

QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

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.

Questions	Answers
<p>1. COUNCILLOR MCINTOSH-STEDMAN It has been said -Teeny truants as young as 4 - truancy hits record level (Oxford Journal 6 November 2008 Page 1). Are Oxfordshire children in this record level?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR WAINE, CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>During the 2005/06 and 2006/07 academic years and over the first 2 terms of the 2007/08 year <i>absence</i> rates from schools, nationally, have been consistently rising. Over the same period, <i>absence</i> rates for children attending Oxfordshire schools have, however, been consistently reducing.</p> <p>Oxfordshire school <i>attendance</i> rates in 2005/06 and 2006/07 were higher than national averages in both primary and secondary sectors placing Oxfordshire in the top quartile. Oxfordshire also compares well with similar authorities, being above average when benchmarked against statistical neighbours. Final data for the 2007/08 academic year is not yet published so it too early to tell if this improvement has continued.</p> <p>I am afraid that no data are collected about the attendance rates of 4 year olds as they are less than statutory school age; however there is no reason to think that those rates would be out of line with the rest of Oxfordshire's generally positive picture.</p>
<p>2. COUNCILLOR MCINTOSH-STEDMAN With regard to the recession, economic downturn, joblessness and housing repossessions, times will be harsh (The Independent 13 November 2008 page 1&2). Will</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR CHAPMAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES</p> <p>Social Care teams are aware that the difficulties identified by Councillor McIntosh Stedman will increase the pressure on all families, and for some vulnerable parents and children they may trigger the need for one-to-one support from a social worker. Social workers will be working to ensure that families receive the support and services they need</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>there be help for families for uniforms and moral support for families getting worried & depressed?</p>	<p>to manage difficult times.</p> <p>There is a range of services which families can access in the community which are open to all families, but are reaching out particularly to more vulnerable families. There is an increasing number of home school community linkworkers (HSCLWs) who provide a breadth of family-friendly support services. They spend time listening to families who are worried or depressed, helping them with debt counselling, access to benefits, parenting support programmes etc. HSCLWs are rising at the moment to ensure that all school partnerships have them - there will soon be 27 around the county (compared to the 12 we have had until last year). These are targeted at families with school age children.</p> <p>The children's centres have been developing their services with the downturn in mind. They are providing welfare rights sessions, including one-to-one casework for families, to ensure families are receiving their entitlements to benefits, allowances and childcare. Outreach services are increasing and responding to referrals from health visitors so that parents/carers who are feeling very isolated can be visited and enabled to access the children's centres. There are extra sessions focussed on mental wellbeing being run for parents/carers. MIND is providing regular drop-ins at the children's centres as well. Primary Child Adolescent Mental Health Service is providing supervision for children's centre staff so that staff are attuned to the mental health needs of the families they meet.</p> <p>New links have been established with local churches who are joining forces with the children's centres and locality co-ordinators to make sure families in acute and immediate need receive gifts of food and bedding. Children's centres also provide cheap and nutritious meals every day for adults and children.</p> <p>Families entitled to free school meals are entitled to remission for a number of things such as the board and lodging element of school trips. In addition to statutory entitlements, schools are able to exercise discretion in relation to their internal charging policies and may be expected to respond sensitively to families in need both financially and in other ways. Many schools offer opportunities for good quality, used, school clothing to be</p>

Questions	Answers
	made available for donation or sale to other families.
<p>3. COUNCILLOR MCINTOSH-STEDMAN</p> <p>Setting the breakfast table in preparation for going to school or work the next day has long been a tradition in this country as far as I know from the mid 1950's. It has been said that some children leave home without a bite to eat (no breakfast) and consequently some schools provide breakfast. However, it cannot be best for children to make the journey on an empty stomach. Will you be encouraging the return to tradition and encourage parents to do as of old and prepare the breakfast table ready for serving breakfast to ensure children do not have to leave their house on an empty stomach? As part of the family health care plan, breaking the fast is important to health and well being.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR WAINE, CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>Breakfast clubs meet a range of needs. While schools and services encourage parents and carers to provide the best start to the day for children and young people, we know that they are not always successful. The principal reason for establishing breakfast clubs is to support children who do not have regular breakfast at home and to teach them to value its importance. Breakfast clubs also provide a facility for working parents.</p> <p>Beyond the obvious health benefits, there is plenty of evidence to demonstrate the difference that breakfast makes in getting children and young people ready to learn. Breakfast clubs reintroduce the importance of breakfast to children and young people and their families. Where there are vulnerable families, breakfast clubs can provide a consistency to the morning that might be lacking at home. The clubs are also a nurturing, safe, social and learning environment run by qualified playworkers and teaching staff. It is likely that some of the families of the children and young people who access breakfast clubs are also being supported in a range of other ways which seek to improve their health and well being.</p>
<p>4. COUNCILLOR MCINTOSH-STEDMAN</p> <p>Whilst work and sickness may keep people from attending County</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ROBERTSON, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>I believe the current arrangement is sufficient and that there are many opportunities for members to bring themselves up to date with questions and answers, and, as you</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>Council's briefings etc with question & answer sessions, written questions and ideas sent in are generally read by the Chairman of such meetings. (1) Do you agree this arrangement is sufficient (questions are already dealt with in Council anyway) and that writing to the Oxford Mail is unnecessary and will delay an answer when specific County work is to be done and consultation has to be done in an urgent manner, for example, the latest on Transform Oxford Vision (Oxford Mail 21 November 2008, page 12)? (2) Do you agree that for issues to be dealt with more speedily, it will be useful to put a box for 'Members' ideas to the Leader' in the Members' Suite rather than having ideas meant for the Leader's attention sent to the Oxford Mail?</p>	<p>mention, questions can be asked in Council. Also it is not for me to comment about correspondence with the Oxford Mail.</p> <p>I know that the Leader always responds quickly to any questions sent directly to him, and again, it is not for me to comment about questions sent to the Oxford Mail.</p>
<p>5. COUNCILLOR MCINTOSH-STEDMAN</p> <p>What efforts, if any, are being made by the Cabinet and Officers to reduce smoking habit in children in Oxfordshire?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR WAINE, CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>Schools across the county address this issue by education to prevent young people starting smoking, combined with support for individuals who are known to be smokers to enable them to quit.</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>Healthy Oxfordshire Schools Team has recently worked with 13 of the 34 secondary schools in county, using a Theatre group to address alcohol and other risky behaviours. Questionnaire results from 1409 year 9 pupils as part of this work revealed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More girls (7.3%) than boys (0.8%) smoke cigarettes on a daily basis • More boys (3.9%) than girls (2.4%) smoke cigarettes 2 or 3 times a week • More girls (8.4%) than boys (3.2%) smoke cigarettes less often. <p>These data indicate that Oxfordshire young people are well below the national average where it is known that 9% of 11-15 year olds smoke at least once a week. All secondary schools have had the opportunity to receive this programme of Theatre in Education for Year 9 Pupils, to be completed by March 2009.</p> <p>All schools will address the issues of smoking through science curriculum and also Personal Health and Social Education programmes. Recently a “Tobacco Awareness Pack” has been developed and launched to all secondary schools in conjunction with the Oxfordshire Smoking Advice Service.</p> <p>The Healthy Oxfordshire Schools team has sample lesson plans and resources to assist all key stages with smoking Education, provided by our Drugs Education consultant. National No Smoking Day initiatives are promoted to all schools, supported by colleagues from School Health.</p> <p>Schools will have policies for dealing with smoking related incidents on school premises, and support will be offered to young people who may wish to have help including referral to the Young Person’s Smoking Cessation Adviser or School Health Nurse. In some schools where there have been concerns about groups of pupils smoking, interventions have been targeted using the Young Person’s Smoking Cessation Adviser and the School Nurses. This recently happened in Bicester September 2008.</p>
<p>6. COUNCILLOR ROAF Where will disabled drivers be able</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR HUDSPETH, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT There are no plans to reduce the overall amount of disabled parking in the city centre,</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>to park in the new scheme for Transform Oxford?</p>	<p>though some spaces may be moved. If spaces are moved, we will consult users of the spaces to identify a suitable alternative location.</p> <p>We intend to maintain access to all disabled parking spaces 24 hours a day. This may mean allowing some access through otherwise traffic-free streets for access to disabled parking (e.g. through the west end of George Street to access disabled parking bays in New Inn Hall Street). The number of vehicles needing access to the disabled parking spaces will be very small and we do not believe this will be detrimental to the environment in those streets affected.</p>
<p>7. COUNCILLOR FOOKS</p> <p>Will the Transform Oxford proposals enable shoppers to reach the new Westgate conveniently by bus from the north and the east of the city?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR HUDSPETH, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT</p> <p>People travelling to the city centre from the north (and from the west and south) will definitely not have to change buses under these proposals. As it happens, the majority of bus services from the north currently terminate in Magdalen Street East. This means that bus passengers currently need to walk from that point to the Westgate centre. The Transform Oxford proposals will result in the same bus services terminating a short distance to the north of this point. There will be scope for bus services from the north to continue beyond the new bus turn around onwards via Beaumont Street, Worcester Street and New Road which would allow drop off much closer to the Westgate centre. We will certainly be working with the bus operators to see what improvements we can bring to bus access into the city centre from the north.</p> <p>To bring about significant improvements to the environment of High Street and St Aldate's, we are looking at a range of options for buses coming into the city centre from the east. Just one of these options is for normal buses to terminate at the Plain or London Place and for their passengers to transfer onto to high frequency (e.g. at least every five minutes), high capacity, high quality shuttle buses for the last part of the journey into the centre. We recognise that this is not as convenient for bus passengers as the current arrangements which is why we are also looking at other options that do not involve any sort of transfer.</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>County Council transport officers are of course in regular contact with the representatives of the Westgate centre to ensure all concerned are kept up to date with developments in order to get the best possible outcome for the travelling public of Oxford.</p>
<p>8. COUNCILLOR GODDEN</p> <p>Does the Cabinet's partnership working with the bus companies include a move to pre-purchased ticketing, which significantly reduces time at bus stops, and how soon might this be introduced?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR HUDSPETH, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT</p> <p>We are indeed actively discussing with operators the introduction of a multi-operator ticket pre-purchase scheme, which greatly improves on the PlusPass scheme already available. Details are still subject to discussion and negotiation with our partners, and to full exploration of both technological and legal constraints. However, the aspiration is for a scheme using the latest technology – a smartcard or other 'electronic purse' system – which applies to as many journey types and over as wide a geographical area as possible, with a current target date of 2010 for implementation.</p>
<p>9. COUNCILLOR ROAF</p> <p>Transform Oxford proposes to improve provision for pedestrians and to remove all the traffic lights from Frideswide Square. How can these two visions be achieved simultaneously?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR HUDSPETH, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT</p> <p>There are examples elsewhere that demonstrate how unsignalised roundabouts can cater very well for pedestrians, cyclists and traffic. This has been achieved through careful design with specific consideration of the needs of the more vulnerable road users. The vision for Frideswide Square is one where much less space is taken up by roads and much more is given back to pedestrians. And whilst there will not be any traffic lights, pedestrians should find the roads much easier to cross. Having said that, there is clearly a lot more design work to do which will of course include consultation with all road users.</p>
<p>10. COUNCILLOR ROAF</p> <p>There are some 7,000 privately controlled non-residential parking spaces in central Oxford. If this number could be reduced by</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR HUDSPETH, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT</p> <p>The Nottingham proposals do not, from my understanding, reduce the number of private non-residential spaces but provide a mechanism to charge for them and invest the funds in public transport infrastructure. In fact without the high levels of such spaces there would be insufficient income to support the delivery of their proposals. It is my view that</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>workplace parking charges as is proposed in Nottingham, would this not do more than most of the proposals in Transform Oxford to improve conditions for all other road users?</p>	<p>we can achieve Transform Oxford without the need for such measures.</p>
<p>11. COUNCILLOR ROAF In a recent letter to the Oxford Times you stated that next year whatever happens there will be a school place for every child in the City who needs one. How many such children have been offered places for this year more than two miles from their homes and how many of these children are not receiving free transport to school?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR WAINE, CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>I am afraid that it is not possible to answer the first question at present. Neither is the process of allocating places complete nor, indeed, are discussions with a number of schools about admissions above current Published Admission Numbers. Also, if it proves necessary, there is still time to procure and secure planning permissions for temporary classrooms. I should of course be very happy to answer the question just as soon as all places have been allocated.</p> <p>As far as transport is concerned, I am happy to report that all 4 or 5 year old children travelling more than 2 miles to school (where they have been required to do rather than the parents having ‘chosen’ to do so) will receive free home-school transport. I am sure that this new liberalisation of the home-school transport policy (to provide transport for 4 year olds), will be widely welcomed. This new provision has been funded by efficient management of the transport budget, generating savings which have been ‘recycled’ to the benefit of children and families.</p>
<p>12. COUNCILLOR FOOKS How many Admission Application Forms were lost during the Admissions process for September 2008?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR WAINE, CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>In relation to admissions for September 2008, some 15,000 applications were processed. We are not aware that any form was lost.</p> <p>In relation to admissions for September 2009, we have introduced a new system in which</p>

Questions	Answers
	every form submitted has been acknowledged to confirm receipt. We are not aware of any forms having been lost in relation to this year's process.
<p>13. COUNCILLOR JOHNSTON</p> <p>How many posts in the Shared Services Centre have been re-evaluated to a higher level in the past 12 months? What is the most likely effect of this on the salary bill?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ROBERTSON, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>As you would expect, there has been a lot of staff movement as the Shared Services Centre has been populated over that period, moving from transition to "settled state", and I think it is relevant to consider the grading situation more fully than just those posts which have been re-evaluated to a higher level. The summary below provides this:-</p> <p>For the period 1 January 2008 to 1 January 2009:</p> <p>18 posts have been regraded upwards 17 posts have been regraded downwards 25 new posts have been created 42 existing posts have been deleted.</p> <p>The net effect of this movement on the salary bill has been a reduction.</p>
<p>14. COUNCILLOR FOOKS</p> <p>The North Summertown Controlled Parking Zone covers a very wide area and has been introduced in areas which had no commuter parking problem. Residents are finding the restrictions unnecessary and very inconvenient. When will this zone be reviewed?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR HUDSPETH, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT</p> <p>With regard to a full review, I do not expect this would begin during 2009 as there are other areas of the City where the need is greater – including other parts of Councillor Fooks's patch – but I am sure that as local issues are raised these can be addressed fairly quickly. North Summertown has already seen one small change and I understand that, following requests from Councillor Fooks, officers will be carrying out local consultation on further changes.</p> <p>We are committed to trying to ensure that the existing CPZs best meet the current needs of local residents, businesses and their visitors/customers and the Traffic Regulation Order team has implemented full reviews of the West and South Oxford Zones, and has commenced work on the East Oxford Zone (to coincide with the proposals for new zones</p>

Questions	Answers
	around Magdalen Road and Divinity Road). In addition changes have either been made or are in advanced stages of preparation in a further nine zones as a direct result of requests from the local community. We will soon begin issuing questionnaires with permit renewal letters which will give permit holders an annual opportunity to raise concerns about the operation of their local zone which can then be addressed through similar small-scale changes.
15. COUNCILLOR V SMITH What is the funding per pupil in each of the LA primary schools?	COUNCILLOR WAINE, CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS IMPROVEMENT The basic allocations for all pupils are given below

Questions	Answers			
<p>What exactly is the formula used to allocate resources?</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="745 261 965 384">National Curriculum Group (Age)</th> <th data-bbox="965 261 1131 384">2008-09 Basic Allocation £</th> </tr> </thead> </table>	National Curriculum Group (Age)	2008-09 Basic Allocation £	
	National Curriculum Group (Age)	2008-09 Basic Allocation £		
	Foundation Stage (Nursery)	2,720.98		
	Foundation Stage (FSU)	2,720.98		
	Foundation Stage (F1)	2,720.98		
	1 (5+)	2,030.58		
	2 (6+)	1,849.32		
	3 (7+)	1,815.26		
	4 (8+)	1,815.26		
	5 (9+)	1,815.26		
	6 (10+)	1,815.26		
	7 (11+)	2,262.89		
	8 (12+)	2,262.89		
	9 (13+)	2,333.23		
	10 (14+)	2,845.37		
11 (15+)	3,149.90			
	<p>The formula is complex, has evolved over time and takes account of many factors. Approximately 80% of it is based on pupil numbers. The remaining 20% on either school</p>			

Questions	Answers
<p>What discretion is available to the LA in the criteria and weightings in the formula?</p>	<p>specific factors (eg joint sports, social deprivation) or site specific factors (eg premises related - floor area etc). A copy of the Fair Funding Document which sets this out in detail has been placed in your pigeon hole.</p> <p>There is some scope to vary formula factors although, in practice, for technical reasons, this scope is very limited. Variation usually involves an initial consultation with schools, reference to Schools Forum, formal consultation with schools detailing financial implications, possibly more comment from Schools Forum and then agreement by Cabinet. A recent example of such a change was to skew funding to take greater account of social deprivation.</p>
<p>16. COUNCILLOR V SMITH</p> <p>Why was the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee informed that "Under EU contracting rules it would not be possible to just continue with current funding arrangements for Homestart ..."? What exactly does the legislation say? I understand that only one other council in the South East Region (Newham) has chosen to withdraw funding on these grounds and that some have put services out to tender.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member indicated at the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee meeting that, if the Cabinet continued funding Home-Start even in the short term, this would mean the money would be</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR CHAPMAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES</p> <p>EU rules forbid us simply to award contracts above specified values. Oxfordshire County Council Procurement Rules reflect these requirements and specify that contracts with a value of £25,000 or more require a formal written quotation or tendering process. This is a different basis for operating than historically but is designed to ensure that any contract based service provision must be awarded in accordance with our own Constitution (Contract Procedure Rules) and the EU principle of fair open and transparent competition.</p> <p>Delivering services requires us to engage in a continual process of looking at what we are being asked to deliver and the funding that is available. We are not in a position where we can provide core funding for particular organisations, although we receive many requests for such support. As Children's Centres are required to make contact with and reach out to all vulnerable families in their catchment area they are well placed to make commissioning decisions based upon local knowledge and where possible we are channeling under 5's family support funding through this route. Children's centre budgets for next year are indicative; final figures are currently being calculated based upon updated formula figures and the funding available.</p> <p>You are correct in your understanding that in some authorities all family support work has</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>taken from the children's centres. Given that the money has not already been given, how would this apply? Is the Cabinet Member saying that the Cabinet would cut the children's centre budgets by this amount?</p>	<p>been put out to tender. The strategy for Children's Centre development in Oxfordshire has been to build on existing provision and so Centres have been developed in partnership with the voluntary sector (PACT, NOMAD, Spurgeons, PEEP), with schools, and from Local Authority run Family Centres. In some authorities all centres have been developed in a uniform way, eg in partnership with schools, or in some cases by setting up all centres as Local Authority centres, and then local authorities have commissioned family support services on behalf of all. In Oxfordshire we have been able to build on our family support expertise from the beginning and the one size fits all approach would not be appropriate.</p> <p>In order to offer Homestart transition funding we have allocated a £10,000 grant per Homestart for next year to allow more time for the transition from central to local commissioning. The Council must strike a balance between being supportive of Homestart and being fair to other providers and officers have been working hard to support local commissioning decisions which enable smaller scale contracts to be agreed, some already with Homestart. Of course not all centres will want to commission with Homestart, some will choose to provide services in house. However, centrally commissioning the service that has been provided by Homestart to date, without engaging a fully open and competitive process, in which existing Children's Centres and other voluntary sector providers would certainly tender, would breach our Contract Procedure Rules and EU principles, and would be unfair to the other providers, including Children's Centres themselves.</p> <p>The increasing number of centres being developed offers Homestart an excellent opportunity to expand their services and we have provided contacts to enable them to avail themselves of this opportunity.</p>
<p>17. COUNCILLOR BRYDEN The County Council has recently agreed two feasibility studies; one for the effect of completing the A34</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR HUDSPETH, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT</p> <p>At present the County Council does not plan to carry out a feasibility study into the proposal for a second river crossing. This is due to a number of reasons:</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>junction at Lodge Hill, and the other for the effect of closing the bridge over the Ock at St Helen's Wharf.</p> <p>What plans does the County Council have for a feasibility study into the proposal for a second river crossing in Abingdon, which like the Lodge Hill interchange is one of the components in AbITS?</p>	<p>i) OCC does not currently have the resource to undertake such a study at this time. The Local Development Framework (LDF) process is starting to get underway and OCC needs to work closely with the district councils which takes a large amount of resources.</p> <p>ii) OCC needs to look at solutions to housing sites coming forward in the Vale LDF. If any form of road/bypass were to be built it would be the western most end from the Drayton Road to the Marcham Road, even then the amount of housing proposed is unlikely to be enough to fund fully this section of road and additional funding would need to be sought for this.</p> <p>iii) The LTP3 is due to come into force from April 2011 and will look further ahead than the current LTP of 5 years. OCC will consider schemes that could be implemented over a longer time period probably up to 2030 – clearly consideration of a second river crossing would be a part of this assessment.</p> <p>In short this is a recommendation in the AbITS strategy for a long term measure to be considered, but as laid out above, a feasibility study into this is unlikely to be carried out in the next couple of years.</p>
<p>18. COUNCILLOR LEGGE</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member for Transport confirm that the balance of £521K of AbITS funding accruing from the underspend on the Marcham Road will be carried over until a suitable scheme to improve the traffic flow in Abingdon is found? Is this time limited? As Highways Authority what plans has the County Council in mind to overcoming the</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR HUDSPETH, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT</p> <p>First of all, I need to make the point that capital money cannot be accrued. Future years programming can look kindly upon suitable schemes that come forward for Abingdon and therefore is not time limited. At present there are higher priority proposals meeting the objectives of the LTP elsewhere. Should further schemes for Abingdon be identified then I have committed to assess their relative priority and provide funding if they can be accommodated in the overall programme.</p> <p>We will be implementing Marcham Road phase 2 from March 2009 and the High Street Phase 2 scheme in the 2009/10 financial year. The Marcham Road works will help to encourage greater use of the peripheral road and OCC will continue to monitor the situation.</p>

Questions	Answers																								
remaining ongoing traffic flow problems?																									
<p>19. COUNCILLOR LEGGE</p> <p>What plans has the Council for improving the traffic congestion on Drayton Road and in what timescale?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR HUDSPETH, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT</p> <p>The County Council currently has no plans for improving congestion on the Drayton Road. We have ruled out the widening of the bridge due to the cost being disproportionate to the benefit that would be achieved.</p>																								
<p>20. COUNCILLOR R SMITH</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member for Finance tell the Council the cost of the recent publicity for the Transform Oxford announcement, the advertising banners, the production and printing of the Transform Oxford leaflets and the distribution or postage cost of the leaflets, and which budgets or budget headings covered these costs?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR SHOULER, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE</p> <p>The costs for the publicity for Transform Oxford have been met from the 'Transport Management Support' budget and to date this has cost £5,925.24. This is made up as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="840 707 1823 1129"> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="840 707 1227 783">One Design & Communication Ltd</td> <td data-bbox="1227 707 1393 783">960.00</td> <td data-bbox="1393 707 1823 783">Leaflet design</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="840 783 1227 861">Banbury Litho Ltd</td> <td data-bbox="1227 783 1393 861">1765.00</td> <td data-bbox="1393 783 1823 861">Leaflets</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="840 861 1227 940">Mailbox Nationwide Ltd</td> <td data-bbox="1227 861 1393 940">1728.00</td> <td data-bbox="1393 861 1823 940">Digital leaflets</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="840 940 1227 1018">Panelwarehouse.com</td> <td data-bbox="1227 940 1393 1018">695.64</td> <td data-bbox="1393 940 1823 1018">Banners</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="840 1018 1227 1096"></td> <td data-bbox="1227 1018 1393 1096">471.60</td> <td data-bbox="1393 1018 1823 1096">Banners</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="840 1096 1227 1174"></td> <td data-bbox="1227 1096 1393 1174">130.00</td> <td data-bbox="1393 1096 1823 1174">Studio time</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="840 1174 1227 1252"></td> <td data-bbox="1227 1174 1393 1252">35.00</td> <td data-bbox="1393 1174 1823 1252">carriage</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="840 1252 1227 1129">TOTAL</td> <td data-bbox="1227 1252 1393 1129">5925.24</td> <td data-bbox="1393 1252 1823 1129"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	One Design & Communication Ltd	960.00	Leaflet design	Banbury Litho Ltd	1765.00	Leaflets	Mailbox Nationwide Ltd	1728.00	Digital leaflets	Panelwarehouse.com	695.64	Banners		471.60	Banners		130.00	Studio time		35.00	carriage	TOTAL	5925.24	
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<p>21. COUNCILLOR R SMITH</p> <p>How much did the very welcome Christmas evening free buses from Park and Rides cost the County Council, and from which budget did this come?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR HUDSPETH, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT</p> <p>The free evening Park & Ride services before Christmas cost the County Council approximately £8750, of which about £4000 was for leaflet printing costs and radio publicity. The total cost is being split evenly between the Bus Subsidy budget and the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive (LABGI) budget as the initiative was deemed to meet both transport and local economy objectives.</p>																								

Questions	Answers
<p>22. COUNCILLOR MICHAEL BADCOCK</p> <p>Does the Leader of the County Council share my concern about Abingdon's economic future in the context of this country's present parlous financial and economic state? Does he agree that successful re-development of the Old Gaol site is critical to Abingdon's future as an expression of confidence in the town? There appears to be a wall of secrecy around the redevelopment plans and, while some elements may be commercially sensitive, there is a need for greater openness on the part of the Liberal-Democrat Administration at the Vale of White Horse District Council in reassuring Abingdon residents about this scheme. Will the Leader of the County Council, in his capacity as Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, write to the Leader of the Vale of White Horse District Council, urging him to take a much more open approach in making residents aware of the details of the</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR MITCHELL, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>Yes, Yes and Yes.</p>

Questions	Answers
Old Gaol scheme and the progress his council has made in taking it forward?	