION</p> <p>Unfortunately no free school bids for a new Didcot special school were submitted in time for consideration in the current round. Officers are encouraging existing trusts that operate special schools in Oxfordshire to submit a bid and have offered them support.</p>
<p>23. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</p> <p>After the changes in the budget, will the cabinet member please confirm that Oxfordshire will have to pay the transport costs for any pupil on free school meals living in the county and gaining a place at a selective school within 15 miles of their home</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR STEVE HARROD, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION</p> <p>We are, of course, still awaiting the government's formal response to the green paper consultation about extending selective education - by all accounts there has been very little support. The details of the new transport offer haven't been circulated yet to local authorities which are responsible for the provision of free home to school transport. However it does appear that the Council might have to fund transport for qualifying Oxfordshire children</p>

<p>even though Oxfordshire as an authority does not support selective education?</p>	<p>who attend selective schools in neighbouring authorities. It isn't clear whether this will only apply to new starters or will be retrospective.</p>
<p>24. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</p> <p>Can the cabinet member please set out how long it has taken for St Philip & St James School in north Oxford to obtain its additional outside space?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR STEVE HARROD, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION</p> <p>Since the opening of SS Phillip & James School in 2002, it has been recognised that there was a need for additional playing area. Consequently the County Council has been working with the City Council to try and identify a suitable plot of land. An area was originally identified but unfortunately this could not be transferred for legal reasons. An alternative parcel of land adjoining the school site was identified by the City Council and on 16th August 2016 ownership of the land transferred to the County.</p> <p>However the land needed remediation works to be carried out to make it suitable as a school playing field but this could not be commenced until Network Rail, who were installing new bridge crossing close to the site, had completed their works because of access issues. Network Rail completed installation late Jan 2017 and Carillion, who are carrying out the remediation works, commenced shortly after this date and remain on programme for completion on 23rd March 2017.</p> <p>The works includes laying of new turf which requires a further 4 to 6 weeks to become established so it is anticipated that the school should be able to use the outside playing area by the end of April. Therefore from acquiring the land to being available for the school to use as a playing area it has taken approximately 8 months.</p>
<p>25. COUNCILLOR STEWART LILLY</p> <p>Given the challenges we hear facing public libraries across the country can the Portfolio Holder for Cultural Services explain what's</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE, CABINET MEMBER FOR PROPERTY, CULTURAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES</p> <p>Here in Oxfordshire, our 43 Libraries are thriving and the whole service is embracing the future with confidence.</p>

<p>happening in Oxfordshire's libraries?</p>	<p>We know that libraries are highly valued by our communities and this is demonstrated by the wealth of activities they are running and promoting across the County ranging from regular Rhyme time sessions for young children to Dementia cafes run by Age UK for carers and relatives.</p> <p>Of particular note in 2016:</p> <p>The summer Reading Challenge attracted more than 8500 children with 94 young people supporting as volunteers. There are now more than 200 adult reading groups supported by local libraries.</p> <p>Our Home Library Service continues to go from strength to strength and we now have more than 547 residents supported by 182 community volunteers.</p> <p>Looking ahead, we know that Libraries have a great future in Oxfordshire and we are doing our best to extend access.</p> <p>Most recently for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have provided extended public access to libraries in Summertown, Grove and Eynsham seven days a week • Our library at Wood Green in Banbury is now operating as part of an integrated service within the new Leisure Centre and we will be doing the same in Charlbury later this year • Carterton and Wantage libraries are now being used by Children's Services to run Children's activities on the days they are normally closed to the public • We are working with Abingdon & Witney College to provide placements and work experience for College students in our Witney Library • Discussion has started with our local community partners on the relocation
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	<p>of Berinsfield Library into a new Community Hub as part of housing development plans for the area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In many of our libraries, our staff are actively supporting a broader range of services offered by the Council and most have been trained to provide digital assistance when needed. <p>And we are all looking forward to the re-opening of the County Library in the Westgate alongside the new John Lewis store in October this year. The refurbished library will include a broader range of services and facilities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Local Family History Service • Digital display space for Oxfordshire’s heritage • Wifi Café • Hot-desking space for Council staff • Support from our staff for residents who need help to access Council services
<p>26. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>Would the Cabinet member explain why it is no longer possible for the excellent cycling priority symbols to be painted or re-painted on Oxfordshire roads?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>I understand that Cllr Tanner is referring to the free-standing cycle markings that have been used in places such as the shopping areas in Cowley, Headington and Summertown.</p> <p>I am advised that some of the legislative restrictions on the placing of these cycle markings have been relaxed with the publication of the new Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions in 2016, although we are awaiting updated guidance from Department for Transport to support this prior to introducing these markings into new areas. Of course we always have to be careful to avoid the over-use of signs and markings which might then reduce their effectiveness in locations where they are most beneficial in keeping cyclists safe.</p>

	<p>In terms of re-painting those markings that already exist I am advised that this will be done alongside work to refresh the other road markings in the area. Officers are currently confirming the programme for road marking maintenance in 2017/18.</p>
<p>27. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>What plans does the County Council have for the redundant school playing-fields at Iffley Turn in my division that sit between Donnington Recreation Ground, Maywood Road and Meadow Lane in Oxford?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE, CABINET MEMBER FOR PROPERTY, CULTURAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES</p> <p>The County Council plans for the site have not changed since the detailed briefing paper was issued to Cllr Tanner on 22nd August 2016.</p> <p>This explained that the County Council had in 2014, 2015 and 2016 drawn the City Council's attention to the site being vacant, available and having potential for residential development which could help meet the significant housing shortage within the City.</p> <p>The case for allocating this site for residential development in the next Local Plan was taken up with the City Council at the bilateral meeting between the two councils in early 2016.</p> <p>This was also reinforced at a meeting between OCC and representatives from the City Council planning department on 21st April 2016.</p> <p>The County Council recognise that Oxford cannot achieve the demand for housing indicated within the Strategic Housing Market Assessment due to its boundary constraints, the nature of the City's built environment and its significant cultural heritage but also that Oxford City must examine all options for growth.</p> <p>The development of this site for housing will therefore assist Oxford on meeting its obligations as well as meeting its housing needs within its boundaries.</p>
<p>28. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LAWRIE STRATFORD, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE</p>

Would the Cabinet member say why the County Council's sensible plans for rationalising the use of land and property are only being carried forward in Witney?

On 9th March we wrote to all Councillors to advise that we are beginning the scoping phase of the Place Review programme. The Place Review programme involves taking a 'whole-place' approach to better understand the current and future needs of an area, and to more effectively align our public sector presence to these needs by exploring opportunities for service integration, co-location and reconfiguration of assets.

During this internal scoping phase, between now and the end of May, we are looking at a number of places across the county. In order to internally test this new way of working, we had to choose a handful of places to start with first. Witney is just one of these.

We want to be very clear, that through this scoping phase we are not prescribing or assuming any eventual order for the Place Reviews, we believe we need to be responsive to opportunities and to align with drivers from our partner organisations.

As explained in the communication to councillors, we are looking to define and recommend a structured programme for Place Reviews by the end of Spring at which point we will also be able to openly engage on the learnings from the scoping phase.

The Place Review programme is very far reaching and our ambition is to eventually cover all areas of the county.