Public Document Pack

County Council 2 April 2019

Schedule of Business



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OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - 02 APRIL 2019

SCHEDULE OF BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM	PAGE NO.	MAXIMUM DURATION	APPROX START TIME TIME LIMIT PER DEBATE	SUBJECT	PROPOSALS (M = Motion; SEC = Seconder;
1.	1		10.30	Minutes Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 February 2019 (CC1).	
2.	1			Apologies for Absence	
3.	2			Declarations of Interest	
4.	2			Official Communications Revd Tony Williamson	Brighouse

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AGENDA ITEM	PAGE NO.	MAXIMUM DURATION	APPROX START TIME TIME LIMIT PER DEBATE	SUBJECT	PROPOSALS (M = Motion; SEC = Seconder;
5.	2			Appointments Members are asked to note the following appointment: Councillor Lynda Atkins as Veterans' Champion.	Hudspeth

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AGENDA ITEM	PAGE NO.	MAXIMUM DURATION	APPROX START TIME TIME LIMIT PER DEBATE	SUBJECT	PROPOSALS (M = Motion; SEC = Seconder;
6.	2			Petitions and Public Address	<u>Petitions</u>
					Ms Margaret Wareing asking for a safe crossing on Oxford Road, Littlemore;
					Public Address
					Ms Helen Marshall, CPRE regarding the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway;
					Ms Sarah Lasenby, regarding the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway;
					Ms Hazel Dawe, regarding the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway;
					Mr David Williams in support of Motion 17 (Climate Change);
					Ms Nell Davies-Small in relation to Motion 17 (Climate Change);

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AGENDA ITEM	PAGE NO.	MAXIMUM DURATION	APPROX START TIME TIME LIMIT PER DEBATE	SUBJECT	PROPOSALS (M = Motion; SEC = Seconder;
7.	2			Questions with Notice from Members of the Public	Mr John Paine, Secretary, Oxfordshire National Pensioners' Convention Group to Councillor Yvonne Constance; Ms Joanna Gill, Extinction Rebellion, to Councillor Yvonne Constance. Dr Al Chisholm to Councillor Yvonne Constance.

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AGENDA ITEM	PAGE NO.	MAXIMUM DURATION	APPROX START TIME TIME LIMIT PER DEBATE	SUBJECT	PROPOSALS (M = Motion; SEC = Seconder;
8.	2	20 mins	11.20	Questions with Notice from Members of the Council 1. Turnbull to Lindsay-Gale 2. Howson to Lindsay-Gale 3. Howson to Constance 4. Howson to Constance 5. Clarke to Hudspeth 6. Reynolds to Constance 7. Reynolds to Constance 8. Bartington to Hudspeth 9. Bartington to Constance 10. Pressel to Constance 11. Pressel to Constance 12. Pressel to Heathcoat 13. Hanna to Hudspeth	

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	20 mins	11.40	Report of the Cabinet	
				Deputy Leader (Judith Heathcoat)	Q. Price, Pressel, R Smith, Webber (2) Price (3)
				Adult Social Care & Public Health (Lawrie Stratford)	Q. Afridi (4)
				Education & Cultural Services (Lorraine Lindsay-Gale)	Q. Turnbull, Howson (5)
				Environment (Yvonne Constance)	Q. Johnston, Webber (6) J Sanders, Johnston (7) J Sanders, Hannaby (8)
				Finance (David Bartholomew) Transformation (Eddie Reeves)	Q. Phillips (9) Phillips (10) Q. Banfield (12)
10.	2	15 mins	12.00	Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances	(M) G Sanders (SEC) Sibley (AM) Howson (SEC) Webber

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AGENDA ITEM	PAGE NO.	MAXIMUM DURATION	APPROX START TIME TIME LIMIT PER DEBATE	SUBJECT	PROPOSALS (M = Motion; SEC = Seconder;
11.	3	1hr 10 mins	12.15	Motion by Councillor Tim Bearder	(M) Bearder (SEC) J Sanders (AM) J Sanders (SEC) Brighouse (AM) Fatemian (SEC) Reeves S Hudspeth S Constance S Handley S Webber S R Smith S Rooke S Buckley S Johnston S Leffman S Fawcett S Hanna S Hannaby S Howson S Roberts S E Smith

AGENDA ITEM	PAGE NO.	MAXIMUM DURATION	APPROX START TIME TIME LIMIT PER DEBATE	SUBJECT	PROPOSALS (M = Motion; SEC = Seconder;
12.	3.	15 mins	2.00	Motion from Councillor John Sanders	(M) J Sanders (SEC) S Constance S Hudspeth
13.	4.	45 mins	2.15	Motion from Councillor Dr Simon Clarke	(M) Clarke (SEC) Fox-Davies (AM) Johnston (SEC) Howson (AM) Turnbull (SEC) Pressel S Fatemian S Waine S Harris S McIlveen S Johnston S Howson

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14.	4	25 mins	3.00	Motion from Councillor Eddie Reeves	(M) Reeves (SEC) Fatemian S Reynolds S Banfield S Cherry S Howson S Johnston
15.	5	20 mins	3.25	Motion from Councillor Mark Cherry	(M) Cherry (SEC) Lygo (AM) Reeves (SEC) Mallon S J Sanders

AGENDA ITEM	PAGE NO.	MAXIMUM DURATION	APPROX START TIME TIME LIMIT PER DEBATE	SUBJECT	PROPOSALS (M = Motion; SEC = Seconder;
16.	5	35 mins	3.45	Motion from Councillor Suzanne Bartington	(M) Bartington (SEC) Fenton S Constance S Matelot S Bulmer S Pressel S Brighouse S Lygo S Leffman S Buckley

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AGENDA ITEM	PAGE NO.	MAXIMUM DURATION	APPROX START TIME TIME LIMIT PER DEBATE	SUBJECT	PROPOSALS (M = Motion; SEC = Seconder;
17.	5	1hr 15 mins	4.20	Motion by Councillor Damian Haywood Members are asked to note that Councillor Haywood's name appears incorrectly on the Agenda Papers.	(M) Haywood (SEC) Johnston (AM) Fatemian (SEC) Reeves S Bartington S Constance S Turnbull S Price S Pressel S McIlveen S Webber S R Smith S Rooke S Buckley S Johnston S Leffman S Fawcett S Hanna S Hannaby S Howson S Roberts S E Smith

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18.	6	25 mins		Motion by Councillor Bob Johnston	(M) Johnston (SEC) (AM) Reeves (SEC) Fatemian S Bartington S Constance
19.	7	20 mins		Motion by Councillor John Howson	(M) Howson (SEC) Turnbull S Lygo S Phillips S Brighouse

AMENDMENTS TO MOTIONS ON NOTICE

Agenda Item 10 – Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances – Amendment to be moved by Councillor John Howson

Council is RECOMMENDED to endorse the following recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel for amendments to the Scheme of Allowances and the future operation of the Panel:

- (1) a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) should be paid to the Chairman of Horton Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and that the allowance should be 75% of the SRA for the Chairman of a (permanent) scrutiny committee;
- (2) an SRA should be paid to an Oxfordshire County Council representative who is if they are Chairman of the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel equivalent to the allowance for the Chairman of a (permanent) scrutiny committee;
- (3) the uplift for allowances for 2019/20 should be at the same rate as the annually agreed pay award for staff; and
- (4) the Panel should conduct its next review in the autumn of 2019 and it should meet annually after that or whenever structural changes are made;
- (5) the next recruitment process should create a pool of seven panel members.

Agenda Item 11 – Motion by Councillor Tim Bearder – Amendment to be moved by Councillor John Sanders

"Most people accept that building more roads creates causes more traffic. What is certain is that building an Expressway between Oxford and Cambridge to connect a million new homes, in what will become the country's first linear conurbation, will definitely bring more traffic. What it will not do is relieve the congestion on the A34. It is obvious that any temporary, short-term relief that might occur on the A34 is being used as a "stalking horse" to railroad through a much bigger project designed to create the UK's own Silicon Valley in an arc outside the M25 and between our two prominent University cities. This radical experiment, together

with all the building that will be needed to pay for it will impact on the local environment, existing infrastructure and the climate, and is deeply concerning for Oxfordshire residents.

Council instructs that the Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment to jointly write to the Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government — demanding that a full consultation is carried out asking local residents if they want an Expressway and associated construction before any route is considered.

The Leader and Cabinet Member should also ask the Minister whether the million extra houses outlined in the National Infrastructure Commission's vision for housing along the route of the arc are, in addition to, or included in, the 100,000 houses planned for by the Oxfordshire authorities outlined in the growth deal."

- 1. Bring more traffic to Oxfordshire;
- 2. Add further pressures to existing infrastructure; and
- 3. Have a negative effect on Carbon output and the lives of Oxfordshire residents.

Spending vast sums connecting up communities would be done more effectively and at lower cost by improving rail provision.

For these reasons, Council opposes the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway project and requests that the Leader writes to the Minister for Transport expressing Council's concerns and requesting that the project is cancelled."

Agenda Item 11 – Motion by Councillor Tim Bearder – Amendment to be moved by Councillor Arash Fatemian

"Most people accept that building more roads creates more traffic. What is certain is that building an Expressway to connect a million new homes, in what will become the country's first linear conurbation, will definitely bring more traffic. What it will not do is relieve the congestion on the A34. It is obvious that any temporary, short-term relief that might occur on the A34 is being used as a "stalking horse" to railroad through a much bigger project designed to create the UK's own Silicon Valley in an arc outside the M25 and between our two prominent University cities. This radical experiment, together with all the building that will be needed to pay for it will impact on the local environment, existing infrastructure and the climate, and is deeply concerning for Oxfordshire residents.

Council instructs that the Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment to jointly write to the Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government – demanding that a full-fuller consultation is carried out asking local residents if they want an Expressway and associated construction before any route is considered.

The Leader and Cabinet Member should also ask the Minister whether the million extra houses outlined in the National Infrastructure Commission's vision for housing along the route of the arc are, in addition to, or included in, the 100,000 houses planned for by the Oxfordshire authorities outlined in the growth deal."

Agenda Item 13 – Motion by Councillor Dr Simon Clarke – Amendment to be moved by Councillor Bob Johnston

"This Council is proud to have been part of the East-West rail partnership that will deliver phase 2 of the programme by 2023, linking Oxford to Milton Keynes. This will remove a large number of freight vehicles from the A34, but the road will still be at capacity in places, with substandard lay-by facilities and poor layout of some junctions.

This Council recognises that more work needs to be done to improve capacity and safety on the A34 to avoid the gridlock that frequently happens, causing problems for businesses, commuters, towns and villages along the route as drivers try to find alternate routes.

This Council calls upon the Cabinet Member for Environment to work with Central Government and its agencies to improve the A34. and provide alternatives. These could include the re-opening of the Wantage/Grove station and a feasibility study into the re-opening of the Didcot to Winchester railway line. the latter would provide the capacity to take much intermodal traffic going from Southampton to the midlands off the A34 altogether."

Agenda Item 13 – Motion by Councillor Dr Simon Clarke – Amendment to be moved by Councillor Emma Turnbull

"This Council is proud to have been part of the East-West rail partnership that will deliver phase 2 of the programme by 2023, linking Oxford to Milton Keynes. This will remove a large number of freight vehicles from the A34, but the road will still be at capacity in places, with substandard lay-by facilities and poor layout of some junctions.

This Council recognises that more work needs to be done to improve capacity reduce congestion and pollution and improve safety on the A34 to avoid the gridlock that frequently happens, causing problems for businesses, commuters, towns and villages along the route as drivers try to find alternate routes.

This Council calls upon the Cabinet Member for Environment to work with Central Government and its agencies to improve the A34, by promoting green transport infrastructure, improving public transport networks, strengthening road safety measures, and transferring freight from road to railway"

Agenda Item 15 – Motion by Councillor Mark Cherry – Amendment to be moved by Councillor Eddie Reeves

"Oxfordshire Council along with Cherwell District Council and Oxford City Council are phasing in electric vehicles in their Council fleet of vehicles. Council calls upon the Cabinet Member for Environment including Transport to continue commission a costed study for the introduction of electric vehicles and the phasing out of diesel vehicles where practicable over the next five years as soon as possible."

Agenda Item 17 – Motion by Councillor Damien Haywood – Amendment to be moved by Councillor Arash Fatemian

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in their October report stated that if the planet wants to avert dangerous climate breakdown, we need to cut emissions in half by 2030, and hit zero by the middle of the century.

Oxfordshire is already doing its bit: we are committed to reducing emissions from our own estate and activities by 3% a year. Unfortunately, our current plans are not enough. The IPCC's report suggests that the world has just a dozen years left to restrict global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Should they increase by 2°C, humanity's capacity to prevent catastrophic food shortages, floods, droughts, extreme heat and poverty will be severely impaired. Limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible, but only with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities. Furthermore, bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities.

Oxfordshire County Council calls on the Leader to:

- 1. Declare acknowledge a 'Climate Emergency and call for action';
- 2. Pledge to make Oxfordshire County Council carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions:
- 3. Call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible;
- 4. Continue to work with partners across the county and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies;
- 5. Report to Council within six months with the actions the Council will take to address this emergency."

Agenda Item 18 – Motion by Councillor Bob Johnston – Amendment to be moved by Councillor Eddie Reeves

"Climate change is increasingly recognised as the most pressing global challenge humanity faces. Young people, who will face the consequences of inaction, are more concerned than others.

More and more Councils are taking on board the latest report from the UN on the likely impact of Climate Change. The stark conclusion of that report was that the planet has just 11 years to cut carbon emissions in half in order to avert environmental catastrophe. This can only be achieved by setting targets more ambitious and challenging than any set before, and that the argument that "there is nothing we can do about it" must be challenged.

This motion calls on Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) to declare a "Climate Emergency" as has been declared by Oxford City Council and VWHDC including:

- 1. **Exploration of** *Tthe* appointment of a Climate Emergency Officer, whose first task would be to devise and co-ordinate a plan for how OCC can make a difference, and whose post would be paid for by savings made within the plan.
- 2. The setting of new ambitious targets of zero carbon output by 2030 from all activities over which OCC has some control.

Council should advertise its ambitions with a large public, regularly updated barometer showing the Council's progress towards its targets."

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QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

1. Question from Mr John Paine, Secretary, Oxfordshire National Pensioners' Convention Group to Councillor Yvonne Constance

In 2016 OCC announced that, in relation to the Westgate Shopping Centre development – then under construction - it intended to ban bus routes running through Queen Street. At the County Council meeting in July 2016 Oxfordshire NPC Group suggested that OCC first carry out a survey into the possible effects such a ban on buses using Queen Street may have.

OCC refused and subsequently the Department for Transport was not prepared to ratify the OCC scheme banning bus use of Queen Street. Instead the DfT asked OCC to undertake investigations to establish what impact a possible ban on buses using Queen Street would have. Since late 2017 OCC has carried out an extensive data-collecting and monitoring exercise, which covers Queen Street and other central Oxford streets.

Can we now be given a date when the results of that OCC information-gathering will be made public?

Allied to this, how does OCC intend to carry out further public consultation as to how Queen Street will feature in the pattern of bus routes through central Oxford?

Within its COMMUNITIES: TRANSPORT CAPITAL PROGRAMME Oxfordshire County Council has a total allocation of £1,470,000 for Pedestrianisation of Queen Street. About half of this has been spent whilst £734,000 is shown as allocated expenditure in the current 2019/20 financial year.

How, and with whom, does OCC intend to consult on what that Queen Street pedestrianisation work will entail?

Answer

Officers plan to report to Cabinet in the summer about the future of Queen Street in the light of analysis of the monitoring of Queen Street and other nearby streets since the Westgate Centre reopened in October 2017. The report will make a recommendation about whether buses should remain in the street and therefore whether it should be pedestrianised.

If it is recommended that buses remain in the street, an experimental TRO would be made for the street which would serve as a formal public consultation for whether buses should be removed on a permanent basis. Any objections received during this consultation would need to be considered by a council committee before a final decision is made on buses in Queen Street. The decision that Cabinet makes in the light of the report will determine the level of spend on the Queen Street project.

2. Question from Ms Joanna Gill, Extinction Rebellion to Councillor Yvonne Constance

Do you agree that Climate Change presents such a significant threat that, in the words of David Attenborough, "If we don't take action, the collapse of our civilisations and the extinction of much of the natural world is on the horizon"? If this is true, surely the responsibility to act lies with all of us as individuals and also with government at all levels. When there is a financial crisis, governments step in to support the economy.

Do you agree that our responsibility to our children and grandchildren means we must do the same for our environment and recognise and act on an emergency when one arises? And will you therefore support the motions calling for the declaration of a Climate Emergency, as over 40 other local authorities of all political colours have done?

Answer

Oxfordshire County Council has a long history of activity on sustainability and emissions reduction:

- We have led the way nationally in driving waste reduction and recycling and are rated best county council for recycling in the UK.
- We have commissioned the <u>Community Action Group</u> project for over a decade: supporting our communities to develop innovative projects and business models to drive sustainability in Oxfordshire. Now supporting 65 groups, this is the biggest network of its kind in the UK.
- We have reduced emissions on our own estate by an average of 6% per year and have recently committed investment to replace all remaining streetlights with LED which will reduce our overall carbon footprint by a further 25%.
- We work with a wide range of partners in the County to position Oxfordshire at the forefront of the low carbon transition. Alongside the City Council we declared the world's first zero emission zone in Oxford. We are a long-term supporter of the work of not for profit 'Low Carbon Hub' which has just seen the 20th solar array installed on our maintained schools. Alongside partners we will also be announcing a ground breaking 3-year project to demonstrate how a new energy system; fit for electric vehicles and renewable generation can operate in Oxfordshire.

The October 2018 report released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (the United Nations body for assessing the science related to Climate Change) was, however, very clear. It explained that in order to avoid the most catastrophic impacts of climate change we must limit average global temperature increase to below 1.5°C degrees, requiring rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society. The report states that global emissions need to be halved in 11 years and hit 'net zero' by 2050.

Moving towards 'net zero' emissions will require intervention from all levels of government. However, we recognise we have an important role and there is

more to do. We will therefore be supporting the motion to call a 'Climate Emergency' but also looking at ways we can practically take action. This will include reviewing our carbon targets in 2019 and asking officers to investigate an Environmental Management System to further embed consideration of carbon reduction and sustainability across our business practices.

3. Question from Dr Alison Chisholm to Councillor Yvonne Constance

Do you agree that ensuring a swift and orderly transition to a clean energy future that preserves clean air, stable weather systems and secure access to food and water for our children and grandchildren is a goal that people from across the political spectrum would wish to pursue? Councillors in the Vale of White Horse District Council appear to: their climate emergency declaration was passed in February with unanimous crossparty support. Leader of the Council, Cllr Roger Cox, said "By declaring a climate emergency we are sending a clear message to the Government that we urgently need more support to tackle climate change. We can no longer simply ask people to 'do their bit.' We now need to see national policy and support from government which will allow us to implement significant changes to ensure we can achieve the emission reduction targets."

Voters of all political hues are already anxious about climate breakdown and will support action if you, our political leaders, spell out what we can do to reverse this emergency and commit to taking action. Will you join your Conservative colleagues elsewhere in the country to support the climate emergency motion to preserve the security of today's Oxfordshire residents and of generations to come?"

Answer

Oxfordshire County Council has a long history of activity on sustainability and emissions reduction:

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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
1. COUNCILLOR EMMA TURNBULL	COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CULTURAL SERVICES
What is this Council's policy in terms of enabling access to free school meals for pupils whose parents have no recourse to public funds? Many children in such families grow up in exceptional	It has been very many years since Oxfordshire County Council had any role or responsibility in the administration of Free School Meals (FSM) for schools in the County. As such OCC does not have a policy on FSM.
poverty. Would the Cabinet Member consider making funds available to help families in this position?	FSM are administered by individual schools, reported through School Census to the DfE and attract additional funding through this process.
poduori.	Access to Pupil Premium additional funding is available to schools under a variety of criteria, eligibility for FSM being the most common. Pupil Premium funding is intended by Government to off-set the impacts of poverty, vulnerability and disadvantage and be used by schools to close the attainment gaps that poverty and disadvantage are shown to create. Access to FSM can also make financial support for transport and uniform accessible.
	Many schools report that a number of families opt to not declare themselves as eligible for FSM. Many schools actively promote and encourage families to step forward to access their FSM entitlement.
	All children in reception, year 1 and year 2 in England can receive free school meals.
	Beyond that, any child whose parents receive one of the following 'qualifying benefits' is eligible for free school meals:
	Income Support

Questions	Answers
	 Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance Income-related Employment and Support Allowance Asylum support (under section 95) The guaranteed element of Pension Credit Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190) Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit Universal Credit – if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
	Asylum seekers receiving <u>asylum support under section 95</u> are also eligible for free school meals. The scale of the school aged population in Oxfordshire from families with no recourse to public funds is not known as it is not captured in any available data set
	and, locally, would not be reliable as based on self-declaration only. Without a framework for systematically and fairly identifying all the families in Oxfordshire that Cllr. Turnbull is concerned with, any consideration of additional funding from local sources, as opposed to making a case to the Department for Education, could not reasonably be calculated.
2. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON	COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CULTURAL SERVICES
What help with transport to post-16 education institutions is provided for pupils attending the 11-16 secondary schools in the county, and has the county agreed any changes to previous	The Council operates a spare seat scheme under the terms of its Home to School transport policy. The "Spare Seat Scheme" operates on contracted routes that are operated for the benefit of those who are entitled to free transport to and from school. If there is an available home to school transport route operated on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council, students who are not of statutory school age and

Questions	Answers
provision?	who are aged 16 to 18, may use the Spare Seat Scheme to purchase a seat on that route to enable access to their school or college.
	When there are more requests to pay for seats on a specific route than there are seats available, they will be allocated in the descending order of priority
	Priority Category 1. Those with an Education, Health and Care Plan naming the school 2. Looked After Children 3. Years 12 and 13 (if there is no available service bus route) 4. Children in receipt of Free School Meals or whose parent /parents are in receipt of the maximum of Working Tax Credit 5. Those who travelled on the route the previous term 6. By year group, in ascending order of year 13 if there is an priority from Reception to Year 11 available service bus route) On 17 July 2018 the Cabinet confirmed the decision to end subsidised travel for Post 16 students to Henley College. It also confirmed that this change was to be
	implemented from September 2018. There are no students receiving OCC funded subsidised travel to Henley College at this time except one SEND student. There are three pending requests for free travel on SEND grounds.
COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON	COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT
What estimate has been made of the reduction in the number of car journeys to Oxford station in a	Unfortunately, the officer who deals with this matter has been on sick leave. I will endeavour to get a response to you as soon as possible.

Questions	Answers
typical week since the opening of Oxford Parkway Station?	
4. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON	COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT
Following the statement in the Leader's budget speech about the preparation of a business case for the Cowley Branch line re-opening to passenger traffic, can the Cabinet Member please provide a time line for when the business case will be completed and what the next steps would then be to ensure the line was re-opened for passenger traffic. I note that it was in 2014 that the Leader of this council was photographed taking a DMU trip on the line.	This depends on the outcome of the current phase of work being done on the Cowley Branch Line as part of the Oxfordshire Rail Corridor Study, but we will not know the outcome (and therefore the scope and timescale for what happens next) until September.
5. COUNCILLOR DR SIMON CLARKE	COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
Could the Leader give details of the recent successful Housing Infrastructure Fund bid for the Didcot area.	Oxfordshire County Council has been successful in securing £218m from the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) towards vital infrastructure to deliver and unlock new homes and economic growth in the Didcot Garden Town area. The funding is towards a total scheme package of £234m and includes:
	 A4130 widening from A34 Milton Interchange towards Didcot A new "Science Bridge" over the A4130, Great Western Railway Line and Milton Road into the former Didcot A Power Station site A new Culham to Didcot river crossing between the A415 and A4130

Questions	Answers
	A Clifton Hampden Bypass
	All elements will include segregated cycling and walking infrastructure. The funding will unlock around 13,000 new homes and will support the delivery of more than 18,000 new homes and thousands of new jobs. OCC is currently agreeing with Government the exact details surrounding the funding to deliver the infrastructure by March 2024. A map showing the package of measures in relation to Didcot is available from Aron.Wisdom@Oxfordshire.gov.uk .
6. COUNCILLOR GEORGE REYNOLDS	COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT
Now the specific post acting as first point of call for HS2 has been made redundant, without telling local councillors or parish councils, can I be assured there is sufficient officer time and finance to deal with the problems that may emerge as the project moves into the construction stage. We have been told to expect up to 500 two-way lorry	Good communication with Councillors and Parish or Town Council's is vital, and I have asked officers to ensure that key changes in key staff contacts are properly communicated. Understanding who to go to is important and I am pleased to report that the recent "Highway Maintenance – Who does what factsheet" for Members and Parish and Town Councils has gone down very well and I have requested more of this type of communication.
trips for several years on several main roads in the north of the County which almost certainly result in road damage especially in winter.	I am able to confirm that there is sufficient and appropriate officer time being placed on working with HS2 during the construction stage. HS2 have their own obligation and requirements with regard to engaging with local communities on their issues and concerns and one that we will ensure is acted upon. We will of course keep resource levels under review.
7. COUNCILLOR GEORGE REYNOLDS	COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT
Please can the Cabinet Member do something about the attitude of those doing work on the highway to minimise the time closures or part closures that are in operation. This especially	As the Local Highway Authority, we take seriously our responsibility to balance the needs to ensure traffic is able to effectively move around the highway network with the need to maintain the safety of workers and road users during roadworks. Our dedicated Network Management Team work to actively maintain this balance on

Questions	Answers
applies to traffic lights that are erected very early and not removed until way after the works have finished.	all works on the highway. We work very closely with all those wishing to temporarily occupy a part of the highway to ensure that all activities are considerately planned, and most appropriate traffic management used to ensure the minimum of inconvenience to the public whilst enabling essential work to take place. There may be times however when it is not obvious to road users why closures are still in place (i.e. whilst hot tarmac is cooling and therefore not suitable for traffic) and the service will investigate how we can communicate more effectively during these times if needed. There are also times when third parties do not do what is agreed and when this happens we can and do impose punitive financial penalties. If specific instances where it is believed activity on the network has been poorly or inadequately managed, then please make us aware via our customer service centre; so that we may review the matter and where necessary take the appropriate action.
8. COUNCILLOR SUZANNE BARTINGTON	COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
Given the inconsistency between a commitment to achieving a Strategic Active Travel Network as approved with unanimous support of Council on 13 November 2019 and the recent decision to remove the B4044 Community Path from the Housing Infrastructure Bid for West Oxfordshire, could the Leader please confirm what actions were taken to reverse this decision and what will now be done to secure funding at the earliest opportunity?	When government officials told us if we included the B4044 cycle path in the HIF 2 bid then it would be likely that it would be unsuccessful we questioned the methodology but were unable to change the approach being applied to the HIF assessment process. We then contacted the local MPs, so they were aware of the position at an early stage. I took advantage of a meeting regarding Oxford City cycling with the Minister Jesse Norman, to make him aware of the situation to allow us to be able to submit with the scheme involved. We had to take the difficult decision to submit the bid without the B4044 scheme included as we could not risk losing all the funding for the A40 Smart corridor which has needed investment for many years. I can confirm we have submitted the bid for £102 million to improve this vital road corridor which includes upgrading of cycle path along the route.

Questions	Answers
	I attach a copy of my letter to the minister which asks that the B4044 cycle path scheme is considered as a standalone bid.
	I remain committed to the B4044 cycle path scheme and will do everything possible to secure funding for it.
9. COUNCILLOR SUZANNE BARTINGTON	COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT
Bridge Street, Witney has annual average levels of Nitrogen Dioxide which exceed EU legal limits and are known to be harmful to human health. Approximately 29,000 vehicles use this route daily, the only through link between East and West Witney. Please could the Cabinet Member provide an update on the progress for delivery of slips roads at the Shores Green interchange to move through traffic away from residential areas and improve quality of life for those living in Witney?	Funding has been allocated towards this scheme from the Housing & Growth Deal which will enable design work to get underway in the new financial year. Officers have been discussing the modelling and design work with West Oxfordshire District Council officers, as well as engaging with the East Witney developer. A combination of developer funding and the Growth Deal allocation will be required to deliver the scheme on the ground. The programme for the scheme is: Options and feasibility design work – 2019/20 Preliminary design work – 2020/21 Construction will depend on the agreement over the delivery of the works with landowners and developers and all funding being in place but is provisionally programmed for 2022/23. Regular updates will be brought to the Locality Meetings.
10. COUNCILLOR SUSSANA PRESSEL	COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT
With concern growing about poor air quality and congestion, would the Cabinet member agree that it's not just the City that would benefit from "congestion control management", but also	The current congestion management programme in Oxford proposes measures to improve air quality and reduce traffic levels in and around Oxford – the Zero Emission Zone, a congestion charge, workplace parking levy and access restrictions, and the further roll-out of Controlled Parking Zones. If implemented,

Questions	Answers
several other parts of Oxfordshire?	this is likely to have benefits across the county, particularly given a large amount of traffic coming into Oxford originates from other parts of Oxfordshire.
	The roll out of further congestion management programmes in other parts of the county may be able to be implemented to benefit air quality, with any such measures carefully selected and applied to each location. Once the measures have been fully assessed, confirmed and implementation has begun for Oxford, this is the point when it is appropriate to consider their wider application across the county. It is anticipated that we will be able to begin this process from 2021. Oxfordshire County Council is undertaking considerable other work that will contribute to air quality and traffic congestion improvements including healthy place shaping, active and healthy travel, and helping residents move to electric vehicles.
11. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL	COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT
Since transport is the main source of air pollution in the County, please can we have a regular report on moves to switch our fleet to less polluting vehicles?	An annex to the internal Energy Strategy is due to go Member for Environment Delegated Decisions in April committing the council to move all cars and vans to electric as they come up for renewal where this is operationally viable.
policially verificate.	The Council has already put in place a programme to support teams with moving to electric vehicles including trials of vehicles, support with assessing whole lifecycle costs and a programme to install charging points at corporate sites. To date this work has resulted in the following vehicles in operation, on order and currently being trialled.
	 2 fully electric Cars fire service (operating) 7 fully electric Vans fire service (operating) 3 fully electric pool cars (on order – arriving late Spring)

Questions	Answers		
	 1 fully electric accessible minibus (on order) 1 fully electric car Kingfisher team (on order) Trails of electric cars are currently taking place in Adult Social Care and Print Services prior to an order. Charging points have been installed as Table 1 below. A pipeline of a further 12 sites is due to be installed in Q2/3 2019. 		
	Table 1:		
	Phase 1Sites Installed	Туре	Quality
	County Hall	22kW Dual Wall mount Unit	2
	Speedwell	22kW Dual Free-Standing Post Unit	2
	Grandpont	7kW Dual Free-Standing Post Unit	2
	Samuelson House	22kW Dual Free-Standing Post Unit	2
	Banbury Fire Station	22kW Dual Free-Standing Post Unit	2
	Kidlington Fire Station	22kW Dual Free-Standing Post Unit	2
	fleet together into a single Q3 and will help the counce vehicles. Officers can update Membrowing vehicles to electric		oort at the end of e of electric arging and
12. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL	COUCILLOR JUDITH HE	ATHCOAT, DEPUTY LEADER OF TH	E COUNCIL
Would the Cabinet member like to join me in congratulating one of our apprentices, Nairne Barker, on being awarded the title of Apprentice of the Year at a recent ceremony in the Town	"Apprentice of the Year" but also others shortlisted for the "Oxfordshire tice Apprenticeship Awards".		
Hall?		ination for this award by her line managenthusiasm, her exceptional ability to lis	

Questions	Answers	
	then act. Nairne works with vulnerable children and families. Nairne recently became an Apprenticeship Ambassador via a scheme coordinated by OxLEP, a role that involves attending events on behalf of the Council, talking to young people about the opportunity an apprenticeship provides, thereby playing an important role in recruiting our future workforce. As an aside, Nairne will be attending an event at the House of Commons on Monday 1 st April as part of the national Youth Apprenticeship Ambassador network. She will be meeting Gillian Keegan MP (Con, Chichester) who has been appointed as an MP Apprenticeship Ambassador by the Skills Minister Anne Milton. I am proud of Nairne and pleased that she has been given this exciting opportunity to represent the Council at this event.	
	Whilst noting Nairne's success and congratulating her – she is also shortlisted along with other apprentices for several awards at the forthcoming "Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards" and they are as follows: -	
	Intermediate Apprentice of the Year - Robin Morrisen, Business Admin Apprentice	
	Advanced Apprentice of the Year – Nairne Barker, Business Admin Apprentice	
	Special Recognition Award – Frederika Kaja, Data Analyst Apprentice	
	Shining Star Award - Adam Barrett, Technical Highways Engineer	
	Winners will be revealed on 4 th April.	
13. COUNILLOR JANE HANNA	COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL	
The Women's Cycling Tour will be one of the events encouraged and supported by our County Council Cycling Champion this year. Can Councillor Suzanne Bartington and other County Councillors with specified responsibility to act as a County Council Champion provide a full list of events attended in the last six months to be	The champions do an excellent job of representing the Council at various events in a voluntary role. I would not want to make this an over bureaucratic role however I will discuss with them how we report their meetings.	

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Questions	Answers
made available to all Councillors?	

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