

County Council

12 May 2026

Schedule of Business

7. Cabinet Membership and Delegation of Cabinet Functions (Pages 9 - 12)

Report by the Leader of the Council

Council is RECOMMENDED to note the names, addresses and electoral divisions of the people appointed to the Cabinet by the Leader of the Council for the coming year and their respective portfolios.

9. Committees and Review of Political Balance (Pages 13 - 22)

Report by the Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer

The Council is required by the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 to review the political balance on its committees on an annual basis.

Note that Annex 2 will be circulated with the Schedule of Business on the day before the Council meeting.

Council is RECOMMENDED

- a) **To decommission the Horton Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Horton HOSC);**
- b) **To appoint the committees and committee positions listed in Schedule 1 in Annex 1 continuing with the existing terms of reference; and**
- c) **To appoint members to the committees of the Council as listed at Schedule 1 in Annex 2.**

or

- d) **To appoint the committees and committee positions, including Horton HOSC, listed in Schedule 2 in Annex 1 continuing with the existing terms of reference; and**
- e) **To appoint members to the committees of the Council as listed at Schedule 2 in Annex 2.**

- f) **To note the review of political balance of committees to reflect the current formation of the political groups.**

Agenda Annex

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNCIL – 12 MAY 2026 SCHEDULE OF BUSINESS

ITEM/TIME	ITEM	PROPOSALS (M = Motion; SEC = Seconders; Am = Amendment S = Statement; Q = Question; REC = Recommendation to be determined)
1 10:30	Election of Chair for the 2026/27 Council Year	
2	Election of Vice-Chair for the 2026/27 Council Year	
3 11:00 5 mins	Minutes (page 1) To agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2026.	
4	Apologies for Absence	
5	Declarations of Interest	
6 11:05 10 mins	Official Communications For the 12th year in a row, Oxfordshire residents are the best in England for recycling, reusing and composting. Oxfordshire County Council has again been named the top performing waste disposal authority in the two-tier system in figures published last month. In 2024 - 25, residents recycled, reused or composted 56.6 per cent of their household waste. Annual Council congratulates Oxfordshire Shared Lives carer Jawaid Malik who has been appointed High Sheriff of Oxfordshire in recognition of decades of public service and	

	<p>commitment to supporting people across the county.</p> <p>Jawaid, who lives in Oxford, has spent many years serving others through both his professional and voluntary roles, including his long-standing work as a <u>Shared Lives carer</u> alongside his wife, Rahat.</p> <p>A list of the events attended by the Chair and Vice-Chair of Council since the last Council meeting in March is in Annex 1 to the Schedule of Business.</p> <p>Annual Council will observe a minute's silence to mark the first anniversary of the tragic fire that took place at Bicester Motion on the 15th May last year.</p> <p>We remember Firefighter Jennie Logan, Firefighter Martyn Sadler and Dave Chester, and we hold in our thoughts their families, friends, and all those affected.</p> <p>We also place on record our sincere thanks and appreciation to the emergency service responders who attended, for their professionalism and care in such difficult circumstances.</p>	
<p>7</p> <p>11:15</p> <p>5 mins</p>	<p>Cabinet Membership and Delegation of Cabinet Functions</p> <p>The Leader of the Council will inform Council of the names, addresses and electoral divisions of the people appointed to the Cabinet for the coming year and their respective portfolios.</p> <p>The report is attached to the Schedule of Business.</p>	
<p>8</p> <p>11:20</p> <p>20 mins</p>	<p>Annual Report of the Audit & Governance Committee (Page 23)</p> <p><i>Movers have 5 mins, seconders and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</i></p>	<p>M Smith SEC Shiri</p> <p>S Crichton S Fry</p>

	The Council is RECOMMENDED to note the contents of the Annual Report of the Audit & Governance Committee 2025/26.	
<p>9</p> <p>11.30</p> <p>20 mins</p>	<p>Committees and Review of Political Balance (Page 25)</p> <p><i>Movers have 5 mins, seconders and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</i></p> <p>A revised report is attached to the Schedule of Business along with revised Annexes 3 and 4.</p> <p>Council is RECOMMENDED</p> <p>a) To decommission the Horton Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Horton HOSC);</p> <p>b) To appoint the committees and committee positions listed in Schedule 1 in Annex 1 continuing with the existing terms of reference;</p> <p>c) To appoint members to the committees of the Council as listed at Schedule 1 in Annex 2.</p> <p>or</p> <p>d) To appoint the committees and committee positions, including Horton HOSC, listed in Schedule 2 in Annex 1 continuing with the existing terms of reference; and</p> <p>e) To appoint members to the committees of the Council as listed at Schedule 2 in Annex 2.</p> <p>f) To note the review of political balance of committees to reflect the current formation of the political groups.</p>	<p>M Chair SEC Vice-Chair</p> <p>S Crichton S Cherry S Creed</p>
<p>10</p> <p>11:50</p>	<p>Scheme of Delegation to Officers (Page 47)</p>	<p>M Chair SEC Vice-Chair</p>

5 mins	<p>Movers have 5 mins, seconders and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>Council is RECOMMENDED to note that the Scheme of Delegation to Officers is being considered by the Constitution Working Group and the Council meeting on 30 June 2026 will receive their report.</p>	
<p>11</p> <p>11.50</p> <p>5 mins</p>	<p>Calendar of meetings 2026/27 (Page 49)</p> <p>Council is RECOMMENDED to</p> <p>a) approve moving the meeting of the Education and Young People Overview of Scrutiny Committee, originally scheduled for 30 June 2026, to Friday 26 June 2026 with a 10:30 am start; and</p> <p>b) note the Calendar of Meetings in Annex 1.</p>	<p>M Chair SEC Vice-Chair</p>
	CLOSE OF MEETING	

APPOINTMENTS OF CHAIRS AND DEPUTY CHAIRS OF THE COMMITTEES

- At the conclusion of the Council's proceedings all Members are asked to remain in their seats in the Council Chamber while Committees meet for the purpose of electing their chairs and deputy chairs;
- The Monitoring Officer will ask the members on each committee to stand if they can in the following order:
 - Audit & Governance Committee
 - Charlotte Coxe Trust Committee
 - Education & Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee
 - Pension Fund Committee
 - People Overview and Scrutiny Committee
 - Performance and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
 - Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee
 - Planning & Regulation Committee
 - Remuneration Committee
- The Monitoring Officer will seek nominations for Chair;
- The newly elected Chair of each Committee will seek nominations for Deputy Chair.

Date	Event	Location	Attendance
27 March	Lord Mayor's Charity Quiz Night	Oxford	Chair
28 March	Mayor Making – Didcot	Didcot	Chair
9 April	High Sheriff's Installation	Oxford	Chair
11 April	Abingdon Civic Service	Abingdon	Chair
17 April	Chair's Charity Birthday Quiz	Marston & Northway	Chair
19 April	Faringdon Civic Service	Faringdon	Chair
23 April	Shakespeare Birthday Parade & Toast	Oxford	Chair
23 April	Wander Wine Popup at Thame Cars	Thame	Chair
25 April	Mayor's Charity Ball	Thame	Chair
26 April	Oxford United Football Club Season Awards	Oxford	Chair
26 April	St George's Day Civic Service	Oxford	Chair
29 April	Bilateral meeting and Dinner Reception with Friends of Indonesia	Oxford	Chair
2 May	Ivor Gubbins Cup Final	Kidlington	Chair
5 May	Didcot Mayor Making	Didcot	Chair
9 May	Blue Plaque Unveiling – Baroness Lucy Faithfull	Oxford	Chair
11 May	Mayor Making – Henley on Thames	Henley on Thames	Chair
11 May	Mayor Making – Bicester	Bicester	Chair

This page is intentionally left blank

Cabinet May 2026

Councillor Liz Leffman – Charlbury & Wychwood

Leader of the Council

Responsibilities:

- Strategy
- Performance and Place leadership
- Local Government Reorganisation
- Devolution
- Oxford-Cambridge Corridor
- Oxford Growth Commission
- Strategic Partnerships and Communications/Public Affairs
- Public sector reform
- Town and parish councils
- Equality, diversity and inclusion
- Future generations

Councillor Neil Fawcett – Abingdon South

Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Resources

Responsibilities:

- Fire & Rescue Service
- Governance and legal
- HR
- IT operations
- Communications
- Library service
- Cultural services

Councillor Laura Gordon – Kidlington North & Otmoor

Cabinet Member for Future Economy and Innovation

Responsibilities:

- Economy
- Community wealth building
- Commercial
- Digital Infrastructure
- Innovate Oxfordshire
- Enterprise Oxfordshire

Councillor Sean Gaul – Bicester East

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Responsibilities:

- Children's Social Care
- SEND
- Education
- 0 - 5 offer
- Youth Offer

Councillor Gareth Epps - Deddington

Cabinet Member for Place, Environment and Climate Action

Responsibilities:

- Future transport
- Climate adaptation
- Environment and countryside
- Waste, water/flooding
- Energy
- Strategic Planning

Councillor Dan Levy - Eynsham

Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Transformation

Responsibilities:

- Finance
- Transformation
- Digital and customer experience
- Procurement
- Property

Councillor Rebekah Fletcher - Harwell, Western Valley & Blewbury

Cabinet Member for Transport Management

Responsibilities:

- Public transport and active travel
- Highways management and streetlighting
- Parking
- Core transport schemes

Councillor Tim Bearder - Wheatley

Cabinet Member for Adults

Responsibilities:

- Adult Social Care
- Carers services
- Mental health
- Homelessness

Councillor Kate Gregory - Thame

Cabinet Member for Public Health & Inequalities

Responsibilities:

- Public health
- Inequalities
- Voluntary and Community Sector
- Gypsies and travellers
- Asylum and immigration
- Community Cohesion

Councillor Judith Edwards - Chalgrove & Thame West
Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing and Safety

Responsibilities:

- Coroners
- Registration
- Emergency planning
- Community safety
- Trading standards

All addresses: c/o County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND

This page is intentionally left blank

Divisions affected – All

COUNCIL

12 MAY 2026

COMMITTEES AND REVIEW OF POLITICAL BALANCE

Report of the Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer

RECOMMENDATION

1. Council is RECOMMENDED
 - a) To decommission the Horton Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Horton HOSC);
 - b) To appoint the committees and committee positions listed in Schedule 1 in Annex 1 continuing with the existing terms of reference;
 - c) To appoint members to the committees of the Council as listed at Schedule 1 in Annex 2.

or

 - d) To appoint the committees and committee positions, including Horton HOSC, listed in Schedule 2 in Annex 1 continuing with the existing terms of reference; and
 - e) To appoint members to the committees of the Council as listed at Schedule 2 in Annex 2.
 - f) To note the review of political balance of committees to reflect the current formation of the political groups.

Decommission the Horton Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

2. A report on Political Balance considered by Council on 12 December 2023 proposed to remove Horton HOSC from the list of committees appointed by Council. This committee was set up to support a funding bid to the Government for a new hospital. The bid was unsuccessful and scrutiny

activities relating to Horton Hospital will be taken forward by the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

3. Council did not agree to remove the Horton HOSC at that time. Since then, the position with regard to the scrutiny committee has not changed and Horton HOSC has not met since 27 November 2020. The Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer advises that, as the Council approaches a decision on Local Government Reorganisation, all aspects of the Council's governance should accurately reflect current circumstances.
4. Horton HOSC included one member from Warwickshire County Council and one member from West Northamptonshire Council. Warwickshire County Council has not appointed a member of the committee since May 2024. West Northamptonshire Council has not appointed a member since May 2023. Both councils now list the committee as dormant.

Appointment of Committees

5. It is proposed to re-appoint the committees listed in Schedule 1 in Annex 1, without Horton HOSC, or the committees listed in Schedule 2 in Annex 1, with Horton HOSC.
6. Whilst the Buckinghamshire Oxfordshire Berkshire West Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (BOBHOSC) has unanimously agreed not to meet any further, it is proposed to retain this committee and appoint Members to it until such time as a Thames Valley Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is established.
7. The geographical footprint of the corresponding Integrated Care Board is changing which will require a new overview and scrutiny committee to be formed. A Thames Valley Joint HOSC will be constituted in due course by means of a report to each constituent council.

Review of political balance

8. Seats are allocated to political groups in accordance with the groups' proportionate strength on the Council as a whole. Any seats left over are distributed to any non-grouped members.
9. The following rules, in priority order, apply for political proportionality:

- (i) Where a group has an overall majority on the Council, that group is entitled to a majority of the seats on each committee and sub-committee.
 - (ii) Each political group is entitled to its proportion of the total number of seats on all the committees added together, according to the ratio of the number of members of the group to the number of members of the Council.
 - (iii) Subject to (i) and (ii) above, each group is entitled to its proportion of the number of seats on each individual committee.
 - (iv) For sub-committees and some other bodies, a group is entitled to its proportion of the number of seats regardless of the total number of seats involved (but still subject to the majority rule in (i) above).
10. Four political groups were formed on the Council following the election on 1 May 2025. Since then, two Members have left the Liberal Democrat Group and are now independent Members, non-aligned. The political balance calculation is based on the following political group sizes:

34	Liberal Democrat Group
12	Labour & Cooperative Group
12	Oxfordshire Alliance Group
7	Green Group

There are four Members not aligned to any political group.

11. The political proportionality calculations following the proposed decommissioning of Horton HOSC are shown in Annex 3 and are summarised as follows:
- There are 69 councillors and 89 seats on committees to allocate proportionally.
 - The Liberal Democrat Group no longer has a majority on the Council, so rule (i) above no longer applies. The Liberal Democrat Group is entitled to 43.86 seats and has been assigned 44 seats on the table in Annex 3.
 - The Labour & Cooperative Group and the Oxfordshire Alliance Group would be entitled to 15.48 seats each under strict proportionality. They have each been assigned 16 seats on the table.

- The Green Group would be entitled to 9.03 seats under strict proportionality and has been allocated 9 seats in the table.
 - This leaves four seats available for Non-Aligned Members. Three of the Non-aligned Members are currently on committees as indicated in the table and it is proposed that they retain those seats. A place on the Education and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee can be offered to the Non-Aligned Members.
12. The political proportionality calculations without the proposed decommissioning of Horton HOSC are shown in Annex 4 and are summarised as follows:
- There are 69 councillors and 97 seats on committees to allocate proportionally.
 - The Liberal Democrat Group no longer has a majority on the Council, so rule (i) above no longer applies. The Liberal Democrat Group is entitled to 47.8 seats and has been assigned 48 seats.
 - The Labour & Cooperative Group and the Oxfordshire Alliance Group would be entitled to 16.87 seats each under strict proportionality. They have each been assigned 17 seats in the table in Annex 4.
 - The Green Group would be entitled to 9.84 seats under strict proportionality and has been allocated 10 seats in the table.
 - This leaves five seats available for Non-Aligned Members. Three of the Non-aligned Members are currently on committees as indicated in the table and it is proposed that they retain those seats. A place on Horton HOSC and a place on the Education and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee can be offered to the Non-Aligned Members.

Appointments

13. The leaders of the political groups have been requested to submit their nominees for their committee places. Annex 2 to this report will be published as soon as those are available.

Legal implications

14. Political groups are constituted and notified to the Proper Officer in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990/1553.

15. Council is responsible for appointing to Committees under s102 of the Local Government Act 1972. Under section 15 Local Government and Housing Act 1989 the Council has a duty to allocate committee seats to achieve political proportionality. This applies to all committees of the Council where at least three seats have to be filled by the members of the Council.

Comments checked by:

Jay Akbar, Head of Legal and Governance Services

Financial implications

16. There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Comments checked by:

Drew Hodgson, Strategic Finance Business Partner

Anita Bradley

Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer

Annex 1 – Committees

Annex 2 – Committee membership

Annex 3 – Political proportionality calculations without Horton HOSC

Annex 4 – Political proportionality calculations with Horton HOSC

Contact officer:

Colm Ó Caomhánaigh, Democratic Services Manager,
colm.oacaomhanaigh@oxfordshire.gov.uk

May 2026

This page is intentionally left blank

Group	Seats	%	
Liberal Democrat Group (LD)	34	49.28%	Loss
Labour and Cooperative Group (L&C)	12	17.39%	Gain
Oxfordshire Alliance (OA)	12	17.39%	
Green Group (Grn)	7	10.14%	
Total Grouped	65	94.20%	
Non-aligned (NA)	4	5.80%	
Total	69	100.00%	

ANNEX 4

	LD	LD	L&C	L&C	OA	OA	Grn	Grn	NA	NA	Totals	
	%	Alloc	%	Alloc	%	Alloc	%	Alloc	%	Alloc		
Planning & Regulation Committee	12	5.91	6	2.09	2	2.09	2	1.22	1	0.70	1	12 Cllr Gawrysiak already on this committee
Audit & Governance Committee	9	4.43	5	1.57	2	1.57	1	0.91	1	0.52	0	9
Pension Fund Committee	7	3.45	3	1.22	1	1.22	2	0.71	0	0.41	1	7 Cllr Cotter already on this committee
Remuneration Committee	6	2.96	3	1.04	1	1.04	1	0.61	1	0.35	0	6
Charlotte Coxe Trust Committee	5	2.46	2	0.87	1	0.87	1	0.51	0	0.29	1	5 Cllr Higgins already on this committee and is the Local Member
Overview & Scrutiny Committees:												
Performance & Corporate Services OSC	9	4.43	4	1.57	2	1.57	2	0.91	1	0.52	0	9
People OSC	9	4.43	4	1.57	2	1.57	2	0.91	1	0.52	0	9
Place OSC	9	4.43	5	1.57	1	1.57	2	0.91	1	0.52	0	9
Education and Young People OSC	9	4.43	4	1.57	2	1.57	1	0.91	1	0.52	1	9
Horton HOSC	8	3.94	4	1.39	1	1.39	1	0.81	1	0.46	1	8
Oxfordshire Joint HOSC	7	3.45	4	1.22	1	1.22	1	0.71	1	0.41	0	7
BOB HOSC	7	3.45	4	1.22	1	1.22	1	0.71	1	0.41	0	7
Overall com total	97	47.80	48	16.87	17	16.87	17	9.84	10	5.62	5	97

To maintain overall proportionality the Liberal Democrat Group will retain 5 seats on the Place OSC and the Audit & Governance Committee

This page is intentionally left blank

Group	Seats	%	
Liberal Democrat Group (LD)	34	49.28%	Loss
Labour and Cooperative Group (L&C)	12	17.39%	Gain
Oxfordshire Alliance (OA)	12	17.39%	
Green Group (Grn)	7	10.14%	
Total Grouped	65	94.20%	
Non-aligned (NA)	4	5.80%	
Total	69	100.00%	

ANNEX 4

	LD	LD	L&C	L&C	OA	OA	Grn	Grn	NA	NA	Totals	
	%	Alloc	%	Alloc	%	Alloc	%	Alloc	%	Alloc		
Planning & Regulation Committee	12	5.91	6	2.09	2	2.09	2	1.22	1	0.70	1	12 Cllr Gawrysiak already on this committee
Audit & Governance Committee	9	4.43	5	1.57	2	1.57	1	0.91	1	0.52	0	9
Pension Fund Committee	7	3.45	3	1.22	1	1.22	2	0.71	0	0.41	1	7 Cllr Cotter already on this committee
Remuneration Committee	6	2.96	3	1.04	1	1.04	1	0.61	1	0.35	0	6
Charlotte Coxe Trust Committee	5	2.46	2	0.87	1	0.87	1	0.51	0	0.29	1	5 Cllr Higgins already on this committee and is the Local Member
Overview & Scrutiny Committees:												
Performance & Corporate Services OSC	9	4.43	4	1.57	2	1.57	2	0.91	1	0.52	0	9
People OSC	9	4.43	4	1.57	2	1.57	2	0.91	1	0.52	0	9
Place OSC	9	4.43	5	1.57	1	1.57	2	0.91	1	0.52	0	9
Education and Young People OSC	9	4.43	4	1.57	2	1.57	1	0.91	1	0.52	1	9
Horton HOSC	8	3.94	4	1.39	1	1.39	1	0.81	1	0.46	1	8
Oxfordshire Joint HOSC	7	3.45	4	1.22	1	1.22	1	0.71	1	0.41	0	7
BOB HOSC	7	3.45	4	1.22	1	1.22	1	0.71	1	0.41	0	7
Overall com total	97	47.80	48	16.87	17	16.87	17	9.84	10	5.62	5	97

To maintain overall proportionality the Liberal Democrat Group will retain 5 seats on the Place OSC and the Audit & Governance Committee

This page is intentionally left blank