

# **County Council**

**1 April 2025**

## **Schedule of Business**

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# Agenda Annex

## OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### MEETING OF COUNCIL – 1 APRIL 2025

#### SCHEDULE OF BUSINESS

| ITEM/TIME   | ITEM  | PROPOSALS<br>(M = Motion; SEC =<br>Seconders;<br>Am = Amendment<br>S = Statement; Q =<br>Question;<br>REC =<br>Recommendation<br>to be determined) |
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| <b>1</b><br><br><b>10:30</b>                      | <b>Minutes</b><br><br>To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2025 ( <b>CC1</b> ) and to receive information arising from them.   |  |
| <b>2</b>  | <b>Apologies for Absence</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Cllrs Bulmer, Miller, Povolotsky</li></ul>   |  |
| <b>3</b>  | <b>Declarations of Interest</b>   |  |
| <b>4</b><br><br><b>10:35</b><br><br><b>5 mins</b> | <b>Official Communications</b><br><br>Oxfordshire is the first county council in the country to achieve <a href="#">Council of Sanctuary</a> status. This is a fantastic achievement and underpins our commitment to supporting people fleeing war, persecution and serious human rights violations. Our thanks to the Migration team in Public Health and Communities, supported by colleagues in the County education team, as well as children's and adult social care for all their work in achieving this.<br><br>The new link between the county of Oxfordshire with the Royal Navy ship HMS Diamond was sealed at a special ceremony at Blenheim Palace on Tuesday, 25 February with senior naval officers, including past commanders of HMS Diamond, and Lady Suzie Johns, Lady Sponsor for HMS Diamond present. They were joined by civic and military representatives from across |  |

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|  | <p>Oxfordshire including the Lord-Lieutenant Marjorie Glasgow, Oxfordshire County Council leader Cllr Liz Leffman and Chair of the Council, Cllr Alison Rooke.</p> <p>Other events attended by the Chair and Vice Chair since the last Council meeting:</p> <p>12 Feb Royal visit, Chipping Norton, Chair</p> <p>18 Feb Meeting with Mikayla Beames (British Empire Medal recipient), County Hall, Chair</p> <p>19 Feb meeting of Convocation to admit The Rt. Hon. Lord Hague of Richmond as Chancellor of the University of Oxford, Oxford, Chair</p> <p>19 Feb The Oxfordshire Scout and Guide Show, Abingdon, Chair</p> <p>22 &amp; 23 Feb The One World family festival, Oxford, Chair</p> <p>28 Feb Visit to Rewley Road, Oxford, Chair</p> <p>03 Mar Prison Awards, County Hall, Chair</p> <p>07 Mar Chair of WODC charity fundraising quiz, Witney, Chair</p> <p>09 Mar Abingdon on Artists Spring exhibition, Abingdon, Chair</p> <p>10 Mar High Sheriff Awards, County Hall, Chair</p> <p>11 Mar Chipping Norton branch visit, Chair</p> <p>13 Mar Lunch with Oxfordshire's Blind Veterans Association, Abingdon, Chair</p> <p>14 Mar Rhythms and Chips Grand Main Hall, Banbury, Vice Chair</p> <p>15 Mar Holi 2025 - A celebration of colours, Oxford, Vice Chair</p> <p>21 Mar Mayor's charity gala dinner, Bicester, Vice Chair</p> <p>23 Mar Mayor of Abingdon Civic Service, Chair</p> <p>25 Mar OCC Chair's Charity Donation reception, County Hall, Chair</p> <p>26 Mar OCVA Volunteer Recruitment Fair 2025, Oxford, Chair</p> <p>26 Mar Launch of the Standing With Giants VE Event, County Hall, Chair</p> <p>28 Feb Lord Mayor's Quiz, Oxford, Chair</p> <p>31 Mar Didcot powerhouse fund impact, Chair</p> |  |
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| <b>25 mins</b>  | <p>See Annex 3 for questions and responses.<br/>One supplementary question allowed for each.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Constance to Gant</li> <li>2. Constance to Roberts</li> <li>3. Constance to Roberts</li> <li>4. Hicks to Snowden</li> <li>5. Cherry to Gant</li> <li>6. Pressel to Gant</li> <li>7. Pressel to Gant</li> <li>8. Pressel to Sudbury</li> <li>9. Ford to Roberts</li> <li>10. Ford to Roberts</li> <li>11. Waine to Gant</li> <li>12. Waine to Howson</li> <li>13. Thomas to Gant</li> <li>14. Thomas to Gant</li> <li>15. Thomas to Gant</li> <li>16. Smith to Bearder</li> <li>17. Ford to Gant</li> <li>18. Graham to Fawcett</li> <li>19. Field-Johnson to Gant</li> <li>20. Hanna to Roberts</li> <li>21. Hanna to Gant</li> <li>22. Hanna to Leffman</li> </ol> |   |
| <p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>11:40</b></p> <p><b>40 mins</b></p> | <p><b>Annual Report of the Director of Public Health (Pages 9 to 42)</b></p> <p><b>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</b></p> <p>The Council is RECOMMENDED to note the Director of Public Health's Annual Report in Annex 1 and to take every opportunity to support actions and initiatives that will progress related work.</p>   | <p><b>Speakers:</b><br/>Mina Fazel<br/>Emma Coles</p> <p>M Ley<br/>SEC Leffman<br/>S Phillips<br/>S Lygo<br/>S Elphinstone<br/>S Brighthouse<br/>S Enright<br/>S Hanna<br/>S Howson</p> |
| <p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>12:20</b></p>                      | <p><b>Report of the Cabinet (Pages 43-54)</b></p> <p>Leader (Cllr Liz Leffman)      Pg 43: Item 1<br/>Item 2</p>   | <p>Q Johnston</p>   |

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| 40 mins | Pg 44: Item 3   | Q Edosomwan<br>Q Elphinstone<br>Q Enright<br>Q Baines<br>Q Pressel<br>Q Brighthouse<br>Q Smith<br>Q Johnston |
|         | Item 4<br>Item 5  |  |
|         | Deputy Leader, Climate Change,<br>Environment & Future Generations (Cllr Pete<br>Sudbury) |  |
|         | Pg 44: Item 6   |  |
|         | Pg 45: Item 7   | Q Hicks  |
|         | Item 8  | Q Pressel  |
|         | Item 9  |  |
|         | Pg 46: Item 10  | Q Coles  |
|         | Item 11   | Q Hicks<br>Q Baines<br>Q Enright   |
|         | Adult Social Care (Cllr Tim Bearder)  |  |
|         | Pg 47: Item 12  | Q O'Connor   |
|         | Item 13   | Q O'Connor   |
|         | Community & Corporate Services (Cllr Neil<br>Fawcett)                                     |  |
|         | Pg 47: Item 14  |  |
|         | Finance (Cllr Dan Levy)   |  |
|         | Pg 48: Item 15  | Q Baines   |
|         | Pg 49: Item 16  | Q Baines   |
|         | Item 17   | Q Baines   |
|         | Pg 50: Item 18  | Q Cherry   |
|         |   | Q Baines   |
|         | Item 19   | Q Pressel  |
|         | Infrastructure & Development Strategy (Cllr<br>Judy Roberts)                              |  |
|         | Pg 51: Item 20  |  |
|         | Public Health, Inequalities & Community<br>Safety (Cllr Nathan Ley)                       |  |
|         | Pg 51: Item 21  |  |
|         | SEND Improvement (Cllr Kate Gregory)  |  |
|         | Pg 51: Item 22  |  |
|         | Transport Management (Cllr Andrew Gant)   |  |
|         | Pg 52: Item 23  | Q Saul<br>Q Enright<br>Q Baines  |
|         | Scrutiny Reports  |  |
|         | Pg 52: Item 24  |  |

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| <b>13:00</b><br><b>40 mins</b>              | <b>LUNCH</b>   |  |
| <b>11</b><br><b>13:40</b><br><b>30 mins</b> | <p><b>Constitutional Amendments (Pages 55-292)</b></p> <p><b>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</b></p> <p>Council is RECOMMENDED</p> <p>a) to approve amendments listed and tracked in Annex 1 (including Appendices 1 to 21) to the following Parts of the Council's Constitution, as proposed by the Constitution Working Group and, in the cases of (iii), (xii), (xiv) and (xvii), as amended by the Audit &amp; Governance Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Part 1.2 How Oxfordshire County Council Operates;</li> <li>(ii) Part 1.3 Decision Making;</li> <li>(iii) Part 3.1 Council Procedure Rules;</li> <li>(iv) Part 3.1A Virtual Meeting Procedure Rules (delete);</li> <li>(v) Part 3.3 Virement Rules;</li> <li>(vi) Part 4.2 Cabinet Procedure Rules;</li> <li>(vii) Part 4.4 Delegated Decisions by Individual Cabinet Members;</li> <li>(viii) Part 4.6 Transport Advisory Panel (delete);</li> <li>(ix) Part 5.1A Regulatory and Other Committees;</li> <li>(x) Part 5.1B Health and Wellbeing Board;</li> <li>(xi) Part 6.1A Overview and Scrutiny Committees;</li> <li>(xii) Part 6.1B Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee;</li> <li>(xiii) Part 6.1C Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire West Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Terms of Reference (new Part);</li> <li>(xiv) Part 6.2 Overview and Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules;</li> </ul> | <p>M Fenton<br/>SEC Smith</p> <p>Am Phillips<br/>SEC<br/>S Smith</p> |



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|  | <p>(xv) Part 6.3 Protocol on Scrutiny Participation (delete);</p> <p>(xvi) Part 7.2 Scheme of Delegation to Officers;</p> <p>(xvii) Part 8.3 Contract Procedure Rules;</p> <p>(xviii) Part 9.2 Protocol on Councillors' Rights and Responsibilities;</p> <p>(xix) Part 9.4 Policy on IT Use by Members of the County Council (delete);</p> <p>(xx) Part 9.6 Protocol on Member-Officer Relations;</p> <p>(xxi) Part 10.1 Members' Allowances;</p> <p>(xxii) correct erroneous references and update titles where they have changed;</p> <p>b) to approve additional items in Annex 2 agreed by the Audit &amp; Governance Committee;</p> <p>c) to approve amendments in Annex 3 agreed by the Oxfordshire Health &amp; Wellbeing Board to its Terms of Reference;</p> <p>d) to delegate to the Director of Law &amp; Governance and Monitoring Officer the ability to make any necessary additional changes to the Constitution to amend any inconsistencies arising from these proposed changes and where any existing drafting in the Constitution is inconsistent with the changes set out in this report and approved by Council.</p> |                                      |
| <p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>14:10</b></p> <p><b>10 mins</b></p> | <p><b>Committees and Review of Political Balance (Pages 293 - 304)</b></p> <p><b>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</b></p> <p>Council is RECOMMENDED</p> <p>a) To note the review of political balance of committees to reflect the formation of the Green Group and Reform UK Group.</p>  | <p>M Chair</p> <p>SEC Vice-Chair</p> |

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|   | b) To appoint members to the committees of the Council as listed at Annex 1.   |  |
| <b>13</b><br><b>14:20</b><br><b>5 mins</b>  | <b>The Use of Urgency Provisions (Pages 305 to 308)</b><br><b>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</b><br><b>Council is RECOMMENDED to note</b><br>a) the exemption from Call-in of the following decision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cabinet on 20 March 2025 - Initial Response to Government: Statutory invitation for Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution</li> </ul>   | M Leffman<br>SEC Sudbury<br>S Brighthouse  |
| <b>14</b><br><b>14:25</b><br><b>10 mins</b> | <b>Interim Arrangements for Taking Emergency Decisions Immediately Following the County Council Elections (Revised report in Annex 4 of the Schedule of Business)</b><br><b>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</b><br><p>Council is RECOMMENDED to agree a temporary variation to Part 7.2 of the Scheme of Delegation to Officers with effect that from 6 May to 20 May 2025 paragraph 6.3 (c) is to be read as follows:-</p> <p>“(c) Any function of the Cabinet or of a Council committee or sub-committee, after consultation with the appropriate Director and thereafter with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council and the Leader, as appropriate.”</p> | M Chair<br>SEC Vice-Chair  |
| <b>15</b><br><b>14:35</b><br><b>30 mins</b> | <b>Motion by Councillor Glynis Phillips – National Care Service</b><br><b>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</b><br><p>A National Care Service is required in England to provide consistent high-quality care and provide further support for unpaid</p>   | M Phillips<br>SEC Edosomwan<br><br>Am Sudbury<br>SEC<br><br>S O'Connor<br>S Cherry<br>S Lygo<br>S Howson |

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|  | <p>carers by creating and implementing national standards.</p> <p>There is a crisis in the adult social care workforce with the figures from Skills for Care showing that there are currently over 131,000 vacancies in the care sector. There are variations across the country in the way this vital workforce is treated with some care workers suffering from poor pay and conditions.</p> <p>This council agrees for the Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care setting out our support for a National Care Service that will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improve the quality of care for everyone who needs it and providing further support for unpaid carers</li> <li>- Support independent living and enable people to recover outside hospital and care homes with the right level of support</li> <li>- Promote public sector and not for profit organisations delivering care services</li> <li>- Support partnership working with care providers including the voluntary sector, unions and government</li> <li>- Implement a fair pay agreement with all care providers including the voluntary sector.</li> </ul> <p>This council supports the setting up of a National Care Service and urges the Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to prioritise this reform.</p> <p><i>Note: The motion, if passed, would constitute the exercise of an executive function in which case it will be referred to the Cabinet together with any advice the Council may wish to give, in accordance with Rule 13.5.1 (i) of the Council Procedure Rules in the Constitution.</i></p> | <p>S Bearder<br/>S Hanna<br/>S Rouane</p>                            |
| <p><b>16</b></p> <p><b>15:05</b></p> <p><b>25 mins</b></p> | <p><b>Motion by Councillor Donna Ford – Banking Hubs</b></p> <p><b>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</b></p>   | <p>M Ford<br/>SEC Fenton<br/>S Smith<br/>S Gregory<br/>S Fawcett</p> |

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|  | <p>Councillors note the increasing number of vacant bank and building society buildings on our high streets, which are largely the result of technological change. The loss of community banking services is of concern to many residents, especially older constituents and those with disabilities and adaptive needs.</p> <p>Buckinghamshire Council has set up a Banking Hub in Buckingham library for people to access banking services in the town centre.</p> <p>Established in partnership with Buckinghamshire Council through its Buckingham and Villages Community Board, with the support of Buckingham Town Council and community representatives, the temporary Banking Hub provides local people with access to banking services. This offers a counter service operated by the Post Office, where customers of all major banks and building societies can carry out regular cash transactions. It also offers a Community Banker service where customers can talk to their banking provider about more complicated issues. Community Bankers work on rotation, with a different bank or building society available on each day of the week, to ensure fair and equitable access to major banking and building society customers.</p> <p>Council requests the relevant Cabinet member for Community and Corporate Services and the Cabinet Member for Finance to take a lead from forward-thinking colleagues at Buckinghamshire Council and, working with its Town Council, and District Council partners, invite banks and building societies that have left – or are due to leave – our high streets to explore opportunities to work with this Council to set up similar banking hubs within appropriate Council libraries.</p> <p><i>Note: The motion, if passed, would constitute the exercise of an executive function in which</i></p> |  |
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|  | <p><i>case it will be referred to the Cabinet together with any advice the Council may wish to give, in accordance with Rule 13.5.1 (i) of the Council Procedure Rules in the Constitution.</i></p> |  |
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## Amendments for Council 1 April 2025

### Item 11 – Constitutional Amendments

#### **Amendment proposed by Councillor Glynis Phillips**

##### Part 4.2 Cabinet Procedure Rules

Rights of Members to speak 4.1 which refers to Part 9.2 of the Constitution ‘ Protocol on Councillors’ Rights and Responsibilities’

Part 9.2 of the Constitution Para 3 to be amended to include

***‘All other members may request by 9.00 a.m. on third working day before the meeting to speak on a matter under consideration at meetings of the Cabinet or any committee of the Cabinet or when an individual member of the Cabinet is taking decisions in accordance with the rules of the Constitution and agreement to speak will be at the discretion of the Chair. Consideration will also be made for the relevant local member to speak if a matter under consideration relates to a specific Division. This request will be made by 9.00 am on the third working day before the meeting and shall not exceed 3 minutes.’***

### Item 15 Motion from Councillor Phillips

#### **Amendment proposed by Councillor Pete Sudbury**

A National Care Service **funded through fair taxation** is required in England to provide consistent high-quality care and provide further support for unpaid carers by creating and implementing national standards.

There is a crisis in the adult social care workforce with the figures from Skills for Care showing that there are currently over 131,000 vacancies in the care sector. There are variations across the country in the way this vital workforce is treated with some care workers suffering from poor pay and conditions.

This council agrees for the Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care setting out our support for a National Care Service that will

- Improve the quality of care for everyone who needs it and providing further support for unpaid carers
- Support independent living and enable people to recover outside hospital and care homes with the right level of support
- Promote public sector and not for profit organisations delivering care services
- Support partnership working with care providers including the voluntary sector, unions and government
- Implement a fair pay agreement with all care providers including the voluntary sector.
- **End the current unjust funding lottery, with funding coming instead from progressive taxes on land, property, or extreme wealth.**

This council supports the setting up of a National Care Service and urges the Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to prioritise this reform.

241 words as amended



## Questions from Members of the Public

Questions are listed in the order in which they were received.

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| <p><b>1. ROBIN TUCKER</b></p> <p>How many people live in the area of the two most recent Low Traffic Neighbourhoods in Oxford covering areas of Cowley and East Oxford and so benefit from lower air pollution, fewer road casualties and safer journeys to school?</p>  | <p><b>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT#</b></p> <p>Data from the 2021 census indicates that there are c.22,000 residents within the low traffic neighbourhoods (LTNs) areas of Cowley and east Oxford.</p>  |
| <p><b>2. CITY COUNCILLOR ANNE STARES</b></p> <p>Could the County Councillors and officers consider revising the Bartholomew Road traffic restriction from a full-time bus gate to an enhanced school-time-only restriction? This would address urgent safety improvements needed by Church Cowley St James Primary School at beginning and end of the school day, for whom the current</p> | <p><b>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>The filters in Cowley were introduced in part to improve bus services by reducing congestion from through car traffic and also to enhance safety for pedestrians and cyclists. This includes the ANPR filter on Bartholomew Road outside Church Cowley St John Primary School. They succeeded in delivering those benefits. The filter point on Bartholomew Road is one of several in the Cowley area which work together to ensure people do not use residential streets as short cuts and encourage residents to walk and cycle, especially for shorter distance trips. Bartholomew Road is not currently a bus route following the successful introduction of the ANPR filter point in Crowell Road. However, a filter point in Bartholomew Rd is still required for the Cowley LTN to work effectively and meet these objectives. It is of course also the case that bus services may very possibly use Bartholomew Road again, not least when the significant gains in bus efficiency from the traffic filters are realised.</p> |

restrictions do not provide the required safety. Given there is no longer a bus serving this road and ANPR is in situ, this would be an economic address to the many concerns raised by parents and school alike, and would outside school time, also be of great benefit to local residents

There are therefore no plans to change use of the filter point on Bartholomew Road.

I also warmly welcome Cllr Stares explicitly recognising the clear safety benefits of reducing traffic in streets used by children to travel to and from school, though I note that this appears to be contrary to the policy of her party to remove all such traffic-reduction schemes. I am delighted that when considering the needs of her residents she recognises the clear benefits of our policy, and I look forward to working with her on rolling those benefits out more widely.

I will also engage directly with the school to discuss the "urgent safety improvements needed" identified by Cllr Stares, and to deliver them.

## QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

## Annex 3

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.

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| <p><b>1. COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE OBE</b></p> <p>Noting that water was again collecting on A417 between East and West Challow, I ask what progress has been made to resolve the major flooding problem in this area?</p>   | <p><b>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>I can confirm that a number of works have been undertaken to alleviate the flooding issues. The section of ditch from Silver Lane had previously been partially cleared of silt by us in October 2024. On 1 November 2024 the piped system from Silver Lane back towards where the field watercourse brings waters down from the canal was cleared and jetted by the large recycler tanker and was recorded as running perfectly.</p> <p>The silt clearance already undertaken in October will have allowed better flow from this piped system. The culvert under the A417 was also cleared of silt during the ditching works. Officers have reported that the outfall immediately west of Silver Lane was flowing and has been throughout all of this. A road patching scheme to treat the worst affected areas has been put forward for the new financial year. Timing of these works will be considered alongside on-going flooding investigation and related matters.</p> |
| <p><b>2. COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE OBE</b></p> <p>Now that the Inspector has approved the vital development of the long planned HIF1 scheme to serve Didcot and developments north of Didcot, please inform Council of the cost of the special process required to secure this decision which should have been made by Oxfordshire County Council's Planning Committee?</p> | <p><b>COUNCILLOR JUDY ROBERTS, CABINET MEMBER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY</b></p> <p>Thank you for your enquiry. I would refer you to the detailed response previously provided to Cllr David Bartholomew in the Minutes of the Cabinet report from 17 December 2024. This can be found in the printed minutes, at CA – page 8:<br/><a href="https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/documents/g7474/Printed%20minutes%20Tuesday%2017-Dec-2024%2014.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=1">https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/documents/g7474/Printed%20minutes%20Tuesday%2017-Dec-2024%2014.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=1</a> .</p> <p>As detailed in the minutes, the council would have had to meet the costs of the inquiry for the CPO's, which was combined with the planning application inquiry, under any circumstances and therefore to ascertain the individual costs for each inquiry wasn't possible. The inflation costs referred to in the supplementary question are because we are still awaiting the CPO decision.</p>                                  |

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| <p><b>3. COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE OBE</b></p> <p>Aware that the Treasury's grant of significant funding to build HIF1 was under penalty if not completed by 2026, will the Cabinet Member report progress to Council, and whether Oxfordshire County Council will avoid this penalty next year?</p>  | <p><b>COUNCILLOR JUDY ROBERTS, CABINET MEMBER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY</b></p> <p>We can confirm that the agreement with Homes England for the delivery of the HIF1 scheme has been amended. The funding window has now been extended to 31 March 2028, in the alignment with the details reported to Cabinet in July 2024 (<a href="#">(Public Pack)Agenda Document for Cabinet, 16/07/2024 14:00</a> Agenda Item 8, Page 13), so there would be no penalty in 2026 if the funding is not fully spent. The scheme remains on track to commence construction in early 2026.</p>   |
| <p><b>4. COUNCILLOR CHARLIE HICKS</b></p> <p>In the light of the scale of, and public interest in, the recently permitted planning application for the construction of the HIF1 road by the Secretary of State, would the Chair of this Committee give an undertaking that every application for the discharge of a condition requiring the prior approval of the County Council as LPA, attached to that planning permission, will be available for the public to view online, so that they may see what is proposed for approval by officers before any decision to approve them is made. And will the Chair confirm that every one of those recommended decisions is to be referred to the Planning &amp; Regulation</p> | <p><b>COUNCILLOR IAN SNOWDON, CHAIR OF PLANNING AND REGULATION COMMITTEE</b></p> <p>Although there is no requirement to consult on submissions to discharge planning conditions, it is our usual practice to consult relevant technical consultees and also the District and Parish Councils on these. We always notify the local county councillor/s for the Divisions in which the submissions to discharge conditions relate to.</p> <p>I confirm that we will consult on the HIF1 details pursuant submissions and therefore the submitted documents will be available to view on our public website. Details pursuant decisions are delegated but can exceptionally be considered by Planning and Regulation committee.</p> <p>Handling arrangements will be put in place for the discharge of the HIF1 conditions to ensure clear and transparent separation of functions.</p> |

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| <p>Committee for this Committee to decide whether or not to grant approval?</p> <p>Will the Chair of this Committee also confirm that there will be clear and transparent separation of the functions of the Applicant and the Local Planning Authority in the process of proposing and recommending for approval each of those conditions, as required by the Note issued to the P&amp;R Committee on 23 April 2024, updated on 17 September 2024 and headed: -<br/>"Oxfordshire County Council – Note of Handling Arrangements for Functional Separation – Watlington Relief Road - planning application R3.0010/24"</p> |  |
| <p><b>5. COUNCILLOR MARK CHERRY</b></p> <p>Over the last few months, there have been teams meeting with highways officers with me as the local member for Banbury Ruscote including a site meeting with school governor for Orchard Field (Ruscote Ward district Cllr Amanda Watkins), regarding concerns over dangerous parking outside on this shop, Bradley Arcade Bretch Hill, Banbury.</p>  | <p><b>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>The Traffic &amp; Road Safety Team have included a project to investigate further safety measures at the uncontrolled crossing point at Bretch Hill, Banbury on their 2025/26 Accessibility &amp; Road Safety programme. The Team's Senior Officer for the Cherwell area will be leading on this and will be in touch with you in the new financial year as proposals are developed.</p> <p>Your request for enforcement of the cars that park on double yellow lines outside the Londis shop has been highlighted to our parking enforcement team.</p> |

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| <p>To look at a new crossing point, with the proximity of the junctions at Edinburgh Way and Edmonds Way, would need also removal of a nearby bus stop that serves the B5 stagecoach bus service. Therefore, highways officers state that crossing can't be moved forward.</p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member look into safety measures? There still needs to be enforcement of the cars that park on double yellows outside the Londis shop and any further safety measures that can prevent a possible accident with school children crossing at school opening and closing time from Orchard Field school and the Sunshine Centre.</p> |   |
| <p><b>6. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</b></p> <p>Why is the Council taking such a very long time to work with the Westgate Centre to find a permanent solution to the disgraceful state of that part of Queen Street between Bonn Square and the Westgate Centre?</p>   | <p><b>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>Both Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and the Developer are actively working to a resolution with the intention of the permanent works being carried out as soon as possible and both recognise the urgency behind a resolution to this matter.</p> <p>OCC have been working with the Developer regarding the permanent solution for the Bonn Square section of Queen Street. Concluding the best engineering design and material to be used is not straightforward, several factors are quite bespoke to this location: planning constraints, the presence of many services within the road and the volume and turning moments of buses. The Developer has been exploring options for surfacing material and construction that can accommodate the traffic loads whilst being sympathetic to the environment; ideally avoiding a black asphalt road surface. OCC have been pressing for a</p> |

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|   | <p>design proposal from the Developer and progress has been made; OCC have just received a summary of the options considered with a recommendation on the best solution. OCC have requested a detailed design of the recommended solution, which will need to be reviewed by OCC once received. Discussions will also be required with the City Council before overall approval can be given. Collectively, there needs to be confidence that the permanent solution functions well, is able to withstand predicted traffic loading, and avoids repeated failures.</p>  |
| <p><b>7. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</b></p> <p>Why has the Council switched to digital visitor parking permits without first giving the public a proper opportunity to feed in their views?</p> | <p><b>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>There was a formal public consultation for moving to virtual permits from 20 January to 18 February 2022 and this went to Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Highway Management for a decision, on 24 March 2022 (see Agenda item 13, page 109 (<a href="#">Public Pack</a>) <a href="#">Agenda Document for Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Highway Management, 24/03/2022 10:00</a> ).</p> <p>Visitors' permits are part of the range of permits used in CPZs and therefore, fell under the March 2022 item.</p> <p>The Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) associated with this project were updated to allow all permits to be digital.</p> <p>Transitioning to a digital parking solution was an important step for Oxfordshire residents to make it easier and more convenient for users to manage their accounts. However, we do understand that moving away from a paper-based system is a change. This change was necessary for the Council to operate more efficiently and to effectively manage the various parking and traffic schemes in place across the county. Our goal is to create a unified parking solution that better serves everyone. Notwithstanding that, to minimise the impact of the changes on digitally excluded people who are unable to access the internet, paper scratchcard visitor permits will remain available to those who have no other option, and the council will</p> |

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|  | <p>assess these on a case-by-case basis. We will also continue to work with the provider to make the system as easy to use as possible.</p>   |
| <p><b>8. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</b></p> <p>About a year ago, Oxfordshire was in a leading position when it comes to cross-pavement EV charging. Not anymore. Why have we allowed our back-office processes (perhaps especially Legal and Procurement) to hold things up for many months, to the extreme frustration of the many residents who don't have off-street parking?</p> | <p><b>COUNCILLOR PETE SUDBURY, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS</b></p> <p>I appreciate the frustration with the pace of this project. The context is that to date, all the installations of cross-pavement EV charging channels has been done as limited scale pilots working within Innovate UK projects. Because of how these projects were structured, the pavement channels were installed for free with Oxfordshire County Council's (OCC's) role being that of providing an environment to understand their potential use. We as OCC benefit in understanding this and the commercial partner involved can develop their product. This has enabled the council to understand how we can deploy this solution and manage them on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>With government grant funding, OCC is now entering a step change in the installation of the channel; both in terms of scale – from c.20+ to c.500 but also in the fact that the council will be procuring the channels and the installation service to install them. Since those initial pilots were done there has been a proliferation of suppliers of this type of solution, and so to comply with procurement legal requirements we had no choice but to go out to open tender to choose our supply and procurement supplier.</p> <p>Whilst there are a small number of councils reporting that they are moving forward with cross pavement channels from what we have been able to gather the vast majority of these are small scale pilots. Therefore, being leaders in the development of new ideas can lead to other issues as well, in that challenges to new ideas can be made that no-one else has looked at.</p> <p>The biggest single delay to the channel project over the last 12-18 months has been a technical issue that required clarification before we were able to go out to tender. The issue, raised by a charge point operator, related to the potential of simultaneous earthing causing a hazardous</p> |



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|   | <p>situation if pavement charging channels were in close proximity. This took time to resolve as we first had to find an independent body that could advise on this. Working with CENEX we established that there was an issue, discussed this with industry bodies and representatives and found a work-around that allows the project to move forward whilst the industry reviews the standards relating to it. Whilst this is not the only issue that has been addressed, it has been the most significant. Ultimately, the OCC team has been working as speedily as it can to ensure that cross pavement EV charging channels are made available to residents across Oxfordshire in a safe, legal way as speedily as possible.</p>  |
| <p><b>9. COUNCILLOR DONNA FORD</b></p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member confirm if the new Banbury Road junction has been tested out first hand by using it?</p>   | <p><b>COUNCILLOR JUDY ROBERTS, CABINET MEMBER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY</b></p> <p>I can confirm that I have personally visited the new junction and used the crossings first hand. During my visit to the junction, the county council signals team and project team confirmed with me that all necessary operational testing has been carried out including site acceptance tests and factory acceptance tests which ensure that the signals are fully operational.</p> <p>A post construction road safety audit (RSA Stage 3) is scheduled to take place at the end of March 2025 to resolve any outstanding safety matters to ensure that the junction operates safely in the long term.</p> <p>The County Council signals team are available to address any technical issues as they arise and have remote monitoring facilities which will notify them of any faults in the system.</p> |
| <p><b>10. COUNCILLOR DONNA FORD</b></p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member confirm when the snagging issues will be completed, including repairing all the damages to the surrounding roads of the new</p> | <p><b>COUNCILLOR JUDY ROBERTS, CABINET MEMBER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY</b></p> <p>The snagging issues are covered under the existing construction contract for a period of 12 months before the asset is handed over to the county council highway maintenance team. These snagging issues are being fixed as they are being identified. This cover does not include any roads that were part of the traffic diversion routes that were used during the project.</p>   |

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| <p>Banbury Road junction damaged by the works and traffic diversions?</p>  | <p>If damage is reported outside of the scheme's footprint, this will be assessed and dealt with by the County Council's highways maintenance team.</p>   |
| <p><b>11. COUNCILLOR MICHAEL WAINE</b></p> <p>Real Time Information at bus stops is an important aid to the travelling public. Unfortunately, the Oxford Gloucester Green Bus Station does not have this facility. Can discussions be held with the City Council to explore their provision?</p>               | <p><b>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>A requirement to improve Gloucester Green bus station was identified as a priority during discussions to identify schemes for inclusion in the 2025/26 Bus Service Improvement Plan Delivery Plan (BSIP Delivery Plan).</p> <p>The Oxfordshire Bus Enhanced Partnership has carried out an initial site visit to identify elements that could be considered 'quick wins', and a draft report has been produced. One of these elements is the introduction of Real Time Public Information (RTPI) units, although the exact design is to be finalised.</p> <p>Following discussions with colleagues at the City Council, high level costs have been established. Based on this, the project was added to the list of capital schemes for the 2025/26 Plan, which was approved on 27 March and will now be progressed.</p> |
| <p><b>12. COUNCILLOR MICHAEL WAINE</b></p> <p>Are inclusion schools with above Oxfordshire average numbers of children carrying EHCP's disadvantaged financially given the extra resource they need to put in place to meet individual children's needs as prescribed by the plan, and if so, by how much?</p> | <p><b>COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES</b></p> <p>Oxfordshire will have spent around £100mn more on SEND than the funding provided by the government through the High Needs Block by the end of 25/26 financial year. In 25/26 the f40 Group of local authorities have calculated that Oxfordshire will receive around £600 per pupil less than Buckinghamshire for the High Needs Block and £360 less than Reading Council does per pupil. Of special concern is that the government did not provide relief for special schools that employ more teaching assistant than teachers when it agreed to cover the Teachers' pay award, but not the pay award to non-teaching staff, thus disadvantaging children with special needs. Oxfordshire will continue to fund the increasing demand for SEND funding, and has allocated an</p>            |

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|  | <p>additional £2m in the 25/26 budget for SEND. It is likely that a proportion of the additional £1m for under 5s will help with funding early intervention work to support SEND needs for this age group.</p> <p>We know that Oxfordshire schools are inclusive and welcome children and young people with SEND and EHCPs. According to the January 2025 census, roughly 20% of the pupil population in mainstream schools have SEND (both EHCPs and SEND support). All Oxfordshire's schools serve pupils with SEND and all schools (except 5) have at least one pupil with an EHCP. Therefore, all Oxfordshire state schools could be deemed 'inclusive' schools.</p> <p>The funding for state schools is determined by a national funding formula and national funding framework within which the County Council has to work. In terms of that national funding formula, the place element for special schools (where all the pupils would have SEND and an EHCP), which forms a key element of their budget, has remained at £10,000 per place since the reforms of 2014. In addition, our special schools really value the support that teaching assistants provide to vulnerable children and young people. In previous years, pay awards for this group have not been fully funded nationally. These issues have placed a significant financial burden on special schools.</p> <p>In mainstream schools, funding is determined by the needs of the EHCP within the national financial framework. The funding is delegated to school governing bodies alongside other mainstream funding. It is for the school governing body to determine how to spend the funding in line with the school's priorities and the needs of all their pupils. Each governing body is required to have a designated person responsible for SEND. They should feed into the budget discussions to ensure that all pupils needs are met. If schools feel funding is not sufficient to meet the needs of an individual pupil with an EHCP, they are able to access additional funding from the County Council.</p> <p>We have some schools with significant balances whilst others are facing deficits. There is no direct link between the proportion of pupils with EHCPs and those schools with deficits or surpluses. The circumstances that schools face can be complex – some have rising rolls some</p> |
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|   | have falling rolls, some are large and some are very small. It is for the school leadership to address their financial issues and balance the needs of all pupils  |
| <p><b>13. COUNCILLOR BETHIA THOMAS</b></p> <p>The A417 is a rural road in my division. It is in a beautiful setting with tourist destinations along its length from Faringdon to Lechlade and beyond. For that reason, we get many fair-weather motorists using it at speed, being particularly popular with sport cars and motorcyclists, as its tight bends and long straights feature in motoring magazines.</p> <p>When it applied for the council's 20MPH Scheme, Buscot Parish submitted three areas for consideration, but unfortunately only two of these went to the decision meeting, the third and most important to the village was accidentally missed off, specifically, the section of the A417 running through the village, which they had hoped would be reduced to 30MPH from the current speed of 40MPH. This stretch is particularly hazardous to vehicles turning from the village onto the main road. The parish has already fundraised for a SID and the</p> | <p><b>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>I can confirm that the A417, including the section you mention, will be included in the next batch of the planned Vision Zero Speed Limits on our rural A and B class roads. We anticipate carrying out a stakeholder consultation on draft proposals in May / June with formal consultation later in the summer and, subject to the outcome, implementation in the autumn.</p> |

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| <p>poles have been installed, but they would still like to see the speed limit reduced to 30MPH as originally requested.</p> <p>While I appreciate the improvements that have already been made here, I understand that the entire stretch of the A417 between Faringdon and Lechlade is having its speed limits reviewed.</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member give me an update on this, and particularly the section of the road referred to above at Buscot?</p>  |   |
| <p><b>14. COUNCILLOR BETHIA THOMAS</b></p> <p>There have been some significant improvements in the stretch of the A420 going through my division recently, most notably the installation of the pedestrian refuge at the Fernham Road, and the over reduction in the speed limit to 50MPH. These have been welcomed by residents, however they are still concerned that the long-promised traffic lights, to be located at the Great Coxwell intersection, will not be delivered on time, their delivery being linked to the</p> | <p><b>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>It is confirmed the section 106 agreement associated with the development known as 'land south of Steeds Farm' contains obligation under section 1.1 for the developer to carry out highway works, including making of their access, cycle improvements, speed limit changes, public transport infrastructure improvements and the upgrade of A420 junction. All 'works' listed under 1.1 (schedule 8) in the S106 agreement are required to be completed prior to first occupation (as per S106 section 3 (schedule 8)). Oxfordshire County Council is responsible for enforcement of S106 planning obligations that relate to required off site highway mitigation works. Officer advice is that the developer is unlikely to have completed any of the required highway 'works' prior to anticipated 1<sup>st</sup> occupation date (potentially the end of 2025); Planning Obligation and Legal Team officers are working with Transport Development Management and Highway Agreement Team Officers to determine appropriate formal action against the developer in this matter.</p> |

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| <p>conditions set down for the development which is part-funding them.</p> <p>I would like reassurance that these traffic lights will be delivered according to the schedule so that “they will be operational by the time of the first occupation” of the development already referenced. I would like to know who would be responsible for enforcing this condition, and whether the developer would be able to continue to market and sell properties if the lights were not delivered; the capacity at the junction is already strained and would be exacerbated should the local population increase through further development.</p> | <p>Where a developer breaches a Section 106 obligation the local planning authority can take action. Typically, this may include an initial ‘letter before action’, giving opportunity for developer to address matters associated with breach of S106 obligation (this letter will set out strict timeframe for response/action) after which further action, including court action, may be considered.</p>  |
| <p><b>15. COUNCILLOR BETHIA THOMAS</b></p> <p>At a recent parish council meeting residents were concerned that a stretch of road approaching the village has not had its drains cleared for some time; they are also concerned that the gullies on one side of the road in particular are blocked and need to be cleared to improve drainage, with grips cut. All of this can involve several agencies and is</p>  | <p><b>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>Yes, to confirm an additional £1.5m per year was approved as part of the February 2025 budget setting process. This will allow for each of the gullies on our highway network to be cleared once per year.</p> <p>It is countywide and the gully programme is currently being put together in conjunction with our Contractor. This will detail the wards within each District Council area that will be attended to within a specified time throughout the year. It is intended that this programme is shared both with Councillors and on our public website once a programme has been agreed. No specific action is required from Parishes unless there is an urgent requirement due to imminent flooding</p> |

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| <p>a potentially complicated process to undertake.</p> <p>I understand that the last budget shifted the frequency of drain clearance from a four yearly cycle to an annual cycle. I would like to know further of details of this regime, whether it covers the entire county and whether any specific action is required of parishes to request drain clearance?</p> | <p>of property. We will also continue to respond and investigate adhoc enquiries put into FixMyStreet.</p>   |
| <p><b>16. COUNCILLOR ROZ SMITH</b></p> <p>What is the Cabinet Member's assessment of the National Insurance increases to the private care market in Oxfordshire?</p>  | <p><b>COUNCILLOR TIM BEARDER, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE</b></p> <p><b>The Potential Impact of Employer's National Insurance Increase on Adult Social Care in Oxfordshire, March 2025</b></p> <p>The County Council recognises the potential impact of changes to the Employer's National Insurance Contributions set out in the Government's Budget and we are in continuous communication with our care providers and the Oxfordshire Association of Care Providers (OACP) to find ways to manage this. We are also aware that this comes in addition to the demographic pressures Local Authorities and providers have been facing, and additional financial pressures including the increases in the National Minimum/Living Wage.</p> <p>Providers and local authorities have been working on projecting the potential impact of national insurance increase on their budgets. Within our calculations, we took into account the industry standards and the work carried out by LGA, affordability within our budget, national living wage and inflation. It is important to note that, these are projections of an overall impact and the impact on each organisation would be related with their staffing structure.</p> <p>Operating in this financially challenging environment in social care and additional pressures on our budgets, we are proud of how we are delivering adult social care in Oxfordshire, and the</p> |

impact that we are making in people's lives. National adult social care statistics show that, in Oxfordshire,

- People who use our services feel safe
- People are satisfied with the service they receive
- We have fewer care home admissions and support more adults at home
- Where people are at home, they have more direct payments and more control over their life

We achieved this by delivering our vision for adult social care, the Oxfordshire Way, successfully since 2021 which enabled us to support people in their homes and communities, and working in partnership with our system partners, providers and the voluntary and community sector.

### **Working with our providers**

Effective working with our providers is crucial to ensuring people have access to high quality care and support when they need it. National data show the high quality of care provided in Oxfordshire, with 89.1% of social care providers rated good or outstanding as of February 2025 (as compared to 82.9% in England). We work closely with all of our care providers to ensure they continue to deliver good quality of care to people we support.

Our work with providers especially since 2021 focused on ensuring we have capacity in Oxfordshire to support people who need care and support. With our Live Well at Home Framework, we have been successful in ensuring sufficient capacity in Oxfordshire for home care, and with our new Home Care Framework we have sufficient care home places for people who may need residential care.

In terms of financial sustainability of the market, we have been working with our providers to find solutions collectively. The most recent South East ADASS quarterly report shows that Oxfordshire has been one of the highest paying councils in residential and nursing homes and the highest paying local authority in home care in the South East of England:



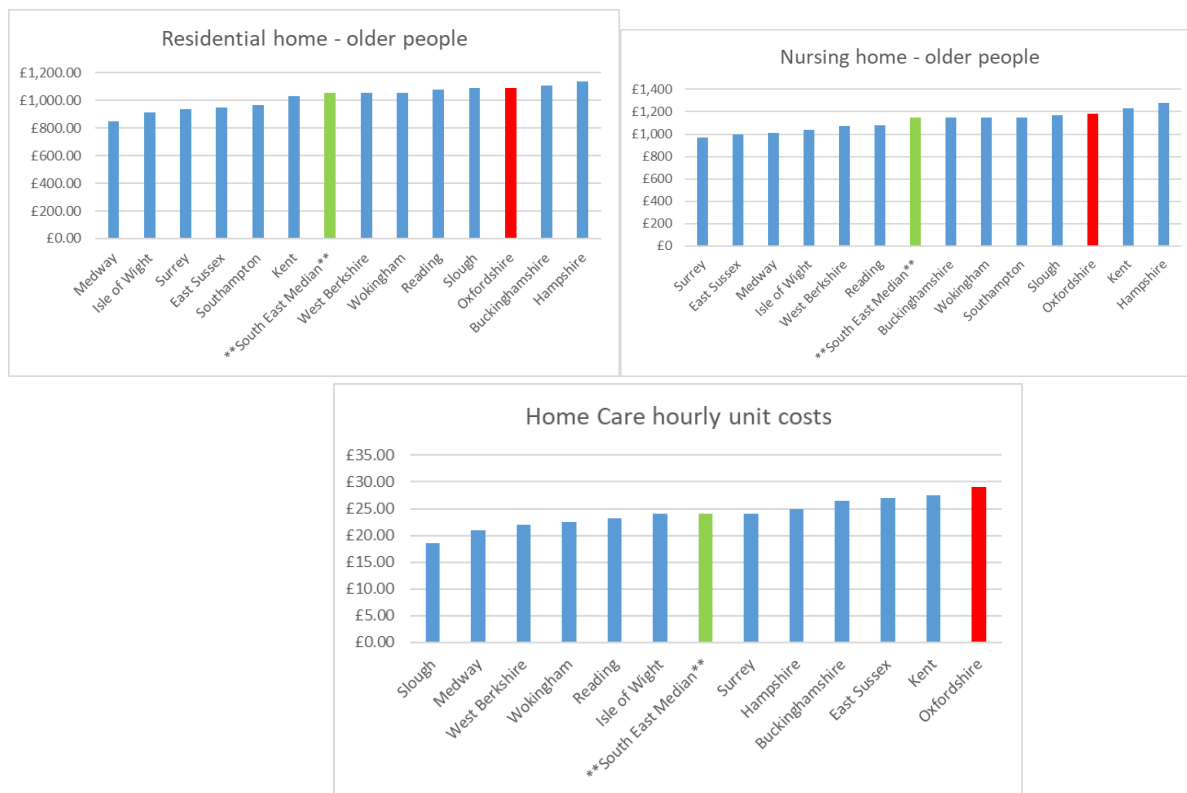


Table below shows the difference between our rates per care setting as compared to the South East median. For home care, OCC paid £4.57/hour more than average last year.

|                | Unit cost (2024-25) |           |
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|                | Oxon                | SE Median |
| Home care      | £29.07              | £24.50    |
| OP residential | £1,088              | £1,053    |
| OP nursing     | £1,179              | £1,147    |

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|  | <p>The hourly rates for 2025-26 financial year are set as £30.26/hour for home care, £1,145.10/week for residential and £1,228.68/week for nursing care (higher for specialist care). Details of rates for 2025-26 financial year by service type are available at <a href="#">Fees and reviews   Oxfordshire County Council</a></p> <p>In addition to this, we work closely with OACP, our local providers and wider system partners in championing adult social care workforce and careers both locally and nationally. We have various mechanisms where we communicate with our providers and share information- these include national and regional events, round tables and focus groups as well as our own provider roundtables and thematic workshops.</p> <p>Our support also includes the opportunities to support providers and our workforce in different ways- including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- training support using the Flourish training platform,</li> <li>- crisis grants – administered by the Care Workers Charity,</li> <li>- Care Friends Recruitment and reward App, and</li> <li>- tailored support to migrant workers affected by licence revocation, displacement, exploitation (or at risk of) across the Counties of Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire through the International Recruitment Fund.</li> </ul> <p><b>Fee Reviews</b></p> <p>We have an open and transparent mechanism to determine the fee levels to ensure care and support is sustainable across all provider types while ensuring the value for money and making the best use of our allocated budget.</p> <p>Taking into account existing high fee levels in Oxfordshire as outlined above, our analysis of cost of care in statistical and regional neighbouring authorities and our recent commissioning work, we concluded a 4.1% uplift to be applied in 2025-26. This is similar to other neighbouring</p> |
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|  | <p>authorities, which will mean that Oxfordshire will continue to be one of the highest paying local authorities in our region.</p> <p>This increase will be applied to all contracted services in Oxfordshire that fall within the specified rate limits, up to the ceiling. In recognition of the acute pressure faced by charitable organisations, who will have less flexibility in how they subsidise their activities, the council has awarded Supported Living providers a 7% increase, significantly more than inflation. More details of the fee uplifts and how we work with our providers can be found in our dedicated Adult Social Care Provider webpages <a href="#">Adult social care providers   Oxfordshire County Council</a></p> <p>Whilst we are incredibly proud of how we have worked collaboratively with our partners in the county to pay well, I do not underestimate the challenges they face. We have to recognise that the cost of business in the county is extremely high, and these additional pressures are increasingly making it difficult for our providers to recruit staff and provide a level of pay that has sufficient differential between the kind of experienced care providers we want looking after our most vulnerable people and the minimum wage. What we very clearly need is government reform that provides national and regional pay scales and professional qualifications that are recognised across the sector and within the NHS more widely.</p> |
| <p><b>17. COUNCILLOR DONNA FORD</b></p> <p>Please can the Cabinet Member for Highways advise why still weeks after the decision was made, no officer has been in touch with Bicester Friday Market about ANPR in Sheep Street?</p> | <p><b>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>The camera enforcement system planned for Sheep Street is expected to go live later this summer. Officers are still in the process of designing and planning the implementation and as such not in a position to share or engage yet on the details of how it will operate. I have been assured that officers will contact the Market as soon as is sensible and in good time to discuss and apply for permits if required before any enforcement goes live.</p>  |
| <p><b>18. COUNCILLOR ANDY GRAHAM</b></p>   | <p><b>COUNCILLOR NEIL FAWCETT, CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE SERVICES</b></p>   |

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| <p>Does the Cabinet Member agree with me that libraries are an important part in cultural life and that the written word or illustrative images are the cornerstone of informing and reflecting society's state of being either in the past, present and future.</p> <p>The value of libraries and community hubs is essential to further this and will help, therefore, to give a cast iron guarantee that a restoration of a new library/hub is given to the people of my Woodstock division who have had to deal with a temporary site since the last Tory administration was in power?</p> | <p>I am very keen that we sort out the new library that is much needed in Woodstock as quickly as possible.</p> <p>I have discussed this with the Libraries team and with Cllr. Levy and the Property team and further discussions will be happening soon.</p> <p>The Libraries Asset Development Plan emphasised the ambition to re-establish a permanent library offer in Woodstock; and the council is actively working out how to bring such a development to fruition.</p> <p>Some previous options did not work out, but we are determined to find a solution as soon as we can, and to then identify the funding to make it happen.</p>   |
| <p><b>19. COUNCILLOR NICK FIELD-JOHNSON</b></p> <p>Now that we have received further funding for our roads, could we receive a more detailed list of repairs scheduled in our Division? For instance, in Fordwells - south part of the village - the road is in a dreadful state and despite numerous FIX MY STREET requests nothing has been done or seems to be scheduled... Please make this a priority.</p>  | <p><b>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>Pothole repairs that we deem to need immediate attention as defects will be carried out. More substantial road repair works are included within our planned capital programme. These proposed works are mapped on our website and those planned for 2025/26 can be found here: <a href="https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-travel/roadworks/planned-road-maintenance">https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-travel/roadworks/planned-road-maintenance</a> . This has information on the proposed schemes that will take place and the type of works that will be carried out.</p> <p>The next statutory inspection for the area is scheduled for May and can confirm that any new Fix My Street requests will be investigated as soon as possible.</p> <p>I can also confirm that officers have been actively collaborating with Fordwells Parish Council. Most of the local drainage issues are related to private land drainage, and the Parish Councils</p> |

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|  | are working directly with the adjacent landowners to clear roadside ditches and address these concerns.  |
| <p><b>20. COUNCILLOR JANE HANNA</b></p> <p>Would the cabinet member agree with me that the County commissioning of a strategic business case from SLR by this September and the welcoming of this by Network Rail is the best news for residents since Wantage lost its train service in 1964 and will she recognise the invaluable support of local County Councillors, the Wantage and Grove Station Supporters Group and our local MP, Olly Glover and convey the thanks of Cllr Hannaby and myself to your team?</p> | <p><b>COUNCILLOR JUDY ROBERTS, CABINET MEMBER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY</b></p> <p>In Oxfordshire we are uniquely placed to drive economic, environmental and community benefits from making our railway work harder for residents and businesses. With substantial underused infrastructure already in place, working with the industry we can deliver new services and new stations with affordable investment. Now is the time to be making that case to government.</p> <p>The proposed new Railway Station at Wantage and Grove would support the substantial growth in population that has taken place over recent years and provide residents with a high-quality and sustainable alternative means of travel.</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council is leading on the promotion of the station and will be working closely with Network Rail, Great Western Railways (GWR) and South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils to progress any plans.</p> <p>I am more than happy to congratulate the local councillors and MP for keeping this project so much in the public spotlight so that we can take advantage of the possibility of a direct service to Bristol.</p> |
| <p><b>21. COUNCILLOR JANE HANNA</b></p> <p>Does Cllr Gant agree it was useful meeting on site last September with local County Councillors to understand the flooding issues that our residents face and with regard specifically to</p>   | <p><b>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>The meeting identified that further drainage system/ gully clearance was required, which has subsequently been addressed. However, it was also pointed out that the gullies are connected into a water authority system which may lack capacity and as such it cannot be guaranteed that flooding wouldn't occur again in the future, particularly during intense storm events.</p>   |

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| <p>Harcourt Road, Wantage can the residents have assurances from you as the lead flood authority that the problems will be fixed?</p>   | <p>As the Lead Local Flood Authority, we have a number of responsibilities in relation to local sources of flooding however, we are not mandated to remove flood risk from all locations. We are able to undertake a flood investigation under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 when an area meets the thresholds, these are published online. We have limited records of flooding in this specific location and do not have any active formal Section 19 flood investigations ongoing in the Harcourt Road area of Wantage, or in the wider Wantage area.</p> <p>We have recently assembled a county wide flooding task force to ensure a more coordinated partnership approach to flood prevention. We will continue to monitor the situation.</p> |
| <p><b>22. COUNCILLOR JANE HANNA</b></p> <p>Will the leader agree that the recent announcement that ICBs must make 50% cuts that this is very concerning, especially in light of the severe difficulties last year on the County Council, the Oxfordshire voluntary sector, GPs and local hospitals when 30 % cuts were required by the government and is the County receiving weekly or very regular updates on what is happening and likely impacts on the County and on the public from the ICB ?</p> | <p><b>COUNCILLOR LIZ LEFFMAN, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</b></p> <p>Thank you for your question. It is concerning to hear of the major changes occurring within the NHS, both in respect of NHSE and Integrated Care Boards. Our concerns clearly relate to the lack of information and detail surrounding the timing and reductions expected to ICBs. We have been having discussions through the Executive Director of People with the ICB and have been assured that the County Council will receive regular updates and engagement as the details emerge.</p> <p>We are also encouraging all of our local MPs to raise with government the need for greater transparency, detail and engagement with us on how the changes proposed are implemented</p>                    |

**Divisions Affected: N/A**

## **COUNCIL – 1 APRIL 2025**

### **INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS FOR TAKING EMERGENCY DECISIONS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

**Report by Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Council is **RECOMMENDED** to agree a temporary variation to Part 7.2 of the Scheme of Delegation to Officers with effect that from 6 May to 20 May 2025 paragraph 6.3 (c) is to be read as follows:-

**“(c) Any function of the Cabinet or of a Council committee or sub-committee, after consultation with the appropriate Director and thereafter with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council and the Leader, as appropriate.”**

#### **Introduction**

1. This report seeks approval to a temporary variation to the delegated powers of the Chief Executive to aid effective decision making in the period between the retirement of councillors following the elections in May and the Annual Council meeting on 20 May 2025.

#### **Background**

2. Under the provisions of section 7 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), all the existing County Councillors will retire together on the fourth day following the elections, (which taking into account the effect of Section 243 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 will be on 6 May 2025) and the newly elected and re-elected Councillors will take office from that day. All positions under the Council's political management arrangements except for the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council and the Leader (for each of which there is a specific statutory exemption) fall vacant on that day, until they are filled at the first meeting of the County Council on 20 May 2025. In terms of formal member decision making there will therefore be a hiatus during this period and some provision will need to be made in the event that any urgent decisions are required.
3. Under the Constitution the Chief Executive has delegated power to take any Executive or non-Executive decision after consultation with the appropriate Director and following consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the

Council or (in the case of non-executive functions) the relevant Committee Chair and Deputy Chair:

“6.3 (c) Any function of the Cabinet or of a Council committee or sub-committee, after consultation with the appropriate other officer and thereafter:

- (i) in the case of an executive function, with the Leader of the Council or, in their absence, the Deputy Leader of the Council; or
  - (ii) in any other case, with the Chair of the relevant committee or sub-committee or, in their absence, the Deputy Chair of the relevant committee or sub-committee.”
4. As the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair of the relevant Committee will not be confirmed until 20 May 2025 this delegation will need to be temporarily varied so that these powers can be exercised following consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council. In relation to executive functions this delegation will confirm consultation is only required with the Leader.

## **Financial Implications**

5. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Comments checked by:

Bick Nguyen-McBride  
Assistant Finance Business Partner  
[Bick.Nguyen-McBride@Oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Bick.Nguyen-McBride@Oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## **Legal Implications**

6. The recommendation supports the formal, effective and timely decision-making process following the retirement of councillors and prior to the Annual Council meeting. Relevant law is referred to in the body of this report.

At ordinary local government elections, councillors retire four days after the ordinary date of election. However, Section 243 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 provides: “where something which is required to be done falls on a particular day, it shall be done on the first day after that which is not one of those dates.” This means the retirement date for councillors cannot be 5 May 2025 as it is a bank holiday, so it moves to 6 May 2025. New councillors take up office on the same day.

Comments checked by:

Kim Sawyer  
Interim Head of Legal and Governance  
[Kim.Sawyer@Oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Kim.Sawyer@Oxfordshire.gov.uk)



## **Equality & Inclusion Implications**

7. There are no equality and inclusion implications raised directly by the recommendations in this report.

### **ANITA BRADLEY**

Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer

Contact Officer:

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Democratic Services Manager  
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March 2025

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