

# **County Council**

**14 April 2015**

## **Schedule of Business**

This page is intentionally left blank

**OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – 14 APRIL 2015**

**SCHEDULE OF BUSINESS**

<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>PAGE NO.</b>	<b>MAXIMUM DURATION</b>	<b>APPROX START TIME TIME LIMIT PER DEBATE</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>PROPOSALS (M = Motion; SEC = Seconder; Am = Amendment S = Statement; Q = Question; REC = Recommendation to be determined)</b>
1.	1	30 mins	10.00	<p><b>Minutes</b></p> <p>Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 March 2014 (CC1).</p> <p>Members are asked to note the following addition to Minute 6/15 (page 5):</p> <p>“Those opposing the amendment reminded Council of the importance of having a plan in place to prevent uncontrolled developments taking place in Oxfordshire”</p>	
2.	1			<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	<p>Cllr Zoe Patrick Cllr Janet Godden</p>

AGENDA ITEM	PAGE NO.	MAXIMUM DURATION	APPROX START TIME TIME LIMIT PER DEBATE	SUBJECT	<b>PROPOSALS</b> (M = Motion; SEC = Seconder; Am = Amendment S = Statement; Q = Question; REC = Recommendation to be determined)
3.	2			Declarations of Interest	
4.	2			<b>Official Communications</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Robert Bullard;</li> <li>• Portraits for South Africa;</li> <li>• Chairman's Dinner.</li> </ul>	Cllr Lindsay-Gale
5.	2			<b>Appointments</b>	
6.	2			<b>Petitions and Public Address</b>	<b>Petitions</b>  Mr Guy Wall, with a request to include the Small Towns Strategy in the LTP4;  Mrs Jenny Wilson, proposed bus route through the pedestrian zone outside of the Cornerstone Art Centre in Didcot.

<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>PAGE NO.</b>	<b>MAXIMUM DURATION</b>	<b>APPROX START TIME TIME LIMIT PER DEBATE</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>PROPOSALS (M = Motion; SEC = Seconder; Am = Amendment S = Statement; Q = Question; REC = Recommendation to be determined)</b>
7.	2			<b>Questions with Notice from Members of the Public</b>	None.
8.	2	30 mins	10.30 am	<b>Questions with Notice from Members of the Council</b>  <b>(1) Mathew to Nimmo Smith</b> <b>(2) Cherry to Nimmo Smith</b> <b>(3) Williams to Hudspeth</b> <b>(4) Williams to Nimmo Smith</b> <b>(5) Williams to Hudspeth</b> <b>(6) Coates to Hudspeth</b> <b>(7) G Sanders to Carter</b> <b>(8) Pressel to Hudspeth</b> <b>(9) Pressel to Tilley</b> <b>(10) Pressel to Tilley</b>	

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)
9.	2	30 mins	11.00 am	<b>Report of the Cabinet</b>  <b>Leader (Ian Hudspeth)</b>  <b>Deputy Leader (Rodney Rose)</b>  <b>Adult Social Care (Judith Heathcoat)</b>  <b>Children, Education &amp; Families (Melinda Tilley)</b>  <b>Environment (Nimmo Smith)</b>  <b>Finance (Lawrie Stratford)</b>	Pressel, Christie (1)  Pressel (2) Pressel (4) Coates (2)  Price (7),(8),(9), Williams (7)  G Sanders, Pressel (10)  Brighthouse, Tanner, Lygo, Cherry, Pressel (17), Hards (18)
10.	2	20 mins	11.30 am	<b>Motion From Councillor Patrick Greene</b>  <i>Councillor Patrick Greene seeks the consent of Council to amend his own Motion as shown as Annex 1.</i>	(M) Greene (SEC) Lilly (AM) Greene (SEC) Lilly S Hards S Curran S Williams S Coates

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)
11.	3	30 mins	11.50 am	<b>Motion From Councillor Bob Johnston</b>	(M) Johnston (SEC) Howson (AM) Hards (SEC) Tanner (AM) Rose (SEC) Waine S Nimmo Smith S Hudspeth S Williams S Coates
12.	3	40 mins	12.20	<b>Motion From Councillor John Tanner</b>	(M) Tanner (SEC) Cherry (AM) Williams (SEC) Coates (AM) Hibbert-Biles (SEC) Constance (AM) Fooks (SEC) Howson S Pressel S Brighthouse

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)
13.	3	30 mins	2.00 pm	<b>Motion From Councillor Neville Harris</b>	(M) Harris (SEC) (AM) Hudspeth (SEC) Lilly (AM) Phillips (SEC) Pressel (AM) Williams (SEC) Coates S Hards
14.	3/4	20 mins	2.30 pm	<b>Motion From Councillor David Williams</b>	(M) Williams (SEC) Coates S Hards S Brighthouse
15.	4	20 mins	2.50 pm	<b>Motion From Councillor Sam Coates</b>	(M) Coates (SEC) Williams S Curran S Pressel



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)
16.	5	20 mins	3.10 pm	<b>Motion From Councillor Sam Coates</b>	(M) Coates (SEC) Williams S Lygo S Cherry
17.	5	20 mins		<b>Motion From Councillor David Williams</b>	(M) Williams (SEC) Coates (AM) G Sanders (SEC) Hards S Brighouse

This page is intentionally left blank

## AMENDMENTS TO MOTIONS ON NOTICE

### Agenda Item 10 – Motion From Councillor Patrick Greene - Amendment to be moved by Councillor Patrick Greene

“This Council is concerned and alarmed at the recent number of major traffic accidents that have occurred on the A34 in the Oxfordshire County area in recent months that have caused real damage not only to the Oxfordshire economy but to that of the country.

It is recognised that much of the problems arise from the volume of heavy goods vehicles that are restricted to 60mph. Much frustration to ~~fast~~ **outside** lane vehicles arises when two heavy vehicles are in the process of overtaking and with vehicle governors that may well be slightly at variance causing the overtaking procedure to last much too long.

In recent times there has been talk of making heavy goods vehicles travel in convoys, however the matter is extremely urgent and this Council asks the leader to write to the Secretary of State for Transport to ask that he makes urgent representation to Highways England to request that there is an enforcement order made to restrict all heavy goods vehicles to only use the ~~slow~~ **inside** lane **in each direction** between junction 13 on the M4 to junction 9 on the M40. This measure will in all respects make these vehicles travel in convoys and make the road safer and less liable to accidents.”

### Agenda Item 11 – Motion From Councillor Bob Johnston - Amendment to be moved by Councillor Nick Hards

“After decades of a lack of support by this Council for the rail infrastructure, the promotion of the East West rail link and the developments on the Cowley branch are welcome news. However more could be achieved by a comprehensive plan encompassing the whole County, reducing strain on our road infrastructure that we have responsibility for maintaining. This could include the re-opening of stations at places like Grove/Wantage and Yarnton and the line to Witney and Carterton as well as the redoubling of the remainder of the Cotswold line within Oxfordshire. Rail services can play an important part in the future economic and social life of the County. For example the proposed services directly to Heathrow could be extended to both Banbury and Bicester rather than terminating in Oxford.

~~In the meantime the Council needs to lobby~~ **The Council calls on** the Department For Transport and others **to secure** for modern electric rolling stock for the newly electrified lines to Oxfordshire.”

### Agenda Item 11 – Motion From Councillor Bob Johnston - Amendment to be moved by Councillor Rodney Rose

The East West rail link, and the developments on the Cowley branch are welcome news. **Chiltern Rail, Oxfordshire Highways, DfT and other partners continue to meet to hopefully progress the Cowley Branch Line venture.** However more could be achieved by a comprehensive plan encompassing the whole County, reducing strain on our road infrastructure that we have responsibility for maintaining. This could include the re-opening of stations at places like Grove/Wantage and Yarnton and the line to Witney and Carterton as well as the redoubling of the remainder of the Cotswold line within Oxfordshire. Rail services can play an important part in the future economic and social life of the County. For example the proposed services directly to Heathrow could **will** be extended to both Banbury and Bicester **and beyond**, rather than terminating in **just** Oxford.

In the meantime the Council needs to lobby the Department For Transport and others **to continue to produce** for modern electric rolling stock for the newly electrified lines to Oxfordshire, **while welcoming the recent arrival from Japan of the start of deliveries of the new trains.**”

### Agenda Item 12 – Motion From Councillor John Tanner - Amendment to be moved by Councillor David Williams

"This Council calls on each of the candidates in the ~~five~~ **six** Oxfordshire constituencies:

- a) to speak **out** for local government **and not to vote for the slow decline we have had since 1979;**
- b) to pledge to build the homes and the improved transport that Oxfordshire desperately needs **rather than trumpet vague figures the private sector might possibly achieve;**
- c) to support our schools, colleges and universities **by not charging fees and stop introducing academies and free schools;**
- d) to back a vibrant low carbon economy **with a real Green New Deal programme of activities that will deliver the targets;**
- e) to commit to a living wage and a more equal society **reversing the trend over the last 20 years;**
- f) to promote an internationally, tolerant and safer County **by not pandering to xenophobes and racists;**
- g) to respond to the needs of our scientific, automotive, agricultural and military communities **and all the other groups who make up our society rather than consistently doing the bidding of the business community;**
- h) to invest in our hospitals and the National Health Service **by rejecting the privatisation of services completely.**

i) to support and safeguard our elderly and disabled residents and our young people ***not with empty rhetoric but real well funded programmes of support.***

We expect those elected to represent Oxfordshire in the House of Commons to work tirelessly for a more prosperous, ***equal, peaceful, greener and more sustainable*** Oxfordshire for all and urge every resident ***who is still registered*** to use their vote in the General Election on May the 7th."

### **Agenda Item 12 – Motion From Councillor John Tanner - Amendment to be moved by Councillor Hibbert-Biles**

"The Council calls on each of the candidates in the five Oxfordshire constituencies:

- (a) to speak up for local government;
- (b) to pledge to build the homes and provide the improved transport that Oxfordshire desperately needs; ***where needed***
- (c) to support our schools, colleges and universities;
- ~~(d) to back a vibrant low carbon economy;~~
- (e) to commit to a Living Wage and a more equal society;
- (f) to promote ~~an international, tolerant and~~ a safer county;
- (g) to respond to the needs of our scientific, automotive, agricultural and military communities;
- (h) to invest in our hospitals and the National Health Service in the county;
- (i) to support and safeguard our ~~elderly and disabled~~ vulnerable residents. ~~and our young people;~~

We expect those elected to represent Oxfordshire in the House of Commons to work tirelessly for a ~~prosperous, fairer, greener and more beautiful~~ Oxfordshire for all and urges every resident who can to use their vote in the General Election on May 7th.

### **Agenda Item 12 – Motion From Councillor John Tanner - Amendment to be moved by Councillor Jean Fooks**

"The Council calls on each of the candidates in the ~~five~~ ***Six*** Oxfordshire constituencies:

- ~~(a) to speak up for local government;~~ ***to stand up for the vital importance of local government , requesting adequate funding and devolution of both powers and budgets to a local level;***
- (b) to pledge to build the homes and provide the improved transport that Oxfordshire desperately needs;
- (c) to support our schools, colleges and universities;

- (d) to back a vibrant low carbon economy;
- (e) to commit to a Living Wage and a more equal society;
- (f) to promote an international, tolerant and safer county;
- (g) to respond to the needs of our scientific, automotive, agricultural and military communities;
- (h) to invest in our hospitals and the National Health Service in the county;
- (i) to support and safeguard our elderly and disabled residents, and our young people;

We expect those elected to represent Oxfordshire in the House of Commons to work tirelessly for a prosperous, fairer, greener and more beautiful Oxfordshire for all and urges every resident who can to use their vote in the General Election on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **Agenda Item 13 – Motion From Councillor Neville Harris - Amendment to be moved by Councillor Ian Hudspeth**

“I move that, at the earliest possible time following the General Election, the Oxfordshire County Council ~~decant (travel) to the House of Commons Westminster en-bloc to meet, at individual members own expense or otherwise, and~~ **invites all Oxfordshire’s elected Members of Parliament to County Hall** to enable its unified case in relation to Oxfordshire's future to be put directly to the County's Members of Parliament. The discussions and representations to include 'cross council' concerns on present and future Government funding and policies on all matters affecting Oxfordshire's residents including: all types of infrastructure, the Council's full range of services and the discharge of its statutory duties.

Detailed organisational arrangements to be made by the relevant officers in conjunction with group leaders and other pertinent members.”

### **Agenda Item 13 – Motion From Councillor Neville Harris - Amendment to be moved by Councillor Glynis Phillips**

“I move that, at the earliest possible time following the General Election, the Oxfordshire County Council ~~decant (travel) to the House of Commons Westminster en-bloc to meet, at individual members own expense or otherwise, and~~ **invite Oxfordshire MPs to a special meeting of the County Council to be held on a Friday afternoon in the Council Chamber’** to enable its unified case in relation to Oxfordshire's future to be put directly to the County's Members of Parliament. The discussions and representations to include 'cross council' concerns on present and future Government funding and policies on all matters affecting Oxfordshire's residents including: all types of infrastructure, the Council's full range of services and the discharge of its statutory duties.

Detailed organisational arrangements to be made by the relevant officers in conjunction with group leaders and other pertinent members.”

### **Agenda Item 13 – Motion From Councillor Neville Harris - Amendment to be moved by Councillor David Williams**

“I move that, at the earliest possible time following the General Election, the Oxfordshire County Council decant (travel) to the House of Commons Westminster en - bloc to meet, ~~at individual members own expense or otherwise,~~ **expense to be met by Councillor David Williams** and to enable its unified case in relation to Oxfordshire's future to be put directly to the County's Members of Parliament. The discussions and representations to include 'cross council' concerns on present and future Government funding and policies on all matters affecting Oxfordshire's residents including: all types of infrastructure, the Council's full range of services and the discharge of its statutory duties.

Detailed organisational arrangements to be made by the relevant officers in conjunction with group leaders and other pertinent members.”

### **Agenda Item 17 – Motion From Councillor David Williams - Amendment to be moved by Councillor Gill Sanders**

“This Council notes with dismay the continued expansion of the Academy and Free Schools programme endorsed in the 2015 manifestos of the Conservative and Labour Parties. The Council calls on the Leaders of the Parties to follow the example of the Swedish Government and end this experiment in Governance and return all schools to democratic control and accountability with clear universal professional standards, commitment to a similar curriculum, non-selective criteria and general equity in funding.

The Council is concerned at the billions of pounds that have been diverted from mainstream education to try to make Free Schools work and the dramatic impact this has had on local authority schools funding.

The Council would seek to illustrate to the Secretary of State for Education the advantages of maintaining and enhancing the 'Local Education Authority' with its excellent central role in providing collective services to schools in a wide range of areas. The Council is concerned that the obvious advantages in collectively improving the quality of local education provision provided via the LEA are being wasted in the fragmentation and atomisation that Academies and Free Schools generate.

The Chief Executive to forward copies of this motion to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Education on the 11 May 2015.”

This page is intentionally left blank



**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.

<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
<p><b>1. COUNCILLOR CHARLES MATHEW</b></p> <p>May I request the Leader and/or the Cabinet Member for Environment and Economy to write a strong letter to the Highways Agency to declare Oxfordshire’s disappointment at the state of the central carriageway and verges of the A34 in this county (covered in plastic and waste, especially around the Hinckseys but far from exclusively), to point out that this reflects badly on the County whether rightly so or not, when it is the HA’s responsibility? The same request also applies to being a good neighbour where illegal ragwort grows unrestricted as is the case throughout the length of the A34 and is free to distribute its seeds at its own whim.</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</b></p> <p>The Highways Agency has a Litter Strategy which was published in 2014. In this document their vision is “A network predominantly free from litter, without compromising safety and delivered affordably”. Officers have spoken to EM, the Highways Agency contractor for the A34, and they have confirmed that central reserve litter picking is programmed to fit in with other works, in order to minimise disruption and is undertaken by the relevant District Council.</p> <p>With regard to ragwort, EM have a Ragwort Control Policy which was issued in early 2012 which explains how they will deal with any ragwort which is either reported to them or identified during routine inspections.</p> <p>I have asked officers to make the Highways Agency aware of your concerns at their next meeting with them.</p>
<p><b>2. COUNCILLOR MARK CHERRY</b></p> <p>Will the cabinet member for Environment tell me if contractor Skanska has the capacity to contract out all the line painting in Oxfordshire and then have a schedule in place to have white/yellow lines renewed before they start</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</b></p> <p>The majority of budget for replacement of white lines was included in the Area Stewardship budget when it was introduced in 2011. Some councillors have used this budget to refresh lining over the years but others have had other priorities for their fund allocation. As you know, the Area Stewardship Fund has been withdrawn as part of this year’s budget reductions and so we will not</p>

<p>to fade? Or furthermore has the budget cuts that continue to hit Oxfordshire County Council mean that the funding is no longer able to sustain the line painting program in Oxfordshire? I therefore ask the highways department at OCC to draw up a report on line painting which should be made available to the public.</p>	<p>be able to refresh all the lines in the county but will be remarking statutory and safety lining as and when this is required.</p> <p>Skanska is able to contract in line marking resources as required by OCC. They are currently not contracted to replace all lines before they start to fade, but replace lines as and when OCC instruct them to.</p>
<p><b>3. COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS</b></p> <p>Could the Leader of the Council confirm that he has given his backing to a large scale expansion of Kidlington Airport focused on the concept that the London Oxford Airport will be a hub for a network of international scheduled commercial flights?</p> <p>What evidence does he have of the economic viability of such a project and does he appreciate the environmental damage that will be caused by increased Co2 emissions locally and the impact on the people of Kidlington of having an international airport virtually within yards of their front door.</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</b></p> <p>I'm not sure which newspaper Cllr Williams has been reading but I can confirm either he misread the article or I was misquoted. I have never said anything about a large scale expansion of Kidlington airport. I have said that I recognise that the runway length is similar to that of London City airport giving it the potential to fly many destinations within Europe. I've also stated that I've used the airport to fly to Jersey and found the service simple and easy to use. In fact I checked in and went through security 15 minutes after leaving my house.</p> <p>It is in our interest to work in partnership with what could be a key transport hub in the future. Our support to date is based on the fact that use of the Airport is well below the number of passengers a year it is licenced for, so we are working to support them in providing new services which will support local people and growth. These would be services that support the local economy – providing better access into Oxfordshire with the potential to actually reduce emissions with reduced distance to travel compared to Heathrow and Gatwick.</p>
<p><b>4. COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS</b></p> <p>Recently the County Council announced it wants to build a number of new Park and</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</b></p> <p>The Oxford Transport Strategy (OTS) proposes expansion and updating of the Park &amp; Ride system. With 100,000 homes and 85,000 jobs planned in</p>

<p>Rides on the Oxfordshire Green Belt. Although it is true that the figures using Park and Rides have increased on what basis have traffic planner concluded that such large extra numbers will be required?</p>	<p>Oxfordshire by 2031, Park &amp; Ride will play an important role in keeping car traffic out of the city whilst providing a convenient travel option for those who do not have direct bus access to the city's main destinations. The additional spaces proposed have taken into account the spare capacity in the current system, the number of additional users resulting from growth in the county, and the number of people currently driving into the city who would switch to Park &amp; Ride as a result of the measures in the OTS.</p> <p>The extra capacity would be delivered over the next 20 years. Further work is needed to determine the best exact locations for new Park &amp; Ride sites. No specific sites are proposed at this stage. It is worth noting that some of the existing sites are already located within the Oxford Green Belt.</p>
<p><b>5. COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS</b></p> <p>Would the Leader of the Council agree with me that the introduction of the Self Registration system for voters has been a disaster for democracy with a drop of over 11,000 in the City alone (over 10% decline) and nationally taking well over 1million people off the register. As all the Districts are recording significant declines what is the County Council trying to do to encourage voters to register?</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</b></p> <p>The deadline for registering to vote does not expire until Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2015. Since the dissolution of Parliament and the start of the restricted period, the election process will receive a significantly higher profile through the national press and television coverage, highlighting the surrounding issues. It is envisaged that this will also lead to an increase in the number of people registering their right to vote. This is likely to intensify from the Publication of Persons Nominated, which is due to take place on Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> April 2015. Indeed the Electoral Commission recently has announced that one million online registration applications have been made since 16 March.</p> <p>It is therefore perhaps premature, at this time, to determine whether registration is greater or lower than previously. In any case, this would be a question that Cllr Williams should ask the City and District Council Electoral Registration Officers.</p> <p>This is because the maintenance and publication of the Register of Electors is a function of the respective City and District Councils. Each of these Councils has a dedicated page on their websites explaining the process for registering to vote, how to ask for postal votes and proxy votes, and also directing members of the public to the on-line registration service at</p>

<https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote> , which is the preferred method for registration. Each authority has undertaken proactive public engagement and registration work.

However, the County Council has also assisted the City and District Councils under Regulation 35A of the Representation of the People (England and Wales) Regulations 2001. This says that a County Council may disclose county council-held data to electoral registration authorities to assist them in their role of maintaining the electoral register. Information has therefore been disclosed to each of the City and District Council Electoral Registration Officers under agreed data sharing processes for a two-fold purpose in connection with Individual Electoral Registration: firstly to enable them to verify persons already on the electoral register; and secondly to identify other persons who may not be on the register and/or who may be of voting age on the day of the election. The County Council has therefore fulfilled its responsibilities and has contributed directly to ensuring that electoral registration is maximised.

Beyond this, as the elections this year are not for the full County Council, no additional proactive work has been commissioned. Given the constraints on resources, it is not appropriate to commission general or targeted publicity which, in any event, could lead to the contention that the Council was interfering in elections in which it has no part, either democratically or statutorily.

I am confident, however, that the County Council has played its part fully in assisting County and District Council partners in their responsibilities for voter registration.

I can confirm that at all opportunities recently including many visits to schools I have stressed the importance of voting.

<p><b>6. COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS</b></p> <p>Recently the Leader of the Council was photographed warmly receiving a petition from the Disinvest in Fossil Fuels Campaign and apparently wished them well in their efforts to convince local authorities to withdraw their pension funds' investments from fossil fuels.</p> <p>Does this mean that the Leader of the Council will be writing to the Oxfordshire Pensions Committee urging them to invest in safer long term securities than fossil fuels and will he immediately order the orientation away from investment in fossil fuel companies in the County Councils own day to day investment portfolio.</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</b></p> <p>No.</p>
<p><b>7. COUNCILLOR GILL SANDERS</b></p> <p>Can Councillor Carter please assure the parents, students and staff of Rose Hill Primary School that the fabric of the building, including roofs and windows, will be repaired and improved to adequate standards before they all have to face another cold winter and can you tell me when the necessary work will be done? If our children are to improve their performance and achieve good results they and their teachers need decent accommodation in which to work.</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR NICK CARTER, CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS &amp; CUSTOMER SERVICES</b></p> <p>Rose Hill Primary School has been assessed based on the standard qualifying criteria and the asphalt roof repair including the clerestory windows are currently on the 2015 /2016 programme. We have been able to allocate funding to address these issues in the coming financial year, though as always, this will still need to be prioritised against the on-going competing demands of schools across the whole of Oxfordshire.</p> <p>Following the OCC funding gateway process, once the detail planning of this work commences, the timings and logistical details will be discussed with the school to minimise any impact.</p>

<p><b>8. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</b></p> <p>This Council is making various changes as a result of the horrific crimes uncovered in the course of the Bullfinch trial. We have recognised that councillors need to be better informed and ask more searching questions. The obvious way of ensuring that this happens is to have all the scrutiny committees chaired by opposition members. When will the Conservatives at last agree to follow good practice and make this important change?</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</b></p> <p>I think that it's inappropriate to link these two matters. May I remind you that committees are cross-party and not solely reliant on the Chairman to ask searching questions.</p> <p>To answer your question, I would say that it's important that the best person is chosen for the job, rather than having to abide by any rules or quotas, such as the Chairman of the Performance Scrutiny committee.</p>
<p><b>9. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</b></p> <p>Please can you put pressure on the DfE, which is being very unhelpful about the bids that Cherwell School is putting in to pay for an expansion? This year the school has had to turn away more than 200 children, of whom 100 live in the catchment area, including in Jericho, which is very close to Cherwell School. There is no other secondary school anywhere nearby, so the families that didn't get a place are distraught.</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR MELINDA TILLEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION &amp; FAMILIES</b></p> <p>The Cherwell School is an academy and as such the Council has no locus in relation to bids that its trust might make to the Education Funding Agency. I share your disappointment, and that of your constituents, that The Cherwell's bid to the EFA was unsuccessful as the Council had hoped to support a joined up scheme along the same lines as it is supporting at Cheney School. The Council will therefore proceed with discussions with The Cherwell School to agree a modest expansion of one form of entry (30 extra places per year group) funded from developer (Section 106) contributions.</p>

**10. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL**

The performance of Oxfordshire children who are eligible for free school meals is far below the level of children on free school meals nationally, in every key stage. How do you account for this and what are you doing about it?

**COUNCILLOR MELINDA TILLEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES**

The Education and Learning team in CEF are working closely with colleagues in Early Intervention and Children's Social Care to support schools and are developing a strategy for closing the attainment gap in Oxfordshire.

This page is intentionally left blank