

County Council

1 April 2014

Schedule of Business

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OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – 1 APRIL 2014

SCHEDULE OF BUSINESS

N.B. Councillors are reminded that this meeting will take place in Bodicote House in Banbury;

A seating plan of the Council Chamber is attached for member's information at Annex 4.

Lunch will be served at 1.00 pm in the River Cherwell Room.

AGENDA ITEM	PAGE NO.	MAXIMUM DURATION	APPROX START TIME TIME LIMIT PER DEBATE	SUBJECT	PROPOSALS (M = Motion; SEC = Seconder; Am = Amendment S = Statement; Q = Question; REC = Recommendation to be determined)
1.	1	30 mins	10.00	Minutes Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 February 2014 (CC1).	
2.	1			Apologies for Absence	Cllr Godden
3.	2			Declarations of Interest	
4.	2			Official Communications	

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome – Cllr Harrod • Honorary Alderman Charles Shouler 	Cllrs: Hudspeth, Brighthouse, Patrick, and Mrs Fulljames.
5.	2			<p>Appointments</p> <p>Members are asked to note the following appointments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) replace Councillor Beal with Councillor John Christie on the Employees Joint Consultative Committee; (ii) replace Councillor David Bartholomew with Councillor Sandy Lovatt on the Education Scrutiny Committee; (iii) replace Susanna Pressel with Councillor Nick Hards on the Audit & Governance Committee. <p>Report of the Returning Officer</p>	- See Annex 3

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6.	2			Petitions and Public Address	None.
7.	2			Questions with Notice from Members of the Public	None.

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8.	2	30 mins	10.30 am	Questions with Notice from Members of the Council (1) Lilly to Carter (2) Harris to Nimmo Smith (3) Harris to Nimmo Smith (4) Harris to Hudspeth (5) Williams to Nimmo Smith (6) Williams to Nimmo Smith (7) Williams to Heathcoat (8) Williams to Tilley (9) Williams to Tilley (10) Coates to Rose (11)Coates to Hudspeth (12)Coates to Hudspeth (13)Williams to Heathcoat (14)Williams to Heathcoat (15)Tanner to Rose (16)Tanner to Nimmo Smith (17)Tanner to Chapman (18)Howson to Carter (19)Howson to Tilley (20)Godden to Carter (21)Patrick to Nimmo Smith (22)Webber to Carter	

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9.	2	30 mins	11.00 am	Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances	(M) Hudspeth (SEC) Rose (AM) Pressel (see Annex 1) (SEC) Dhesi S Harris
10.	2	45 mins	11.30 am	Oxfordshire County Council Corporate Plan 2014/15 – 2017/18	(M) Chapman (SEC) Hudspeth S Tanner S Christie S Dhesi S Pressel S Brighthouse S Price S Fooks S Howson S Fawcett S Patrick S Harris
11.	3	10 mins	12.15 pm	Audit & Governance Committee – Annual Report	(M) Wilmshurst (SEC) Mathew S R. Smith

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12.	3	30 mins	12.25 pm	Report of the Cabinet Leader (Ian Hudspeth) Deputy Leader (Rodney Rose) Adult Social Care (Judith Heathcoat) Children, Education & Families (Melinda Tilley) Environment (Nimmo Smith) Finance (Kieron Mallon) Policy Co-ordination (Louise Chapman)	Q. Patrick (1) Q. R Smith (2), Christie (3) Q. Price, Dhesi, Hannaby (4) Q. Howson (5), Cherry, Howson (6) Q J Sanders, Webber (8), Pressel, Fooks (9), Beal, Price, Patrick, Fawcett (10), Pressel, R Smith (11) Q R Smith (12).

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13.	3	30 mins	2.00 pm	Motion From Councillor Arash Fatemian	(M) Fatemian (SEC) Lilly S Cherry S Pressel S Harris S Williams S Heathcoat S Waine S Mathew S Lovett S Rose
14.	3/4	30 mins	2.30 pm	Motion From Councillor Jean Fooks	(M) Fooks (SEC) Rooke S Tanner S Johnson S Webber S Harris S Williams S Hibbert-Biles

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15.	4	15 mins	3.00 pm	Motion From Councillor Susanna Pressel	(M) Pressel (SEC) Hudspeth S Fawcett S Johnson S Williams S Rose
16.	5	15 mins	3.15 pm	Motion From Councillor David Williams	(M) Williams (SEC) Coates (AM) Fawcett (see Annex 1) (SEC) Johnson S Pressel S Bartholomew
17.	5			Motion From Councillor David Williams	(M) Williams (SEC) Coates (AM) Webber (see Annex 1) (SEC) Fawcett S Beal S Dhesi S Pressel S J Sanders S Fooks S Tilley

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18.	6			Motion From Councillor John Sanders	(M) J Sanders (SEC) Price S Patrick S Hudspeth S Chapman
19.	6			Motion From Councillor Mike Beal	(M) Beal (SEC) Cherry (AM) Webber (see Annex 1) (SEC) Rooke S Williams
20.	6			Motion From Councillor Glynis Phillips	(M) Phillips (SEC) Hards S Brighthouse S Williams S Hibbert-Biles

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AMENDMENTS TO MOTIONS ON NOTICE

Agenda Item 9 – Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Member’s Allowances - Amendment to be moved by Councillor Susanna Pressel

Amend to read:

“Defer implementation until the review of governance and a complete review of member’s allowances has been completed.”

Agenda Item 16 – Motion From Councillor David Williams – Amendment to be moved by Councillor Richard Webber

“This Council is concerned at the level of bee colony collapse in the UK and Oxfordshire with a 60% decline over the last 10 Years and the threat to our food supply as bees provide over 80% of crop pollination. With this in view and taking into account the Councils responsibilities for conserving biodiversity this Council calls on the Secretary of State for the Environment to extend his recent moratorium on the use of neonicotinoids to an outright ban.

The Council therefore asks Cabinet to:

- (i) ~~launch~~ **investigate** a programme that would seek to support and protect bees focused on establishing bee colonies in its green spaces and wild areas with bee friendly plants;
- (ii) ~~establish and fund a ‘Bee Friendly Wildlife Group’ of officers charged with promoting bee keeping in Oxfordshire.~~
- (iii) ~~encourage the use of bee hives on municipal land and in the gardens of volunteers and encourage forms of gardening and land use that support pollinating insects. The team should also visit schools to educate children about the relationship between bees and biodiversity and the problems surrounding bee mortality;~~
- (iv) ~~ask the Bee Friendly Wildlife Group to commit resources to mapping Bee-lines (1) and to act in an advisory agent too local farmers on their crop planting operations. The County could also join with Berkshire and Buckinghamshire and Oxon Wildlife Trust in their Friendly Gardening Awards scheme which includes the category of a ‘nectar bar’ (2).”~~

Agenda Item 17 – Motion From Councillor David Williams – Amendment to be moved by Councillor Richard Webber

“Flooding in Oxfordshire has recently caused many millions of pounds worth of damage to homes and businesses. With the prospect of extreme weather conditions such as sustained torrential downpours being repeated on an ever increasing scale due to global warming it is imperative that the County Council not only puts in place local engineering flood defences but also accepts that it must play its part in flood prevention by contributing to the campaign to prevent climate change. With this in view the Council calls on the Cabinet to commission a full officer’s report in conjunction with other authorities that illustrates the local causes of flooding in the whole County and to outline how working with other stakeholders such as the Environment Agency cost effective local measures can be introduced to mitigate the effects of increasingly freak weather episodes.

The comprehensive range of works suggested should not include measures that merely divert flood waters away from particular area of the County and relocate the flooding to other towns and villages. The report should give a reasonable estimate of the costs involved and with other authorities the County should seek such monies from Governmental sources.

In approaching the Government the County should also be clear that expensive local engineered solutions will not stop the problem and that it is now more important than ever that the Conservative/Liberal coalition ~~actually does something~~ to honour its pledge to be the ‘Greenest Government ever’”.

Agenda Item 19 – Motion From Councillor Mike Beal – Amendment to be moved by Councillor Richard Webber

“In the light of an environmental impact report on HS2 construction traffic on Banbury, highlighted by BBC Oxford recently, ~~will Council now~~ **Council asks the Cabinet to** look again at road infrastructure including a new south to east link road for the town before gridlock ensues for Grimsbury residents and in turn all of Banbury?”

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.

Questions	Answers
<p>1. COUNCILLOR STEWART LILLY</p> <p>At the full Council meeting on 10 September 2013, this Council unanimously supported a motion “to examine the probability and merits of installing solar and other energy generating systems on Council owned property. This to include Schools, offices, fire stations and similar”. (Minute 71/13 refers). Can Council please be updated as to the progress that has been made and when a report can be expected? In times of limited budgets, there has to be economic benefits to this Council.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR NICK CARTER, CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS & CUSTOMER SERVICES</p> <p>I provided a briefing when Cllr Lilly asked a similar question in November. I can add that more than 30 schools have signed up to the OxFutures solar PV offer. In addition, in January, the Capital & Asset Programme Board has approved a total of five invest-to-save energy projects to the value of £733k. All of these schemes include solar PV, in addition to other measures.</p>
<p>2. COUNCILLOR NEVILLE HARRIS</p> <p>To the best of my knowledge there is no legal requirement on householders, landowners or developers to report the presence of Japanese Knotweed, Giant Knotweed or the knotweed hybrid (Fallopia japonica, Fallopia Sachalinensis and Fallopia x bohémica respectively) to either DEFRA or local planning authorities. Nor is there a legal requirement for them to seek to control plants</p>	<p>COUCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>“The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 states that it is an offence to "plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild" any plant listed in Schedule nine, Part II of the Act. This lists over 30 plants including Japanese knotweed, giant hogweed and parrot's feather. The police are responsible for investigating this offence and each police force has a wildlife liaison officer who can be contacted. (call 101)</p> <p>Our highway inspection team statutory inspectors are responsible for identifying Japanese knotweed when carrying out inspections of the network. If it's not on the highway they can speak to the residents, owners or agents,</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>on their property other than in terms of stopping its spread to other property. Bearing in mind the foregoing together with the reported adverse cost implications that the proximity of Japanese Knotweed can and is having on home mortgages and house prices what is the County Council's policy on Japanese Knotweed? What steps are being taken to identify and record its presence in the County and to eradicate or otherwise control it when it is found?</p>	<p>leave a leaflet we obtain from the Environment Agency or an OCC headed form informing them of our suspicions. We have no power of entry to inspect. If we receive information from the public about possible sites our local highway representatives attend and take similar action if it's off the highway network.</p> <p>If the Japanese knotweed is on the network our OCC staff will arrange treatment to eradicate it. Japanese knotweed is sensitive to a range of herbicides. The most effective time to apply herbicides to Japanese knotweed is in late summer. This is much more damaging to the underground rhizome system than applying herbicides in spring. We spray for 3 consecutive years. A qualified person from our partners workforce will carry out the treatment and contractors (if used) must have a National Proficiency Tests Council (NPTC) certification</p>
<p>3. COUNCILLOR NEVILLE HARRIS</p> <p>What is the total amount of cut Japanese Knotweed material and soil contaminated with its virulent and long lasting rhizomes, imported into the County or otherwise, being disposed of in waste disposal sites/facilities in Oxfordshire? Which sites are involved? How much of this total is being disposed of within five miles of the OCC Didcot Ladygrove Division?</p>	<p>COUCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>In respect to your specific question about Oxfordshire we do not remove and dispose of Japanese knotweed we treat it at site if it's on highway land using a 3 year spraying method which has significantly reduced regrowth. The Environment Agency is responsible for ensuring that knotweed waste is managed and disposed of in accordance with the knotweed code of practice. http://cdn.environment-agency.gov.uk/LIT_2695_df1209.pdf</p> <p>However below is a summary of how we have treated Japanese Knotweed on closed landfill sites in the past.</p> <p>Viridor - Ardley - very limited tonnages of knotweed contaminated soils in at Ardley but as these have the same EWC as most other soils, we cannot run a report for the tonnage of knotweed contaminated waste only</p> <p>FCC – Sutton Courtenay - soils contaminated with Japanese Knotweed at</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p><5% were 2,500t in 2013. None of the above tonnage was pure knotweed and is only accepted providing we have the depth of void to be able to bury on deposit in accordance with E A guidance for Japanese Knotweed.</p> <p>FCC – Dix Pit - soils contaminated with Japanese Knotweed at <5% were 900t in 2013. soils contaminated with Japanese Knotweed at <5% were 2,500t in 2013. None of the above tonnage was pure knotweed and is only accepted providing we have the depth of void to be able to bury on deposit in accordance with E A guidance for Japanese Knotweed.</p> <p>Agrivert - not permitted for any of these weeds, nor have they accepted any contaminated soil associated with them.”</p>
<p>4. COUNCILLOR NEVILLE HARRIS</p> <p>I am advised that as at 31 December 2013 the number of people employed in the communication team was 10 (9.4 FTE) with two vacancies and three agency workers. Why is transparency and openness in communicating with the County's residents not the top listed priority of the Communications Team rather than the present: “to enhance the reputation of the Council and minimise reputational risks”? Do you believe that transparency is paramount in all aspects of service delivery and outcomes? Should not the Council's reputation stand or fall on its performance levels as residents see and experience them to be?</p> <p>Do you feel that consideration should be given to separating the media relations</p>	<p>COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>I do not consider that transparency and reputation are separate issues. It's unfortunate that the press sometimes pick up on the negative aspects of a story but it is important they have the facts in order to reduce the likelihood of inaccurate reporting and to encourage a balanced account.</p> <p>The media team’s role is to provide accurate information and explain the context for stories about council policy and services. Like all council officers, their work is required to be politically neutral under the county council’s code of conduct.</p> <p>Council communication also adheres to the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity. This is statutory guidance produced by Government as part of its policy of encouraging councils to be more transparent and accountable. It requires council communications to “avoid anything likely to be perceived by readers as constituting a political statement”.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>aspect of communication from the other vital work carried out by the department? Which of the current safeguards do you think are most effective in ensuring that the narrow line between minimising the risk to the reputation of the County Council and protecting the reputation of any ruling political party is not inadvertently crossed and that spin plays no part in our communications policy?</p>	<p>(For information, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is keen to see this guidance made legally enforceable, though I have no doubt we already comply with the code. The Code, and the Council's own guidance to it issued by the Monitoring Officer, forms an integral part of the Council's governance policies.)</p> <p>I agree transparency is important. In fact, council communication is most effective when it is open and transparent, as we have been about our budget pressures during the public engagement exercise, Talking Oxfordshire.</p> <p>I also do not see any problem in making sure that the hard work of officers on behalf of the residents of Oxfordshire is recognised, including through the media. Should that reflect positively on the ruling group then that is a risk we all have to take.</p>
<p>5. COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS</p> <p>Would the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Highways give an undertaking that he would investigate the possibility of giving a trial to the so called 'Starpath System' that has recently been installed by Cambridge City Council on its Council park pathways with some success?</p> <p>Starpath is a pavement and pathway illumination system that absorbs light during the day and emits a strong glow during the hours of darkness. It is said to be very eco-friendly with light absorbing crystals that are not dangerous and most important cuts the costs of street lighting especially in parks and</p>	<p>COUCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>I have investigated into this on a prior occasion, following a similar enquiry, and have discovered that this is not an adequate substitute for street lighting as it does not conform to the required lighting levels in accordance with the recommendations in the British Standards (5489) for each classification of road type. The other issue is that there is no vertical illuminance to highlight objects in the distance or enable true ascertain of vehicle speeds i.e. barriers, cyclists, person features, colour of clothing etc. The other disadvantage with this material is that it charges during the day but discharges during the night for only for a couple of hours (rather than throughout the night). During autumn / winter months it could pose additional challenges with the potential for falling leaves on the pathways covering the reflective material, or snow in the winter covering the surface preventing adequate sunlight for charging. It is used only as addition to the lighting and not as a substitute i.e. ambient/supplementary lighting.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>public areas.</p> <p>Would he give an assurance that he would at least investigate this innovatory lamination process that is recognised as a major cost cutting measure by reducing the amount spent on street-lighting?</p>	<p>My understanding is that it has only been used in one location, a Cambridge City Council park not on the public highway. Street lighting within parks and public areas are normally the responsibility of the City and District Councils and not an Oxfordshire County Council function.”</p>
<p>6. COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS</p> <p>As the Government’s ‘Green Deal’ would seem to have generated only 626 customers in the first year (Inside Housing Vol 22) would the Cabinet Member for the Environment agree with me that the scheme has worked out to be an even bigger flop than the Governments own risk assessment papers predicted.</p> <p>Given the £34million pounds of taxpayer’s money used to market and administer this total failure, would the Portfolio holder agree with me that £80,000 per household insulated is a scandalous waste of taxpayer’s money. This of course takes no account of civil service time in devising the policy and other associated costs.</p>	<p>COUCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Councillor Williams will be aware that Edward Davey, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, has acknowledged that the conversion of Green Deal assessments into finance plans has been “disappointing”^[1].</p> <p>The Councillor will also be aware that there have been over 145,000 Green Deal Assessments in little over a year. Over 80% have already acted on their assessment, or are seriously considering having the work done to improve their home’s energy efficiency. The first six Green Deal Communities projects have just been approved to benefit 5,500 homes. In addition, 450,000 homes have already benefited from the associated ECO scheme. Many of these are households in fuel poverty, who have not had to pay for their improvements. I take the view that the Councilor’s sums ignore the inconvenient evidence to make his point just as the Green Party policy on interest free loans ignores the cost to the nation, at a time when all expenditure is being rigorously scrutinised.</p> <p>The Government has already made changes to the Green Deal and ECO schemes and is planning more, as it learns from experience. We will be supporting practical changes which work, with sums that add up.</p>

^[1] Edward Davey speech to Ecobuild conference, <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/edward-davey-speech-to-eco-build-conference-making-britains-homes-warmer-greener-and-cheaper-to-heat>, accessed 24 March 2014.

Questions	Answers
<p>Would he also agree with me that if the Government had followed the Green Party recommendation of interest free loans rather than giving into pressure from the banks to have the government scheme more expensive than the loans they provide there would have been over a million more homes well insulated by now, CO2 emissions would have reduced significantly and household bills would have been cut dramatically.</p> <p>Could I ask will he be using his good offices with his friends in the Con /Dem Government to ask them to adopt the Green Party policy and do something that will actually work?</p>	
<p>7. COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS</p> <p>Islington and Southwark Councils in London became the first local authorities in the country to formally sign up to the UNISON Ethical Care Charter in December 2013. The Charter sets minimum standards to protect the dignity and quality of life for people who need homecare. It commits councils to buying homecare only from providers who give workers enough time, training and a living wage, so they can provide better quality care for thousands of service users who rely on it.</p> <p>Would the Cabinet Member give an</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR JUDITH HEATHCOAT, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council welcomes Unison's Ethical Care Charter which is very much in line with our approach. OCC believes that all people receiving care should be treated with dignity and respect.</p> <p>In 2013 we developed a Home Care Customer Standards Charter in consultation with people that use this service (attached). The Standards were recently published as part of our Home Support Market Position Statement and they have been circulated to all our contracted providers. They form the basis on which we are judging customer satisfaction with this service. We are now working to develop Customer Standards for Care Home Services and will be expanding into other service areas in the coming year.</p> <p>We understand the crucial role that commissioning authorities play in making sure that service providers deliver quality. In order for this to happen they</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>undertaking that Oxfordshire County Council will be signing the UNISON Ethical Care Charter?</p> <p><i>Details of UNISON's ethical care charter can be found at</i> http://www.unison.org.uk/upload/sharepoint/Research%20Material/Final%20Ethical%20Care%20Charter%20PDF.pdf</p>	<p>need to treat their staff properly.</p> <p>When it comes to employment the precise terms and conditions used are a matter for the employer and employee, and it is of course the employer's responsibility to make sure that they are abiding by legislative requirements. Requirements under areas such as National Minimum Wage are regulated by HMRC.</p> <p>We recognise that a provider needs to be remunerated sufficiently to pay their staff and deliver a good quality service. To ensure that this is the case our procurement processes require agencies to declare how they calculate their hourly rate.</p> <p>The cost components we ask for include elements for an employee's pay, training, downtime and travel. We ask for this information so that we can be sure that any bid received is a viable bid and that our requirements for quality can be delivered.</p> <p>Recently the United Kingdom Home Care Association published a report that advocated a minimum price of £15.19 per hour.</p> <p>In Oxfordshire the current average hourly rate we are paying across all client groups is £19.11 per hour.</p> <p>Finally Members will be aware that we are investing more money in home support services in the coming year. An additional £800k has been set aside for social care that will ensure that no home care visit is too short for the person to be treated with dignity and respect and with this in mind we will be removing all 15 minute visits for personal care.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p data-bbox="203 218 775 252">8. COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS</p> <p data-bbox="203 331 848 512">With growing academic evidence that child poverty in Oxfordshire is growing and becoming endemic is this Council willing to take the lead in initiating an Oxfordshire Child Poverty Commission.</p> <p data-bbox="203 552 853 1102">This Council could follow the example of other local authorities in supporting and contributing to a local Commission that would incorporate representatives of local authorities, the NHS, the Police, faith based charities, the Citizens Advisory Boards, schools and community reps reflecting a range of organisations concerned with child poverty. The Commission's primary role could be to research local evidence of child poverty and to make holistic cross service recommendations to public authorities and private providers as to how they should respond to the multiple range of problems that are exposed.</p> <p data-bbox="203 1142 853 1251">Is the portfolio holder willing to adopt this idea of a local Commission or at least to investigate the idea?</p>	<p data-bbox="887 218 1986 288">COUNCILLOR MELINDA TILLEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES</p> <p data-bbox="887 331 1928 440">We increasingly focus our diminishing resources on support for those children, young people and their families who are vulnerable, a significant proportion of whom also experience poverty.</p> <p data-bbox="887 480 1939 588">At a time of stretched resources it would not be cost effective to set up the local Commission as suggested. We are always alive to the lessons being learnt by others, most of which are likely to be of universal application.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>9. COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS</p> <p>Now that Britain has sunk from 4th to 20th in the World ranking of educational outcomes for 16 year olds over a 30 year period, would the Portfolio holder agree that it is time to learn the central lesson of these league tables ...the more resources a Government puts into state educational the better the final outcomes. Would she agree that continual focuses on reform of the structure of governance (Academies Free Schools etc.) has achieved very little in terms of raising the actual quality of education and is merely a cosmetic ideological diversion adopted by both Labour and Conservative Governments to avoid facing up to the real problem...gross underfunding of state education?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR MELINDA TILLEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES</p> <p>Irrespective of our standing in the world let's remember that outcomes for 16 year olds in Oxfordshire have improved, by and large, year on year, both under this and the previous government. Early indications give us no reason to believe that the more recent structural reforms will hinder that progress. As a Council we are committed to supporting those schools which wish to exploit the new freedoms available to them for the benefit of their pupils.</p> <p>The funding available from central government, whether to OCC direct or to schools, directly or indirectly, is a matter of cross- party concern about which representations are made to government as and when appropriate.</p>
<p>10. COUNCILLOR SAM COATES</p> <p>It is recently reported (HMRC) that numerous employers are not paying even the Statutory Minimum Wage to their employees and that there could be over half a million people nationally underpaid in this way.</p> <p>Could I ask what measures the Cabinet Member is taking to ensure that all contractors to the Council are abiding by at least their basic legal requirements?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR RODNEY ROSE, DEPUTY LEADER</p> <p>All employers, which will include those who contract with the Council, are required to abide by all legislative requirements. This includes complying with the National Minimum Wage. HMRC is the enforcement authority for compliance with the National Minimum Wage, not the County Council. The contract monitoring processes within the authority do not include complying with basic legal requirements as it is an employer's responsibility.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>11. COUNCILLOR SAM COATES</p> <p>Peterborough Local Authority have set up their own Public Micro Utility Company (Sky Blue Peterborough) which promises to provide excellent services and return a profits to the local authority - the legal owner. By setting up their own energy utility provider Peterborough have gained the tax break advantages that private providers enjoy and ensured that profits are ploughed back into public coffers in the form of dividends whilst maintaining a degree of independent management.</p> <p>Municipal Energy providers were a common feature of local government before 1945; with rising prices and energy profits generated by the leading private providers they are clearly a prospect that is viable once again.</p> <p>Could the Leader of the Council launch an investigation with a full report to Cabinet as to if this model is applicable in Oxfordshire and whether it would be appropriate to go along this route to dramatically cut costs?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>“Any dramatic savings will require an equally dramatic investment of the Council’s capital. Rather than look back to the last century, the Council is looking forward to this century in partnership with others who are better positioned to deliver this ambition. I would be interested to know what capital projects Cllr Williams would wish to stop, to fund the capital investment required. Is he proposing to reduce capital spending on schools or will he be proposing to stop capital funding of the much needed London Road scheme? I’m sure that residents of Oxfordshire would not agree to such re distribution of limited funds.</p> <p>We have joined the City Council and the Low Carbon Hub to deliver a project called OxFutures, with initial funding of over €1m from Intelligent Energy Europe. The Low Carbon Hub is a non-profit Community Interest Company, which re-invests any surpluses in local energy projects.</p> <p>OxFutures now has a pipeline with a value of over £29m which will be committed over the next two years. The capital for these schemes will come from local private investment and from public share offers. It has already led to the hydro-power scheme currently being constructed at Osney Lock and the largest solar PV scheme in the county on the roof of the Oxford Bus Company garage, convincingly demonstrating the business model.</p> <p>There are more hydro-power projects in the pipeline; the two largest are proposed for Goring and Streatley, and Abingdon. Solar PV schemes include the proposed solar farm at Charlbury, 3.5MW of solar PV with local businesses across Oxfordshire as well as other community schemes</p> <p>Lastly, OxFutures has also been working with local schools. In a little less than six months, over thirty schools have signed up to have solar PV installed during the summer holidays at no cost to the Council.</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>This initiative will enable the Council to respond to other demands on its capital where there is no alternative provider.</p> <p>The maintenance and non-maintenance bits of the London Road scheme and the bus lane scheme is capital funded; the cycling improvements are a mixture of capital and revenue which I understand is a pretty small part of the overall funding.”</p>
<p>12. COUNCILLOR SAM COATES</p> <p>Bearing in mind Port Meadow's status as a locally, nationally and internationally significant site with SSSI status and EU heritage recognition, and in support of local MP Nicola Blackwood and Planning Minister Nick Boles' stances of outrage towards the new blocks currently overshadowing Port Meadow and blotting out the view for miles around of the Grade 1 listed St Barnabas church tower and other spires, would the Leader of Council support arguments made for reducing the heights of the blocks by at least 2 storeys to restore protected views and the precious atmosphere of Port Meadow, in order that a precedence not be set by these blocks and their devastating impact?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>The responsibility for planning is a matter for the City Council; I feel it would be inappropriate for me to comment on this issue whatever my personal views on this development.</p> <p>However I’m sure that the City Council will learn the lessons from this sorry episode and put in place measures that would avoid any future repetition.</p>

Questions	Answers																												
<p>13. COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS</p> <p>What are the most recent figures for the proportion of Oxfordshire residents receiving fully paid NHS Continuing Care? How does this compare to the rest of the country?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR JUDITH HEATHCOAT, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE</p> <p>The most recent published figures for people receiving NHS Continuing Care are for September 2013 and are published by the health and social care information centre at: http://www.hscic.gov.uk/catalogue/PUB13345. The centre report on both people in receipt of continuing health care and people newly in receipt of continuing health care.</p> <p>At the end of September 301 people in Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group area were receiving Continuing Care payments; or 24.9 per 50,000 weighted population. This compares with a rate of 27.6 in the Thames Valley and 52.7 nationally. Of the 211 clinical commissioning group areas this is the 15th lowest rate in the country.</p> <p>In the 3 months from the beginning of July to the end of September 2013, 229 new patients became eligible for Continuing Care payments or 19.0 per 50,000 weighted population. This compares with a rate of 10.7 in the Thames Valley and 19.5 nationally. Of the 211 clinical commissioning group areas this is the 101st lowest rate in the country. The table below gives the summary position.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="887 1031 1986 1246"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2"></th> <th rowspan="2">Weighted Population</th> <th colspan="2">Eligible Patients 30/9/13</th> <th colspan="2">New cases July -</th> </tr> <tr> <th>No.</th> <th>Rate</th> <th>No.</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>England</td> <td>55,799,454</td> <td>58,793</td> <td>52.7</td> <td>21,757</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thames Valley</td> <td>1,942,779</td> <td>1,073</td> <td>27.6</td> <td>416</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>NHS Oxfordshire</td> <td>603,378</td> <td>301</td> <td>24.9</td> <td>229</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Weighted Population	Eligible Patients 30/9/13		New cases July -		No.	Rate	No.		England	55,799,454	58,793	52.7	21,757		Thames Valley	1,942,779	1,073	27.6	416		NHS Oxfordshire	603,378	301	24.9	229	
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Questions	Answers
<p>14. COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS</p> <p>Only Oxfordshire people with critical or substantial disabilities receive services or payments under Community Care legislation. Their Carers have a difficult time. What proportion of these Carers receive short breaks (respite care) as part of the assessment for the people for whom they care? How does this proportion compare to the rest of the country?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR JUDITH HEATHCOAT, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE</p> <p>The County Council recognises the vital role carers play in supporting people with their social care needs and aims to support carers to continue in their caring role for as long as they chose. We recognise that most people with social care needs have these needs met by family and friends rather than council funded care. We want to ensure that this remains a positive choice for both the carer and the cared for.</p> <p>As such one of the key priorities this year has been to improve services to carers. We report on each quarter to the Performance Scrutiny Committee. Our specific aims this year were to increase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the number of carers known and supported. This is all carers not just those of people we provide a service to. By the end of December we had increased the numbers of carers we support by 8% and were supporting over 15,100 carers • those carers accessing emergency support (this service can support carers by providing replacement care when the carer suddenly or unexpectedly becomes ill, or has an accident which prevents him/her from providing care). By the end of December we had increased the numbers of carers we support by 20% and over 3000 carers were registered with this service • the number of carer's breaks jointly funded and accessed via GPs these are cash payments given by GPs directly to carers. Our aim is to give out 880 grants this financial year, by December we had already given out 721. • the number of carers offered an Direct Payment where we are aiming to pay out over 1900 direct payments this year. <p>In response to the specific question about social care clients and the level of respite care, it should be noted that the threshold for care in Oxfordshire is in line with the rest of the country. 87% of councils in England provide services</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>to people at substantial or critical levels of need.</p> <p>There are currently 7,355 people in Oxfordshire receiving long term services from the council. Of these people 4,552 are in family homes; 2,040 are in care home placements with another 763 in supported living or extra care housing placements (i.e. with building based care provided).</p> <p>So far this year 1017 people have had respite care. This is 22% of people in family homes (4552).</p> <p>There is no comparative data on use of respite care. However in February 2012 there was a national carers survey which asked if people received respite care. This showed that slightly fewer carers in Oxfordshire than England as a whole were receiving respite care. In answer to the question: 'Has the person you care for used support or services allowing you to take a break from caring for more than 24 hours, in the 12 months; 20.5% of carers in Oxfordshire said yes compared to 22.9% nationally. However in Oxfordshire we have championed the use of direct payment as a way of taking a break to allow the carer more choice over their support. National figures are available for the numbers of carers receiving a direct payment. These show that Oxfordshire provides over twice as many direct payments for carers per head of population than the national average.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>15. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>Will the Cabinet member say what steps he has taken to introduce the Western Conveyance and reduce significantly the risk of flooding in my Isis division in Oxford?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR RODNEY ROSE, DEPUTY LEADER</p> <p>As Board Member for the Oxfordshire Lead Local Flood Authority on the Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee and portfolio holder for Flood at OCC, I am campaigning for any flood alleviation scheme that will give ANY benefit anywhere in Oxfordshire. The Western Conveyance Channel, when aligned with the Ock scheme in Abingdon, is one such scheme that will benefit quite a few Division on the western and southern edge of the City, including your own. My efforts focus on raising pledges for the £75M shortfall in funding for this project. To date, I have had a one-2-one with the Prime Minister; I met with Brandon Lewis MP at the DCLG; I was with an Oxfordshire delegation to meet with senior flood advisors to the Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street; I hosted a Members Forum on March 1st to which 150 delegates turn out; I hosted a Summit on 21st for any that could help fund the Oxford and Abingdon measures. Positive results to date are a planned meeting of the sponsoring board and a separate meeting in Westminster with Oxfordshire MPs. Alongside all of this, I am also pursuing other Oxfordshire schemes in places at high risk such as Witney.</p>
<p>16. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>Will the Cabinet member explain why he has not taken action to save money and remove the unnecessary parking restrictions in Littlemore and Blackbird Leys in Oxford, associated with Sunday car-boot sales at the Kassam Stadium?</p>	<p>COUCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>I would refer Cllr Tanner to the responses I gave to questions from Cllr Gill Sanders in December 2013 regarding the residents parking scheme around the Kassam Stadium. At that time I responded that the rules governing the signs and markings for parking restrictions are particularly bureaucratic and for the Kassam CPZs special authorisation was required from the DfT. Any changes to the scheme signing would also require their approval, otherwise none of the restrictions could be enforced. However there is currently a national moratorium on such changes whilst the rules are re-written– as a result our hands are tied. We believe these changes might not be introduced by DfT before spring 2015.</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>In the light of Cllr Tanner’s question, officers have again spoken to DfT who have confirmed that the situation is unchanged and that the only way to keep the match-day restrictions is to keep the currently authorised signs.</p>
<p>17. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>Will the Cabinet member say what proportion of the targets in the latest Corporate Plan are measurable and SMART and what proportion are not?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LOUISE CHAPMAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR POLICY CO-ORDINATION</p> <p>Across the Corporate Plan Priority Areas there are 20 ‘Priorities for Action’. 95% of these ‘Priorities for Action’ have one or a group of related performance measures. The work in relation to the military covenant does not lend itself to a specific performance measure, so one has not been set. Wherever required relevant reports will be made to members in relation to our work with the military.</p> <p>Some performance information will be reported quarterly as trend information for monitoring purposes and others will be reported against a specific target. Some of the target setting work is still being completed. Where performance is reported against a specific target the target will be clearly visible, together with the relative performance in quarterly performance reports. All of the Corporate Plan performance measures have been considered by both the Performance Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet. The Performance Scrutiny Committee particularly challenged the stretching nature of some of the targets and these have been amended as a consequence. The Performance Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet will continue to examine Corporate Performance on a quarterly basis and relevant performance information will be made available on the Council’s public website. A final version of the performance dashboard will be published alongside the Corporate Plan on the public website in April.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>18. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</p> <p>How many school building projects that are needed for September intakes are behind schedule?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR NICK CARTER, CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS & CUSTOMER SERVICES</p> <p>The nine Basic Need projects in the current programme are delivering accommodation for the September 2014 intake. The provision of adequate accommodation is secure in all cases, even if the entire projects may not be completed by September.</p>
<p>19. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</p> <p>What representations have the Council made to the DfE over the paltry increase in funding for education in Oxfordshire announced as part of the funding review?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR MELINDA TILLEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES</p> <p>The F40 group, which has been lobbying for fairer funding for the lowest funded authorities in England for many years, was invited to attend a meeting with the Department for Education (DfE) on Thursday 20 March 2014 to discuss the funding consultation announcement. Gillie McKee, Finance Business Partner for Children, Education & Families attended the meeting with other F40 colleagues to make representations to the DfE about the methodology used for redistribution.</p> <p>A number of questions were discussed at the meeting about the way minimum funding levels were calculated for authorities, and concern was raised about the difficulty in replicating the calculations so that an informed response could be made to the consultation. DfE said they would issue the individual calculations to each of the authorities that are allocated additional funding.</p> <p>The main area of concern for F40 colleagues focussed on the use of using the school block unit of funding as the basis for redistribution. F40 colleagues at the meeting expressed their grave concerns about using this, instead of considering the total Guaranteed Unit of Funding (GUF) which was used before 2013-14 when the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) was split into Schools Block, Early Years Block and High Needs Block.</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>Initial analysis suggests that this is why there are some surprising results in the distribution of the £350m additional funding. The use of the hybrid Area Cost Adjustment (ACA) to uplift minimum funding levels also appears to have resulted in large allocations to some authorities that might not have been recognised as particularly poorly funded.</p> <p>Oxfordshire will of course be submitting a formal response to the consultation expressing serious concerns about the methodology used.</p>
<p>20. COUNCILLOR JANET GODDEN</p> <p>The construction of two new classrooms at Botley Primary School was originally scheduled to start in the autumn of 2013, then put back to February 2014 for completion in August, now put back to May, with 'practical completion' currently expected in early November – over half way through the autumn term. <u>How</u> did our contract monitoring systems allow this to happen? <u>What</u> steps are being taken to ensure that the Gateway deadline of the last week of March is met, and that progress is speeded up if possible, or at any rate does not slip back any further? Thank you.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR NICK CARTER, CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS & CUSTOMER SERVICES</p> <p>The delivery of the programmes of work, including the Basic Need programme under which this project falls, is monitored through the Programme Management Office (PMO) who inform OCC of issues through regular meetings and reports.</p> <p>The delays experienced by the project at Botley have resulted from issues beyond the control of the project team, including legal matters arising with Thames Water, which have required additional work, surveys and permissions to undertake the main works.</p> <p>At all times the school was informed of the reasons for delays, and the actions being taken, as were relevant personnel within OCC. Steps have been taken to ensure that adequate provision for the anticipated pupil numbers will be in place for September 2014.</p> <p>The target date for the gateway was reported in a recent paper to members and has been scheduled for 3rd April. Provided the scheme presented is acceptable to OCC, the relevant business case will be submitted for final approval. The final business case will include the baseline delivery programme against which the contractors' performance will be measured.</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>The aim of the project is to meet the needs arising from expanding the school as quickly and efficiently as possible, and the focus is always on ensuring there is sufficient teaching accommodation for pupils arriving in September. Progress will be reviewed with the school before the Easter break.</p>
<p>21. COUNCILLOR ZOE PATRICK</p> <p>I was very pleased to see the Cabinet has now approved the Local Transport Plan 3 Update with regard to the Science Vale Area Strategy, in particular Proposal SV 2 which states "We will work with development partners to improve east-west journeys across the Science Vale area, connecting new homes with jobs and service centres, by better connecting Wantage and Grove with Didcot, Milton Park and Harwell" in particular I should like to refer to one of the key bullet points which states :</p> <p>"Securing new bus services between new residential sites at Didcot, Wantage and Grove and the employment sites of Milton Park, Harwell and Oxford. A minimum standard of two buses per hour during the morning/evening peak travel periods is required to provide a credible level of service."</p> <p>Will this now mean that the Cabinet member</p>	<p>COUCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>I note the link made by the local Member between the provision of future bus services between Grove and the major employment sites and the situation that has existed since last December when Thames Travel withdrew their commercial bus services 32 and 36 between Grove and Harwell/Milton Park.</p> <p>These commercial services were withdrawn because of low patronage and a local meeting has been held with the Community to explore peoples' needs and other locally based community options. As part of the next stage another meeting has been scheduled for the end of April to undertake a Transport Audit.</p> <p>The expansion of the strategic bus services network, envisaged under the Science Vale Area Strategy, will take place as new housing is built in the area and demand grows. Section106 money is continuing to be secured to support new services before they become fully-commercial.</p>

Questions	Answers
will ensure that the public transport link between Grove and these major employment sites is now restored since the loss of those bus services last year?	
22. COUNCILLOR RICHARD WEBBER Please would the cabinet member give the Council a brief update on the progress of moving Council staff and offices to Abbey House, Abingdon?	COUNCILLOR NICK CARTER, CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS & CUSTOMER SERVICES Good progress is being made with the project to relocate over 400 staff from Windrush Court and Foxcombe Court to co-locate with the Vale of White Horse District Council at Abbey House in Abingdon. Refurbishment works to Abbey House have now commenced through the Council's contractors Carillion, and it is anticipated that the staff from Windrush Court will move to Abbey House at the end of May, with staff from Foxcombe Court moving to Abbey House in phases during June and July.

COUNTY COUNCIL – 1 APRIL 2014

RETURNING OFFICER REPORT

BY-ELECTION HELD ON 27 MARCH 2014
CHALGROVE & WATLINGTON DIVISION

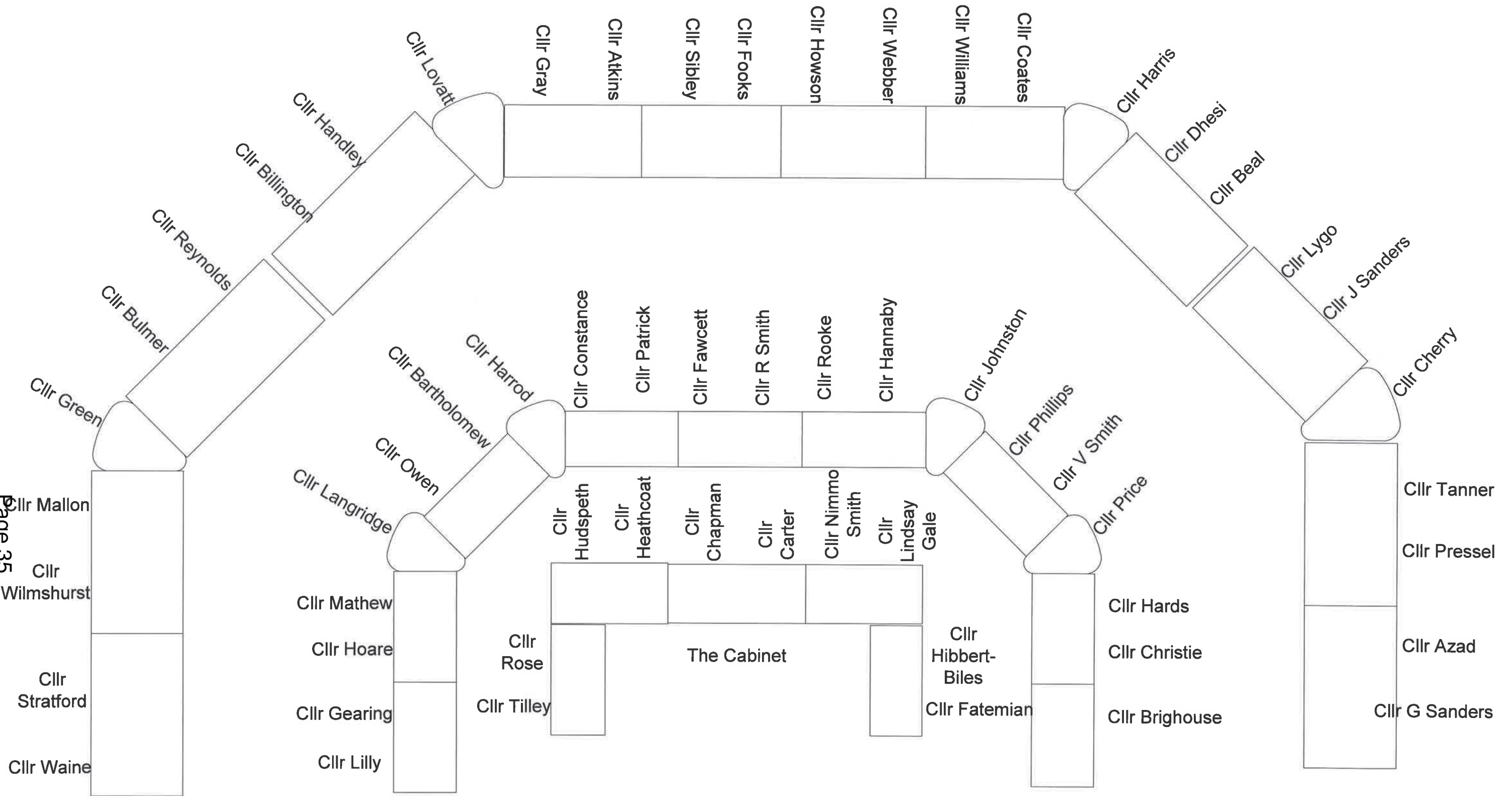
Members are asked to receive the following report from the County Returning Officer on the outcome of the by-elections for the Chalgrove & Watlington Division held on 27 March 2014:

Voting were as follows:

Paul David Collins	Labour	159
Susan Margaret Cooper	Liberal Democrat	629
Gavin Ernest Laird Craig	UKIP	311
Stephen Ashley Harrod	Conservative	871
Colin Trudge	Green	116

Stephen Harrod was accordingly elected County Councillor for the Chalgrove & Watlington Division.

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