

CABINET – 18 APRIL 2023

ITEM 4 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

| Questions | Cabinet Member |
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| <p>1. COUNCILLOR DAN LEVY</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member for Travel Development and Strategy please give an update on the plans for the HIF2 A40 project, given the extended delay since the project was paused for review? Can he also assure us that prior to any plans being presented to Cabinet they will be shared with active travel advocates to ensure they give safe and direct cycling facilities on the main route to Oxford from the west, and with the councillors for the divisions directly affected?</p> | <p>COUNCILLOR DUNCAN ENRIGHT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRAVEL & DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY</p> <p>The HIF2 A40 scheme remains paused and under review for the time being. The project team is aiming to present to Cabinet in June, its recommendations following the review. A sequence of activities, including briefings with the key stakeholders, are to be scheduled in due course.</p> |
| <p>2. COUNCILLOR NATHAN LEY</p> <p>I was recently only just made aware of an event having taken place in my back yard, a production of Godspell by Oxfordshire Youth Music Theatre. We all acknowledge and appreciate the crucial role that musical theatre (and the creative arts more widely) can play in developing essential skills and confidence in our young people, and that therefore as a Council and Councillors we should do everything we can to ensure that we support these groups to thrive. Can the cabinet member assure me that in future any events from OCC's Music Service: (A) are widely publicised within the Council and to local Councillors (so</p> | <p>COUNCILLOR JENNY HANNABY, CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES AND SAFETY</p> <p>Thank you Cllr Ley for your question and for your words of support for the work of OCCs Music Service and in particular Oxfordshire Youth Music Theatre (OYMT), an important aspect of the Service. The Music Service works closely with the Council's comms team, and has engaged in social media campaigns, flashmob performances and produced publicity materials for OYMT. The Music Service is currently further developing its comms strategy, and in conjunction with Council colleagues in Comms and ICT has developed a new Music Hub website, which hosts events listings</p> |

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| <p>that people need not rely on last minute word of mouth), (B) are given external promotion they need in order to attract the audience they deserve, and (C) are encouraged and empowered to have daytime performances so that other children and young people can attend, ensuring that it continues to inspire more young people?</p> | <p>and promotions. Oxfordshire Music Hub Oxfordshire We will of course ensure that Cllrs are kept informed in advance too.</p> <p>The Service is open to performances during the school day – there was a highly successful Youth Orchestra day at the Sheldonian in January which was attended by over 1400 school pupils . and whilst this does involve releasing pupils from school etc, it is certainly a consideration going forward, and one which will be raised for future planning with the appropriate school consent</p> |
| <p>3. COUNCILLOR IAN MIDDLETON</p> <p>The report to Cabinet on OUFC proposals states in paragraph 13</p> <p>“OUFC have continued to undertake their own stakeholder engagement.”</p> <p>Then in Paragraph 20 it again says :</p> <p>“OUFC is undertaking their own engagement activities to help shape their own planning”</p> <p>As the local member, I'm unaware of any further engagement activities being carried out by the club since the revised proposals were brought to the cabinet in January. Given that there still appears to be very little substance to these proposals, it's unclear as to what any such engagement could be based on.</p> <p>As the report states that there has apparently been further engagement undertaken by the club surrounding the revised proposals, could I please be provided with details</p> | <p>COUNCILLOR GLYNIS PHILLIPS, CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES</p> <p>OUFC are responsible for undertaking community engagement for their scheme and it is important to draw a distinction between the work the club are undertaking as the scheme promoters and the stakeholder engagement we are undertaking to listen to local views.</p> <p>With regards to OUFC we expect them to undertake community engagement as part of the development of the scheme proposal, as would be the case for any major development of this kind. OUFC have told us they have identified six groups of stakeholders: Local Residents, Fans, Local Sports Groups, National Sports Bodies, Locally Elected Representatives, Community and Economic Groups and that they are engaging with these groups. We expect them set out the engagement work they have undertaken as part of the information they submit to us and highlight how this engagement has supported the development of the scheme.</p> |

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| <p>of what it was based on, when it was done, what form it took, who it involved and what has been the result so far?</p> | |
| <p>4. COUNCILLOR IAN MIDDLETON</p> <p>A recent letter has been sent by OCC to ‘stakeholders’ including local councillors in my division inviting them to a meeting during April to discuss the proposals from OUFC.</p> <p>It says :</p> <p>“Discussions will focus on your early views on the extent to which OUFC’s emerging plans meet the key strategic priorities set out below.”</p> <p>Yet the report to cabinet states in paragraph 17 :</p> <p>“At this stage no additional technical information has been provided by OUFC regarding the details of the scheme, as such the stakeholder meetings are designed to capture early views as to how OUFC’s emerging plans meet the council’s seven strategic priorities”</p> <p>If there are no details of the scheme available, how exactly are stakeholders going to be able to provide any relevant or applicable views, early or otherwise, as to how it will or will not meet our priorities?</p> | <p>COUNCILLOR GLYNIS PHILLIPS, CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES</p> <p>The Cabinet report considered in March 2023 sets out our approach to public engagement. We are approaching our engagement in two phases. The first phase is formative discussions with stakeholders to listen to views, concerns and aspirations, taking place in April and May. clearly, These are focused on the location and general principles regarding a stadium. The second phase will take place after OUFC have published further detailed information about the proposals for their scheme. The timeframe is dependent on OUFC providing us with sufficient information and we have committed to a period of six weeks for this to take place. Our engagement and communications strategy has been published alongside timetables for decision making. We are committed to open stakeholder engagement and welcome approaches from any community group, we are keen to meet with people and hear their views.</p> |

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| <p data-bbox="264 217 786 248">5. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</p> <p data-bbox="219 288 1030 392">Is the Cabinet Member content with the arrangements for the less mobile bus passengers and local residents following the closure of the Botley Road?</p> | <p data-bbox="1088 217 1917 284">COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT</p> <p data-bbox="1088 328 2040 475">Yes. In addition to the support provided by marshals on the site, Network Rail has also commissioned additional support for the less mobile via Oxfordshire County Council, Fleet Services. The Service is now signed as Botley Road Flyer.</p> <p data-bbox="1088 515 1375 547">This will operate as:</p> <ul data-bbox="1137 592 2047 1177" style="list-style-type: none"> - An accessible vehicle with capacity for 12 seats and 1 wheelchair. - Operate the vehicle as an open door service at designated bus stops, signage at stops will be Botley Road Flyer - The bus signage will be BOTLEY ROAD FLYER - Network Rail (and their contractor Kier) will contact users and will organise and take responsibility for passengers knowing the bus stops and route. - The timetable will be Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays: 4 runs a day, at 10.00, 11.00 , 12.00 ,13.00. - The route will be: Botley Road, Seacourt P&R, A34, Wolvercote Roundabout, Woodstock Road, Jericho, Walton Street, Frideswide Square , Abingdon Road, Redbridge P&R, A34, Botley Road. - KIER and Network Rail will overview the service and can ask for alterations. <p data-bbox="1088 1257 2018 1361">For local residents, access to the City Centre is maintained for pedestrians and cyclists with vehicles wanting access diverted via the A34 North and South to Woodstock or Abingdon Roads.</p> |

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| | <p>Oxford City based Members were updated on the arrangements at a series of briefing sessions run by Network Rail and supported by Officers from the County Council over recent weeks, as well as a specific briefing on arrangements on 6 April 2023 which the Member attended.</p> |