

CABINET

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 18 July 2017 commencing at 2.00 pm and finishing at 4.38 pm

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Ian Hudspeth – in the Chair
Councillor Mrs Judith Heathcoat
Councillor Lawrie Stratford
Councillor Steve Harrod
Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale
Councillor David Bartholomew
Councillor Hilary Hibbert-Biles
Councillor Mark Gray

Other Members in Attendance: Councillor Lynda Atkins (Agenda Item 11)
Councillor Jamila Begum Azad (Agenda Item 6)
Councillor Liz Brighthouse (Agenda Item 9)
Councillor Paul Buckley (Agenda Item 8 and 12)
Councillor Helen Evans (Agenda Item 6)
Councillor John Howson (agenda Item 8 and 12)
Councillor Bob Johnston (Agenda Item 12)
Councillor John Sanders (Agenda Item 8, 10 and 11)

Officers:

Whole of meeting Peter Clark (Chief Executive); Sue Whitehead (Resources Directorate)

Part of meeting Item	Name
6	Katy Jurczynszyn (Resources Directorate)
7	Joseph Turner (Resources Directorate)
8	Susan Halliwell, Director for Planning & Place; Martin Kraftl (Communities Directorate)
9	Lucy Butler, Director for Children's Services; Roy Leach, Strategic Lead for Education & Sufficiency
10	Maggie Scott, Assistant Chief Executive
11	Bev Hindle, Strategic Director for Communities; Peter Day, Minerals & Waste Policy Team Leader
12	Bev Hindle, Strategic Director for Communities; John Disley, Policy Strategy Manager
13	Kate Terroni, Director for Adult Services

The Committee considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting, together with a schedule of addenda tabled at the meeting, and decided as set out below. Except insofar as otherwise specified, the reasons for the decisions are contained in the agenda, reports and schedule, copies of which are attached to the signed Minutes.

48/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(Agenda Item. 1)

Apologies were received from Councillor Constance.

49/17 MINUTES

(Agenda Item. 3)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2017 were approved agreed and signed as a correct record, subject to it being noted under Minute 43/17 that it was the first bid for transition funding that Aspire had been involved in.

50/17 QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

(Agenda Item. 4)

Questions from County Councillors together with responses are set out in the attached annex.

51/17 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS

(Agenda Item. 5)

The following requests to petition or to address the Committee had been agreed by the Chairman:

Item 6 – Financial Monitoring and Business Delivery Report -Councillor Helen Evans, Shadow Cabinet Member for Finance
Councillor Jamila Begum Azad, local councillor for St Clements & Cowley Marsh

Item 8 – City Centre Improvements and Experimental Queen Street Closure - John Paine Secretary, Oxfordshire NPC Group
Phil Southall
Graham Jones, ROX and the Oxford High Street Association
Sara Fuge, Westgate Oxford Alliance
Dan Levy, Cyclox
Councillor Sajjad Malik
Martin Sutton, Stagecoach at Oxfordshire
Sajad Khan
Councillor Paul Buckley, local councillor for Wolvercote & Summertown
Councillor John Howson, local councillor for St Margaret's
Councillor John Sanders, Shadow Cabinet Member for Environment

Item 9 - The Future of Chiltern Edge School - David Bullivant
Clare Bentata
Christine Atkinson
Moira Green, Headteacher at Chiltern Edge
Councillor Liz Brighouse, Opposition Leader

Item 10 – Transition Fund Councillor John Sanders, local councillor for Cowley

Item 11 – Minerals and Waste Local Plan - Councillor Adrian Lloyd, Wallingford Town Council

Councillor Lynda Atkins, local councillor for Wallingford

Councillor John Sanders, Shadow Cabinet Member for Environment

Item 12 – East West Rail Western Section Phase 2 – Public Consultation –

Councillor John Howson, local councillor for St Margaret's

Councillor Bob Johnston, local councillor for Kennington & Radley

Councillor Paul Buckley, local councillor for Wolvercote & Summertown

52/17 2017/18 FINANCIAL MONITORING & BUSINESS STRATEGY DELIVERY REPORT - MAY 2017

(Agenda Item. 6)

Cabinet considered the first in a series of financial monitoring reports for 2017/18 and focused on the delivery of the 2017/18 budget based on projections at the end of May 2017. Part 1 set out the projections for revenue; part 2 included the forecast position for reserves and balances; part 3 set out the Capital Programme monitoring and update.

Councillor Jamila Begum Azad, local councillor for St Clements & Cowley Marsh highlighted the overspend in the Children, Education and Families (CEF) budget and particularly that relating to early intervention and also to home to school transport. Despite additional money demand continued to grow and she questioned how Cabinet would ensure that the early help needed was available. Councillor Begum Azad also referred to the significant increase in looked after children and highlighted out of county placements seeking assurances that children received the support they needed.

Councillor Helen Evans, Shadow Cabinet Member for Finance also highlighted the ~~underspend~~ overspend* in CEF. She commented that this was not unexpected given that demand was growing nationally and queried why more money had not been budgeted. There was concern in the Labour Group that the Council would struggle to deliver the ambitious plans for change and queried whether the expected reductions were realistic and what would happen in the event of a shortfall. With regard to adult social care she noted the break even position which was in part due to the underspend in the Support at Home budget. She referred to the increase in the Better Care Funding and hoped that serious consideration would be given to bringing this element back in house. Councillor Evans also expressed Labour Group concern at the continuing underspend in the public health budget.

Cabinet Members responded to the points made noting that this was a very early stage in the year and that overspends and underspends at this point were usual. Cabinet stressed its commitment to safeguarding issues and that everything possible would always be done to ensure the safety of the children of Oxfordshire. Cabinet noted that Councillor Hilary Hibbert-Biles

had previously given the Labour Group a detailed note on the public health budget.

Councillor David Bartholomew, Cabinet Member for Finance introduced the contents of the report and moved the recommendations. He thanked Lorna Baxter and the financial team for their work highlighting the Council's strong record in financial budgeting.

Cabinet's attention was drawn in particular to recommendation (d) in the report relating to the Better Care Fund

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) note the report;
- (b) approve the virement requests set out in Annex 2a;
- (c) note the Virements set out in Annex 2b;
- (d) approve the use of the £6.3m improved Better Care Fund ring-fenced grant funding detailed in paragraph 32:
 - £1.2m Improving Flow
 - £1.7m Market Resilience
 - £0.6m Strategic Review of Home Support
 - £2.1m Additional Capacity
 - £0.7m balance to be allocated as required;
- (e) note the Treasury Management lending list at Annex 3;
- (f) approve the updated Capital Programme at Annex 7 and the associated changes to the programme in Annex 6c;
- (g) delegate authority to the Director of Finance and Strategic Director for Communities, in consultation with the Leader of the Council to contractually commit to the construction of the Faringdon Community College two form entry expansion project, with a total budget of £6.290m; and
- (h) approve the capital funding allocation of £1.04m for the A4155 Henley Road (Flowing Springs) embankment repair works.

Correction agreed 19 September 2017.

53/17 TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2016/17 OUTTURN

(Agenda Item. 7)

Cabinet considered a report that set out the Treasury Management activity undertaken in the financial year 2016/17 in compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice. The report included Debt and Investment activity, Prudential Indicator Outturn, Investment Strategy, and interest receivable and payable for the financial year.

RESOLVED: to note the report, and to **RECOMMEND** Council to note the Council's Treasury Management Activity in 2016/17.

54/17 THE FUTURE OF CHILTERN EDGE SCHOOL

(Agenda Item. 9)

Chiltern Edge School has been placed in Special Measures following an Ofsted rating of 'Inadequate'. The council's number one priority is to ensure good educational opportunities are available to local families. To this end the council has undertaken an extensive consultation exercise about the future of Chiltern Edge School in order to inform what action(s) the council should take to ensure that the priority is met.

Cabinet considered a report that summarised the responses received and that provided an update on developments since the consultation was launched on the 27 April 2017.

David Bullivant, spoke as a parent of a child at Chiltern Edge School and a member of the save Our Edge campaign. He thanked Councillor Biles and Councillor Bartholomew for being willing to work with the group and to meet them. He spoke in support of keeping the school open, referring to its previous history of good Ofsted inspections and that the head teacher had a clear improvement plan.

Clare Bentata, submitted a petition against the closure of the school referring the support for the school.

Christine Atkinson, speaking as a parent of children who had attended the school spoke of the importance of it to the village community.

Moira Green, Headteacher at Chiltern Edge School, highlighted the steps being taken to improve the situation at the school.

Councillor Liz Brighthouse, Opposition Leader, welcomed the recommendation in the report not to proceed with a notice to close at this stage.

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) not proceed at this time with the publication of a statutory notice proposing the closure of Chiltern Edge School;
- (b) commission, ideally from Ofsted, an external review of the progress made by October 2017 towards addressing the weaknesses identified by Ofsted and the construction of an in-year balanced budget;
- (c) consider a further report on the progress identified by the external review at its November meeting.

55/17 CITY CENTRE TRANSPORT IMPROVEMENTS AND EXPERIMENTAL QUEEN STREET CLOSURE

(Agenda Item. 8)

Cabinet had before them a report summarising the results of the formal public consultation on the proposed experimental Traffic Regulation Order to prohibit buses, taxis and private hire vehicles from Queen Street, Oxford and amendments to permanent Traffic Regulation Orders on the surrounding network. Other proposals included amendments to bus stops and layover

points, including bus stop clearways, adjustments to three key junctions and the installation of 5 no. zebra crossings. The report sought approval on moving the project forward in a timely manner to achieve the desired delivery date of October 2017 to coincide with the opening of the re-developed Westgate.

Barrie Finch, Oxfordshire NPC Group, commented that the Group would be looking for Councillor Constance to hold informal and to monitor the experiment with local bus groups, pedestrians etc. He suggested that the experiment would be better if it was an experimental opening rather than closure to buses and taxis. Referring to the consultation he felt that the responses had been cherry picked to give a particular picture. He added that there was a lack of detail and clarity in the report. For example there was no indication where bus stops would be sighted. There was a lack of consideration of the needs of the partially sighted, wheelchair users and the elderly.

Dan Levy, Cyclox, stated that whilst accepting that what was being proposed was an experiment, their Group would wish to see during part of the period an experimental trial of cyclists in Queen Street. He added that it was odd that a prime cycle route should be closed to cycles at any time but asked that if it was then serious consideration be given to a safe alternative route from the station to High Street. He welcomed the improvements to the teardrop but added that there were still technical issues requiring improvement. Dan Levy suggested that if looking at the whole area one solution would be to close one of either Park End Street or Hyth Bridge Street to all except cycles or to make them a one way system.

Sajad Khan, COTA, spoke in support of the taxi rank on Cornmarket which they saw as a vital improvement. The Group did not support the positioning of the rank on High Street which was too far down the road making it inaccessible. They would prefer to see a small rank for one or two taxi's at the Cornmarket end of High Street. Sajid Khan also requested that consideration be given to a small rank on New Road for people exiting The Westgate Centre.

Graham Jones, ROX and the Oxford High Street Association spoke in support of the arguments put forward by the bus companies as to why Queen Street could not be pedestrianised as yet. He highlighted the congestion to High Street caused by additional buses using and stopping there. This would add to pollution levels and affect delivery times for businesses. Graham Jones also referred to safety issues on the High Street and St Aldates where traffic travelled at 20 miles/hour and queried what checks had occurred to compare these concerns with those for Queen Street where traffic travelled at 5 miles/hour.

Sara Fuge, Westgate Oxford Alliance, spoke in support of the experimental period for the proposals and was in strong support of the infrastructure improvements.

Phil Southall, Oxford Bus Company, spoke against the proposals referring to their consultation response. In particular he queried where the displaced buses were to go, when St Aldates was already one of the worst areas in the City for pollution. The proposals would lead to longer journey times and additional costs. He commented that buses and pedestrians had co-existed successfully on Queen Street for some years and the same happens elsewhere. He highlighted the problem of locating permanent bus stops outside the Covered Market where there was insufficient pavement space. He urged Cabinet to take into account the consultation responses and not to proceed. He suggested instead that the situation with buses be monitored over a six month period.

Martin Sutton, Stagecoach at Oxfordshire, supported the point made by Phil Southall. The company although in full support of pedestrianisation it was dependent on the provision of alternative arrangements, including adequate bus stops, waiting arrangements and provision for turning to the west of the city centre. He urged Cabinet to keep Queen Street open to buses with careful monitoring. He added that safety was important to them and that buses had a good record.

Sajjad Malik, as a taxi driver, spoke against the proposed siting of the taxi rank on High Street.

Councillor Paul Buckley, local councillor for Wolvercote & Summertown, commented that older people used to appreciate being able to get off the bus in Queen Street. He accepted that Queen Street needed to be pedestrianised but only if buses and taxis were able to get close. Councillor Buckley expressed surprise that this had not been built in to the scheme. He also spoke against the proposal to introduce taxis to Cornmarket. He supported a trial period but of one allowing buses in Queen Street to see the extent of the problem.

Councillor John Howson, local councillor for St Margaret's, highlighted 2 aspects. Firstly with regard to the Worcester Street junction he asked that officers look at it again to ensure that the needs of pedestrians were taken into account. Secondly, Councillor Howson commented that the mix of tenants in Westgate has changed significantly and footfall projections should be treated with caution.

Councillor John Sanders, Shadow Cabinet Member for Environment spoke against the proposal to completely pedestrianise Queen Street stating that there was no evidence that buses and taxis would be dangerous to pedestrians, adding that there was no record of accidents when the space was shared by taxis and buses. Councillor Sanders referred to the impact of the proposals on other areas of the City Centre including St Aldates and Cornmarket.

Sue Halliwell, advised Cabinet that with regard to the consultation data the University had supported the proposals. The comments set against the proposals and attributed to the University came from individuals.

Councillor Hudspeth in moving the recommendations stated that the aspiration had always been to pedestrianise Queen Street, as set out in Transform Oxford. He emphasised that what was being recommended was an experimental order in order to gather data.

During discussion Cabinet

- Queried the length of the experiment and heard that it was for up to 18 months but could be completed earlier if appropriate.
- Emphasised the importance of developing a monitoring framework which they were advised would include aspects such as air quality, delay to buses, journey times and pedestrian flows.
- Welcomed the continuation of work looking at options for bus routing.
- Highlighted that the proposals were an experiment and that on balance they accepted the need to err on the side of caution when dealing with pedestrian safety.

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) consider the contents of this report, including the consultation responses received, in the context of the statutory framework as set out in Annex 5;
- (b) approve the proposal for an experimental TRO restricting bus, taxi and private hire access to Queen Street as advertised, subject to approval by the Secretary of State for Transport;
- (c) instruct officers to develop a monitoring framework for the experimental closure of Queen Street, in consultation with (amongst others) the bus operators, city council, and Cabinet Member for Environment;
- (d) instruct officers to continue to develop options for city centre bus routeing – including options for Queen Street – in partnership with Oxford City Council and bus operators and drawing on monitoring of the experimental closure when available;
- (e) approve the retention of the existing cycle access arrangements in Queen Street (cycling permitted 18:00 – 10:00);
- (f) approve the proposal for zebra crossings in St Aldate's, Speedwell Street, New Road, Park End Street and Worcester Street as advertised;
- (g) approve the proposal for changes to loading, waiting and stopping in High Street and St Aldate's as advertised;
- (h) approve the changes to bus stop clearways as advertised;
- (i) note that design changes may be made to the published proposals to deal with concerns raised in the consultation and as part of the

safety audit process. Certain changes may require further consultation.

56/17 TRANSITION FUND FOR COMMUNITY INITIATIVES FOR OPEN ACCESS CHILDREN'S SERVICES

(Agenda Item. 10)

In February 2016 the council agreed to set aside £1m for creating a 'one off' fund to provide pump priming to support open access children's services. It was agreed that a cross party group of county councillors would consider maximum benefit of this fund and bring proposals back to Cabinet for decision.

In June during consideration of the third round of bids against the criteria following discussion Cabinet deferred a decision on a number of matters in order to undertake further investigation. Cabinet had before them a report outlining this work to date with recommendations to Cabinet.

Councillor John Sanders, local councillor for Cowley welcomed the deferral of the decision on Florence Park. He emphasised that the Fund was to provide open access services for local people.

Councillor Gray in moving the recommendations advised that meetings were being held under the auspices of the OCVA with a view to a possible joint bid.

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) Approve for funding the following bids:
 - a. St Mary's Church, Chipping Norton
- (b) Defer the decision until September Cabinet for the following bids:
 - a. Aspire & The Nature Effect (Florence Park Children's Centre)
- (c) Defer the decision until September Cabinet for the asset transfer for the following proposal:
 - a. Aflah Nursery (Florence Park Children's Centre)

57/17 MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN, PART 1 (CORE STRATEGY)

(Agenda Item. 11)

Recommendations agreed (5 votes for with 3 abstentions)

The County Council has a statutory duty to prepare a new Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan, to provide an effective planning strategy and policies for the supply of minerals and management of waste in the county, consistent with environmental, social and economic needs, to replace the existing Minerals and Waste Local Plan which was adopted in 1996.

Following an extensive statutory process Cabinet considered a report on the outcomes.

Councillor Adrian Lloyd, Wallingford Town Council, spoke in connection with the aggregate assessment figures stating that in his view the figures was too high and would not be realised. Changes to the regulations on re-use of demolition materials meant that there was a replacement for sharp sand and gravel. He feared that the effect would be that pits opened and then were forced to close.

Councillor Lynda Atkins, local councillor for Wallingford whilst accepting that a Mineral & Waste Plan was desperately needed spoke against the aggregate assessment figures which she felt were unnecessarily high and did not protect local residents in her division from applications for new pits.

Councillor John Sanders, Shadow Cabinet Member for Environment expressed disappointment that the Plan had taken 4 years to reach this stage and hoped that the development of site allocations would happen without delay in order to provide certainty and to protect from speculative proposals.

Asked by Cabinet to comment on the Local Aggregate Assessment Peter Day explained that the LAA had been subject to much discussion over a lengthy period of time. It had taken a whole day at the examination and the Inspector had concluded that it was an appropriate basis on which to plan for 2031. The Inspector's recommended modifications included the LAA figures and the modifications could only be agreed as a total package.

Peter Day responded to concerns from Councillor Lindsay-Gale who stated that she had fought the proposals since 2003 and communities in her Division were upset at the proposed split between West and South Oxfordshire. She added that the Cabinet Advisory Group had opposed the plan at every single stage. Peter Day stressed that the Inspector had been required to consider all representations and he had done so, including those from local residents and groups. Bev Hindle added that Cabinet were being asked to put it forward today for Council adoption taking into account the views of the CAG.

During discussion Cabinet explored the impact of not having a Plan in place which would be to continue to base decisions on national policy leading to less protection for local people from inappropriate proposals.

RESOLVED: to

(a) recommend to Council to:

- i. adopt the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Part 1 – Core Strategy with the main modifications recommended by the Inspector in his final report (Appendix B) at Annex 3B and such additional modifications as are required, in accordance with the

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 section 23(3) (as amended);

- ii. authorise the Director for Planning & Place to carry out the steps required by The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, Regulation 26 for making the plan and other documents and information publically available and notifying specified persons as soon as reasonably practicable after the plan is adopted;
- (b) authorise the Director for Planning & Place to finalise the additional modifications that are required, for recommendation to Council, to include the additional modifications published by the Council for public comment on 3 February 2017 subject to any necessary amendments and any further additional modifications now required.

58/17 EAST WEST RAIL WESTERN SECTION PHASE 2: PUBLIC CONSULTATION

(Agenda Item. 12)

East West Rail is a strategic national rail infrastructure proposal to reopen and upgrade the rail corridor connecting Oxford, Milton Keynes and Cambridge, extending on to Ipswich and Norwich. It is split into three distinct sections covering Oxford to Bedford and Milton Keynes to Princes Risborough (Western); Bedford to Cambridge (Central) and Cambridge to Norwich and Ipswich (Eastern). Cabinet considered a report that was primarily concerned with the Western Section, which included the EWR route in Oxfordshire and it set out the proposed Oxfordshire County Council response to the Network Rail consultation on the proposals. The report also covered the proposed status and approach to the London Road Level Crossing, which while not within the scope of this stage of the project was closely linked to the future development of East West Rail.

Councillor John Howson, expressed disappointment that it would be a diesel line which was far noisier than an electrified line. He commented that there was no indication where the trains would be stored and as it was likely to be somewhere in Oxfordshire this would have an impact on Oxfordshire residents.

Councillor Bob Johnston, local councillor for Kennington & Radley, commended the paper but agreed with concerns that the proposals were for diesel trains. Looking forward he expressed concern over where the rolling stock was to come from and hoped that they would not be tired second hand stock from elsewhere.

Councillor Paul Buckley, speaking as a local councillor for Wolvercote & Summertown and as a professional engineer stated that he was absolutely behind the concept set out in the consultation. However he sounded a note of caution about how it might be implemented, drawing on experience of Phase 1.

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) Reconfirm the Council's strong support for the East West Rail scheme set out in the consultation proposals, as a strategic investment priority;
- (b) Submit a response to the Western Section Phase 2 consultation, based on the points outlined in paragraph 21 above, with the final response to be agreed by the Cabinet Member for the Environment in consultation with the Director for Planning & Place;
- (c) For this response to include a schedule of detailed points, as per the addendum circulated to this report.

59/17 SECTION 75 AGREEMENT - UPDATE 2017

(Agenda Item. 13)

Under Section 75 of the National Health Services Act 2006, the Council has an existing and long-standing agreement with Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, to pool resources and deliver shared objectives. In order to build on this shared work Cabinet considered a report proposing two pooled budgets for 2017/18 and 2018/19, bringing resources together to make a real difference to the people of Oxfordshire and to meet the national Better Care Fund requirements

RESOLVED: to:

- (a) approve the outline proposed pooled budget arrangements with Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, including the creation of two pooled budgets for Adults with Care and Support Needs and for the Better Care Fund;
- (b) delegate responsibility for approving the detail of the schedules for 2017/18, including the final contributions and risk share arrangements, to the Director for Adult Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care;
- (c) approve the proposal to hold two joint management groups.

60/17 DELEGATED POWERS - JULY 2017

(Agenda Item. 14)

Cabinet noted following executive decision taken under the specific powers and functions delegated under the terms of Part 7.2 (Scheme of Delegation to Officers) of the Council's Constitution – Paragraph 6.3(c)(i).

It is not for scrutiny call-in.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Reasons for Urgency</i>
12 May 2017	Exemption from	Approved an	To ensure that

	<p>Contract Procedure Rules – NQ Minds and Zipabout – CASPAR Project</p>	<p>exemption from the tendering requirements under OCC's Contract Procedure Rules for the grant of a contract to NQ Minds and Zipabout as a result of a successful bid for funding of £238,928 for 1 year for a one- off project commencing April 2017 Oxfordshire and the Consortium.</p>	<p>the project is not delayed and the funding put at risk</p>
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61/17 FORWARD PLAN AND FUTURE BUSINESS

(Agenda Item. 15)

The Cabinet considered a list of items for the immediately forthcoming meetings of the Cabinet together with changes and additions set out in the schedule of addenda.

RESOLVED: to note the items currently identified for forthcoming meetings.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing 2017

QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Annex

Questions received from the following Members:

1. Councillor Howson to Councillor Hibbert-Biles

“During the general election campaign, and also subsequently, there have been statements that no school would lose out under the new National Funding Formula. This included a manifesto pledge to “make sure no school has its budget cut as a result of the new formula. Schools will, of course face other funding cuts. However, I can find no mention of how the High Needs funding block will be treated in terms of this extra funding. Can the Cabinet Member explain how the children of Oxfordshire funded through the High Needs block will benefit from the extra funding identified by the government?”

Answer:

“To date I have seen no firm commitments from the government to address the High Needs Block in Oxfordshire. I have written to Robert Goodwill, MP requesting a meeting with him at his earliest convenience and I will add the High Needs Block to the other matters I intend to raise with him, including the excessive time it takes to secure school places for our Looked After Children who are placed outside of Oxfordshire.”

Supplementary: In response to reference to the recent funding announcement from Government Councillor Hibbert-Biles undertook to respond directly to Councillor Howson on the effect in Oxfordshire.

2. Councillor Roz Smith to Councillor Constance

I'd like to draw the County Council's attention to the DfT's "[Local cycling and walking infrastructure plan guidance](#)"; the Department invites local authorities to express their interest in technical support for the development of local cycling and walking infrastructure.

“Recognising that preparing LCWIPs may take time and resources not readily available to all local authorities, a comprehensive programme of technical cycling and walking support has been developed. This programme makes available technical expertise to local authorities wishing to develop local plans, through an expression of interest process. It also offers advice on how to integrate LCWIPs into local policies and strategies, and develop the local strategic and economic case for investment.”

Has the council started work on preparing it's LCWIP and will it be using advice and the resources offered by the DfT to help shape the plan?

Answer

“The Council is looking to progress work on developing [local cycling and walking infrastructure plan guidance](#), and as such has submitted a bid for technical support on offer from the DfT, referred to in Councillor Smith's

question. The submission was made at the end of June and we are awaiting the outcome.”

3. Councillor Dr Johnson to Councillor Constance

Many villages in Wheatley Division are suffering because of the cut in bus subsidies. Elderly and vulnerable people are isolated; younger people cannot get to college and apprenticeships; those who relied on buses for work are now using cars and increasing the traffic on our already congested roads. Does the member agree with me that saving up to £4 million pounds from cutting bus subsidy was a false economy, and will she work with me to find room in our forthcoming budget to reinstate bus subsidies?

Answer

“At the budget setting meeting in February 2016, all Liberal Democrat councillors present voting for the budget including withdrawing the bus subsidy grant. It is interesting to note that of the 118 bus services affected there were solutions found for 54 of the routes. Rather than reinstating the subsidies we should be looking to more imaginative ways of providing services in areas affected. For instance in my division there is a project called ‘Our Bus’ that is a successful volunteer organisation that is providing a service that was withdrawn by the bus companies prior to the February 2016 being taken, I am working with the group so that it can continue to provide such services, I would be more than happy to give you the group’s details so that you could start a similar project in your division to help those that have been affected by the February 2016 budget decision.

Although the county council has been forced by the financial crisis affecting local government to make difficult decisions - notably to withdraw funding from non-commercial bus services - we remain committed to working in partnership with bus operators to safeguard and develop the commercial bus network. In fact, Oxfordshire has a long history of doing this and as a result we have some the best bus services and highest levels of patronage of any shire county, particularly in the South East.

However, in addition to commercial bus services there are two further ways in which the county council is supporting bus passengers. One is through our innovative Comet initiative and the other is through the use of developer contributions to "pump prime" new or enhanced bus services where there is substantial development with a view to them becoming commercially viable in the longer term.

Comet

We have over 151 registered members, about 75% of whom regularly use the service. We are covering a large majority of the county. At least two buses are used in each district area every day. We have 8 parish groups running regular bus-replacement type routes, mainly in the south of the county - all of which have got large enough passenger numbers to sustain them and recoup their costs. We also have about a dozen care homes and schools using the service for trips out.

Sub Bus continued Commercially

The council purchased season tickets for the following routes / schools, involving approximately 290 students overall.

Route Number and Operator	Schools served	Outcome
94, Thames Travel	Didcot Girls School, St Birinus School Didcot	Operator wanted to withdraw service as was no longer considered viable. S106 funding has been used to postpone this withdrawal until Easter 2018 at which point there may be further options available to secure its continuation.
114, Thames Travel	Larkmead School Abingdon, John Mason School Abingdon, Fitzharry's School Abingdon	Service being withdrawn as no longer considered viable by the operator. OCC has increased the size of its private school transport buses that were running alongside this route. This will ensure transport still exists for children to Abingdon schools from Berinsfield (children who would previously caught the 114). This solution however will only be viable for one further year.
136, Thames Travel	Wallingford School	New arrangement of purchasing season tickets
X8, Pulham's Coaches	Chipping Norton School	Continuation of purchasing season tickets
X9, Pulham's Coaches	Chipping Norton School	Service being withdrawn as no longer considered viable by the operator. OCC changing other school transport routes to ensure children are still taken to school. As it happens, this should also be at a reduced

	cost to the council
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S106 funds have been used to continue some of these routes until the contract end dates:

Service, Operator	Description	Outcome through providing S106 funding
B2, Stagecoach	Bodicote-Banbury	Contract for service continues until at least July 2017. There will be slight changes to the timetable after 20 July.
B10, Stagecoach	Hanwell Fields-Banbury	Contract for service continues until at least July 2017. There will be slight changes to the timetable after 20 July
488, Stagecoach	Chipping Norton-Banbury	Contract for service continues until end date of June 2017. No changes to current service.
S3, Stagecoach	Chipping Norton-Woodstock-(Oxford) Sunday	Contract for service continues until end date of November 2017. No changes to current service.
233, Stagecoach	Burford-Witney-Woodstock	Contract for service continues until end date of June 2018. There will be a revised timetable and route after 20 July. Further details in the attached.
X15, Stagecoach	Witney-Abingdon	New contract in place to support this service There will be a revised timetable and route after 20 July. Further details in the attached.
19, Stagecoach	Carterton-Bampton-Witney	New contract in place to support this service There will be a revised timetable and route after 20 July. Further details in the attached.
136 and 139-Sunday Service, Thames Travel	Cholsey-Wallingford-Henley	Contract for supporting the Sunday services continues until end date of June 2017. 136 - No changes to existing Sunday timetable. 139 - Sunday timetable to remain largely the same, but with routing now via Crowmarsh Gifford rather than Shillingford.
139, Thames Travel	Henley-Wallingford	Contract for service continues until end date of June 2017. Service route to be amended to operate hourly Wallingford – Crowmarsh Gifford – Nettlebed – Henley on Mondays to

		Saturdays with effect from 24/07/16. Peak journeys will be extended to serve Henley College. Benson Village and RAF Benson to now be served on service 136.
X2, Thames Travel	Oxford- Abingdon – Milton Park - Didcot	Continue to support service under a new contract until June 2017. Service frequency increased to two buses per hour Monday to Saturday. Service will co-ordinate with service X1 (re-numbered to 32A) to provide three buses per hour between Abingdon and Didcot. New extension in Wallingford to serve Hithercroft Industrial Estate with one bus per hour.
X1, Thames Travel	Oxford- Didcot- Harwell Campus- Wantage	New contract in place to support this service until June 2017. Service re-numbered to 32A. Will operate hourly between Wantage and Abingdon on Mondays to Saturdays. Route between Didcot and Abingdon will serve Culham village partly replacing service T2. Further information about the new service can be found in the attached route update document.
275, Red Rose Travel	Oxford City Centre- High Wycombe	S106 funding used to part fund Buckinghamshire County Council's contract to continue this service until July 2018
94, Thames Travel	Didcot – Blewbury – Hagbournes – Didcot	New contract in place to support this service until June 2017. Service will operate to a revised route and timetable on Mondays to Fridays. Peak journeys will be extended to serve Didcot schools.

The following is the update that Thames Travel about the services they were continuing:

Service	What is happening?
T1	Service extended to serve Chinnor and Lewknor. Peak services will continue to operate into Oxford City Centre, off-peak service will terminate at Cowley Centre with through ticketing available for onward journeys to City and Rail Station on Oxford Bus Company City5 and BROOKESBus U5 services.
T2	Service will cease to operate at end of service on 23/07/16. New 3A service to be introduced by Oxford Bus Company and Stagecoach in Oxfordshire to serve Iffley Road, Littlemore, Sandford and Oxford Science Park with two buses per hour

	Monday to Saturday. Culham Village will be served by service 32A providing links to Abingdon.
T5	New peak commuter service introduced, operating between Oxford Rail Station, Oxford City Centre and Oxford Business Park on Mondays to Fridays.
X1	Service re-numbered 32A and will operate hourly between Wantage and Abingdon on Mondays to Saturdays. Route between Didcot and Abingdon will serve Culham village partly replacing service T2.
X2	Service frequency increased to two buses per hour Monday to Saturday. Service will co-ordinate with service 32A to provide three buses per hour between Abingdon and Didcot. New extension in Wallingford to serve Hithercroft Industrial Estate with one bus per hour.
X32	Minor timetable changes only at this time
X34	Minor timetable changes only at this time
X39	No changes
X40	No changes
17	New off-peak service introduced between Jericho and Oxford City Centre on Mondays to Fridays.
22 & 23	Withdrawn
24	Service will cease to operate at end of service on 23/07/16
25	Service will cease to operate at end of service on 23/07/16
25A	Subject to contract, service will continue to operate hourly Monday to Saturday. Revised timetable with amended service routing within Bicester to be introduced from 24/07/16.
32A	This is the former service X1 renumbered operating between Wantage and Abingdon only but via Culham Village instead of Drayton.
38	Service to be replaced by revised service operating 15 journeys per day between Grove and Wantage on Mondays to Fridays, and hourly on Saturdays from 24/07/16
41	Service to be enhanced to operate half hourly on Mondays to Fridays between 08:30 and 15:00. Service routing extended to serve Tesco and Fairacres retail park.-Service now ends 23/7/17
67/67A/67B	Subject to contract, services will be replaced by revised 67 service, operating hourly between Wantage and Faringdon via Stanford-in-the-Vale on Mondays to Saturdays. Through connections to Harwell, Milton Park and Didcot will be guaranteed and passengers wishing to make through journeys can remain on the bus. Uffington, Childrey, Fernham, Shellingford, the Letcombes, Kingston Lisle, Sparsholt, Westcot and Baulking will no longer be served.
94 (Bicester)	Service will cease to operate at end of service on 23/07/16
94 (Didcot)	Service will operate to a revised route and with reduced hours of operation on Mondays to Fridays only, with effect from 24/07/16. Peak journeys will be extended to serve Didcot

	schools.
95	Service will cease to operate at end of service on 23/07/16
96	No changes
97	Service will cease to operate at end of service on 23/07/16
114	Service will operate to a revised timetable, with one journey in each direction on Mondays to Fridays (schooldays only). Service ending 23/7/17
135	Limited Saturday service introduced providing one journey in each direction between Wallingford and Goring. Incorporated into service 143 from 3/7/17
136	Service to be enhanced from 24/07/16 to operate half hourly between Cholsey, Wallingford, Crowmarsh Gifford, Benson and RAF Benson on Mondays to Fridays, with an hourly service on Saturdays. Peak journeys will be extended to serve Wallingford School. No changes to existing Sunday timetable at this time. Better timed connections with trains at Cholsey Rail Station.
139	Service routing to be amended to operate hourly Wallingford – Crowmarsh Gifford – Nettlebed – Henley on Mondays to Saturdays with effect from 24/07/16. Peak journeys will be extended to serve Henley College. Benson Village and RAF Benson to now be served on service 136. Sunday timetable to remain largely the same as current, but with routing now via Crowmarsh Gifford rather than Shillingford.
143	No changes to Monday to Friday timetable at this time. Saturday routing and timetable revised to no longer serve Whitchurch Hill or Goring. Incorporates part of 135 3/7/17

4. Councillor Dr Johnson to Councillor Hibbert-Biles

“Oxfordshire Mind is seeking £308K funding for Mental Health Awareness for children and young people. This investment in Public Health would potentially save the NHS and Social Care millions of pounds a year in Oxfordshire. Will the Cabinet Member meet with Mr Dan Knowles, CEO of Oxfordshire Mind, and me regarding funding this scheme of prevention, ensuring better mental health for young people in this county in years to come?”

Answer

“Thank you for your question. I will answer it in two parts, firstly the request to meet and discuss specific funding with local representatives of MIND – an organisation which is well respected locally, and which I strongly support – and secondly, I will provide some background information about the Council’s wide role in mental health promotion.

So first the governance issues. I understand that Cllr Johnson’s intentions are good, but I think it would be improper for me to proceed as she requests. There are several thousand charities in Oxfordshire, many of which regularly put forward proposals for sensible projects across the range of Council functions. We invest considerable sums in our local voluntary services,

including Oxfordshire MIND, but we commit these funds through proper business processes which ensure that competition is fair, and much of our officer's time is spent in ensuring that these processes are handled within the Council's strict and proper regulations. We receive many proposals and many requests for funding each week, and it is important that these are dealt with in an even-handed manner – hence our governance arrangements. I would propose therefore that this proposal is put to our officers in the same way as proposals are from other organisations and it can receive due consideration through that route and, come to me or to Cabinet for decisions at the proper time.

I would however underline the fact that the Voluntary Sector is highly valued by the Council and I understand that my Cabinet colleague Cllr Gray has recently met with leaders of Oxfordshire's larger Voluntary Sector Organisations (including Oxfordshire MIND), with the Council's most senior officers, to review how that relationship can be strengthened going forward.

We need to spend every penny with care and that means that we follow the established processes for considering bids from any quarter.

With regard to mental health promotion, the Council has a wide range of services already in place. We aim to promote mental wellbeing as part and parcel of wider services so that mental and physical health are dealt with as a whole. Much of the time for example of our successful School Health Nursing service is spent on promoting mental health in precisely the young people you refer to. Also, our Health Visiting, Sexual Health and drug and alcohol services, all aim to promote mental as well as physical health. Similarly, mental health is promoted by exercise, diet and keeping fit, and our work on promoting physical exercise is also part and parcel of our drive to improve mental wellbeing. We also coordinate our prevention services with the NHS whose duty is to treat mental ill health when symptoms begin to show – again, Cllr Johnson will be aware that the NHS has recently strengthened its services in schools aiming at the vulnerable group of young people she mentions, and of course our school health nurses work hand in hand with these services as indeed they do with schools' own mental health counsellors.

Mental health is notoriously difficult to measure, but several indirect measures point to successful mental health promotion in Oxfordshire – teenage pregnancy rates are low and falling, exercise rates are high and addiction services show good results. Young people themselves are increasingly willing to come forward for help, and demand for help in schools and in NHS services attests to this. This is not to say that there are not challenges ahead and we are all well aware of the stresses modern life puts on young people. This is a problem for all of us to address – parents, schools, the NHS, the Council, and not least, young people themselves. We are well sighted on these issues – they were featured last year's annual report by our Director of Public Health - and we have good services in place. We are moving forward and will continue to do so and these challenges will require everyone to play their part.”