

These notes indicate the decisions taken at this meeting and the officers responsible for taking any resulting action. For background documentation please refer to the agenda and supporting papers circulated to all members of the Council and available on the Council's web site (www.oxfordshire.gov.uk.)

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COUNTY COUNCIL - TUESDAY, 14 APRIL 2015

RECOMMENDATIONS	DECISIONS	ACTION
<p>1. Minutes</p> <p>To approve the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 24 March 2015 (CC1) and to receive information arising from them.</p>	<p>The Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 March 2015 were approved and signed subject to the following addition to Minute 6/15, page 5...those opposing the amendment reminded Council of the importance of having a plan in place to prevent uncontrolled developments taking place in Oxfordshire”...</p>	<p>HLC (D. Miller)</p>
<p>2. Apologies for Absence</p>	<p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Janet Godden and Zoe Patrick.</p>	<p>HLC (A. Newman)</p>
<p>3. Declarations of Interest</p>	<p>There were none.</p>	
<p>4. Official Communications</p>	<p>The Chairman reported as follows:</p> <p>Council thanked Mr Robert Bullard for the dedication in his book which read as follows: “To: Oxfordshire County Council Library Services With thanks for all your wonderful resources (in particular Oxford Central Library) and endlessly helpful counter staff.”</p> <p>A portrait of each of the councillors had been drawn by children in schools in South Africa, to raise money for the schools. Some 20 years ago, Keith Borien, a former Education Officer at Oxfordshire County Council had set up a link between Oxfordshire and South Africa (OCSAL) which made sure that surplus or replaced school</p>	

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	<p>furniture did not end up in landfill, but rather went to schools in South Africa where it was truly appreciated and greatly needed. From that start grew BEFSA, the Borien Education Fund for South Africa, which among other things organised exchanges between Headteachers in both countries, as well as fundraising and continuing the gift of furniture unwanted in our more affluent part of the world. Alderman David Turner had for many years been Chair of the Committee which related to this charity, born and nurtured by this Council. As Chairman of the Council, she very much wanted to help this charity. but it had to be in a different way as it did not really relate to people in Oxfordshire. She urged Councillors to make a donation to 'buy their portrait.</p> <p>The Chairman reminded members about her forthcoming Charity Dinner on 15 May 2015 to raise money for Thomley Hall in Oxford.</p>	All to note
<p>5. Appointments</p> <p>To make any changes to the membership of the Cabinet, scrutiny and other committees on the nomination of political groups.</p>	There were none.	
<p>6. Petitions and Public Address</p>	<p>The Council received the following Petitions:</p> <p>A Petition from the residents of Chipping Norton and surrounding area requesting that the County Council to take the HGV's using the A44 out of Chipping Norton town centre by using the proposed lorry route and to reinstate the Small Towns Strategy in the LTP4.</p> <p>A Petition from the local residents and businesses of Didcot requesting the</p>	<p>DEE (J. Larkcom)</p> <p>DEE (J. Larkcom)</p>

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	County Council to reject the proposal for a bus lane through the pedestrianised zone in Didcot Town Centre.	
7. Questions with Notice from Members of the Public	There were none.	
8. Questions with Notice from Members of the Council	<p>10 questions with notice were asked. Details of the questions and answers and the supplementary questions and answers (where asked) are set out in Annex 1 to the Minutes.</p> <p>In relation to Question 2 (Question from Councillor Cherry to Councillor Nimmo Smith) Councillor Nimmo Smith gave an undertaking to check on the situation regarding replacement of lines at the Academy and provide Councillor Cherry with a written answer.</p>	
9. Report of the Cabinet	<p>The Council received the report of the Cabinet.</p> <p>In relation to paragraph 2 (Flood Risk Management Consultation Responses) (Question from Councillor Coates) Councillor Rose gave an undertaking to provide an update on potential funding for the second phase and provide Councillor Coates with a written answer.</p> <p>In relation to paragraph 10 (Child Sexual Exploitation Update – OSCB Report and Report on CSE) (Question from Councillor Gill Sanders) Councillor Tilley gave an undertaking to rearrange the cancelled question and answer session on the detailed report for members.</p> <p>In relation to paragraph 10 (Child Sexual Exploitation Update – OSCB</p>	

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	Report and Report on CSE) (Question from Councillor Pressel) Councillor Tilley gave an undertaking that the Council would bid for their share of the £40m government grant for work within this area.	
<p>10. Motion From Councillor Patrick Greene</p> <p>“This Council is concerned and alarmed at the recent number of major traffic accidents that have occurred on the A34 in the Oxfordshire County area in recent months that have caused real damage not only to the Oxfordshire economy but to that of the country.</p> <p>It is recognised that much of the problems arise from the volume of heavy goods vehicles that are restricted to 60mph. Much frustration to fast lane vehicles arises when two heavy vehicles are in the process of overtaking and with vehicle governors that may well be slightly at variance causing the overtaking procedure to last much too long.</p> <p>In recent times there has been talk of making heavy goods vehicles travel in convoys, however the matter is extremely urgent and this Council asks the leader to write to the Secretary of State for Transport to ask that he makes urgent representation to Highways England to request that there is an enforcement order made to restrict all heavy goods vehicles to only use the slow lane between junction 13 on the M4 to junction 9 on the M40. This measure will in all respects make these vehicles travel in convoys and make the road safer and less liable to accidents.”</p>	<p>With the consent of Council Councillor Greene amended his motion. The amended motion was carried by 51 votes to 0, with 9 abstentions:</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>“This Council is concerned and alarmed at the recent number of major traffic accidents that have occurred on the A34 in the Oxfordshire County area in recent months that have caused real damage not only to the Oxfordshire economy but to that of the country.</p> <p>It is recognised that much of the problems arise from the volume of heavy goods vehicles that are restricted to 60mph. Much frustration to fast outside lane vehicles arises when two heavy vehicles are in the process of overtaking and with vehicle governors that may well be slightly at variance causing the overtaking procedure to last much too long.</p> <p>In recent times there has been talk of making heavy goods vehicles travel in convoys, however the matter is extremely urgent and this Council asks the leader to write to the Secretary of State for Transport to ask that he makes urgent representation to Highways England to request that there is an enforcement order made to restrict all heavy goods vehicles to only use the slow inside lane <i>in each</i></p>	<p>Leader</p> <p>HLC (M. Peacock)</p>

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	<p>direction between junction 13 on the M4 to junction 9 on the M40. This measure will in all respects make these vehicles travel in convoys and make the road safer and less liable to accidents.”</p>	
<p>11. Motion From Councillor Bob Johnston</p> <p>“After decades of a lack of support by this Council for the rail infrastructure, the promotion of the East West rail link and the developments on the Cowley branch are welcome news. However more could be achieved by a comprehensive plan encompassing the whole County, reducing strain on our road infrastructure that we have responsibility for maintaining. This could include the re-opening of stations at places like Grove/Wantage and Yarnton and the line to Witney and Carterton as well as the redoubling of the remainder of the Cotswold line within Oxfordshire. Rail services can play an important part in the future economic and social life of the County. For example the proposed services directly to Heathrow could be extended to both Banbury and Bicester rather than terminating in Oxford.</p> <p>In the meantime the Council needs to lobby the Department For Transport and others for modern electric rolling stock for the newly electrified lines to Oxfordshire.”</p>	<p>With the agreement of Council, Councillor Johnston accepted the proposed amendments by Councillors Rose and Hards.</p> <p>The motion as amended was carried unanimously.</p> <p>RESOLVED: (by 60 votes to 0)</p> <p>TheEast West rail link, and and the developments on the Cowley branch are welcome news. Chiltern Rail, Oxfordshire Highways, DfT and other partners continue to meet to hopefully progress the Cowley Branch Line venture. However more could be achieved by a comprehensive plan encompassing the whole County, reducing strain on our road infrastructure that we have responsibility for maintaining. This could include the re-opening of stations at places like Grove/Wantage and Yarnton and the line to Witney and Carterton as well as the redoubling of the remainder of the Cotswold line within Oxfordshire. Rail services can play an important part in the future economic and social life of the County. For example the proposed services directly to Heathrow could will be extended to both Banbury and Bicester and beyond, rather than terminating in just Oxford.</p>	<p>DEE (S. Scane)</p>

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	<p>In the meantime the Council needs to lobby The Council calls on the Department For Transport and others to continue to produce for modern electric rolling stock for the newly electrified lines to Oxfordshire, while welcoming the recent arrival from Japan of the start of deliveries of the new trains."</p>	
<p>12. Motion From Councillor Tanner</p> <p>"The Council calls on each of the candidates in the five Oxfordshire constituencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) to speak up for local government; (b) to pledge to build the homes and provide the improved transport that Oxfordshire desperately needs; (c) to support our schools, colleges and universities; (d) to back a vibrant low carbon economy; (e) to commit to a Living Wage and a more equal society; (f) to promote an international, tolerant and safer county; (g) to respond to the needs of our scientific, automotive, agricultural and military communities; (h) to invest in our hospitals and the National Health Service in the county; (i) to support and safeguard our elderly and disabled residents, and our young people; <p>We expect those elected to represent Oxfordshire in the House of Commons to work tirelessly for a prosperous, fairer, greener and more beautiful Oxfordshire for all and urges every resident who can to use their vote in the General Election on May 7th.</p>	<p>With the agreement of Council, Councillor Tanner accepted the proposed amendment by Councillor Fooks as set out in Annex 1 in the schedule of business.</p> <p>The amendment moved by Councillor David Williams as set out in Annex 1 to the Schedule of Business was lost by 57 votes to 2, with 1 abstention.</p> <p>The amendment moved by Councillor Hilary Hibbert-Biles as set out in Annex 1 to the Schedule of Business was carried by 33 votes to 27.</p> <p>The substantive motion as amended was carried by 33 votes to 16, with 11 abstentions.</p> <p>RESOLVED: (by 33 votes to 16, with 11 abstentions)</p> <p>"The Council calls on each of the candidates in the six Oxfordshire constituencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) to speak up for local government; to stand up for the vital importance of local government , requesting adequate funding and devolution of both powers and budgets to a local level; (b) to pledge to build the homes and provide the improved transport 	<p>Leader CEO (M. Scott)</p>

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	<p>that Oxfordshire desperately needs; where needed</p> <p>(c) to support our schools, colleges and universities;</p> <p>(d) to back a vibrant low carbon economy;</p> <p>(e) to commit to a Living Wage and a more equal society;</p> <p>(f) to promote an international, tolerant and a safer county;</p> <p>(g) to respond to the needs of our scientific, automotive, agricultural and military communities;</p> <p>(h) to invest in our hospitals and the National Health Service in the county;</p> <p>(i) to support and safeguard our elderly and disabled vulnerable residents. and our young people;</p> <p>We expect those elected to represent Oxfordshire in the House of Commons to work tirelessly for a prosperous, fairer, greener and more beautiful Oxfordshire for all and urges every resident who can to use their vote in the General Election on May</p>	
<p>13. Motion From Councillor Neville Harris</p> <p>"I move that, at the earliest possible time following the General Election, the Oxfordshire County Council decant (travel) to the House of Commons Westminster en - bloc to meet, at individual members own expense or otherwise, and to enable its unified case in relation to Oxfordshire's future to be put directly to the County's Members of Parliament. The discussions and representations to include 'cross council' concerns on present and future Government funding and policies on all matters affecting Oxfordshire's residents including: all types of infrastructure, the Council's full range of services and the discharge of its statutory duties.</p>	<p>The amendment proposed by Councillor David Williams as set out in the Schedule of Business, Annex 1 was withdrawn.</p> <p>The amendment proposed by Councillor Glynis Phillips as set out in the Schedule of Business, Annex 1 was withdrawn.</p> <p>The amendment proposed by Councillor Ian Hudspeth as set out in the Schedule of Business, Annex 1 was 52 to 3, with 2 abstentions.</p> <p>RESOLVED: (by 52 votes to 3, with 2</p>	

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<p>Detailed organisational arrangements to be made by the relevant officers in conjunction with group leaders and other pertinent members.”</p>	<p>abstentions)</p> <p>“I move that, at the earliest possible time following the General Election, the Oxfordshire County Council decant (travel) to the House of Commons Westminster en - bloc to meet, at individual members own expense or otherwise, and invites all Oxfordshire’s elected Members of Parliament to County Hall to enable its unified case in relation to Oxfordshire's future to be put directly to the County's Members of Parliament. The discussions and representations to include 'cross council' concerns on present and future Government funding and policies on all matters affecting Oxfordshire's residents including: all types of infrastructure, the Council's full range of services and the discharge of its statutory duties.</p> <p>Detailed organisational arrangements to be made by the relevant officers in conjunction with group leaders and other pertinent members.”</p>	<p>Leader CEO (M. Scott)</p>
<p>14. Motion From Councillor David Williams</p> <p>“Knowing the impact that the reductions in revenue support grant have had over the last 5 years on vital services and the likely impact of even stronger cuts will have on the most vulnerable in our Community in future years, Oxfordshire County Council calls on the party leaders of the Conservative Labour and Liberal Democrats to abandon their plans to impose even further cuts on local Government and to recognise that local Government plays a vital role in our community and should no longer bear the burden of an economic policy known as ‘Austerity’ that is of dubious merit and</p>	<p>Lost by 50 votes to 2.</p>	

County Council Decisions

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<p>limited effectiveness.</p> <p>The Chief Executive to write to all three party leaders with a copy of this motion.”</p>		
<p>15. Motion From Councillor Coates</p> <p>“Having undertaken a deep review of the future Transport Strategy the County Council is of the opinion that one of the key issues to easing congestion on Oxfordshire roads is to encourage more travellers to take non car options such as walking, cycling and public transport by bus and train.</p> <p>Knowing that choices of transport modes essentially comes down to an economic decision based on the cheapest options this Council calls on the Government to divert part of the £18billion already committed for road building to rail expansion and reductions in rail fares , bus subsidies and new cycle support networks.</p> <p>The County Council also considers that now is maybe the time to consider bringing ALL of the rail system back into public ownership and control and to end rail franchises that see large scale public funding underpinning massive profit taking by private companies.</p> <p>The Chief Executive to forward copies of this motion to the Prime Minister and the Minister for Transport on the 11 May 2015.”</p>	<p>Lost by 34 votes to 16, with 1 abstention.</p>	
<p>16. Motion From Councillor Coates</p> <p>“The County Council is concerned at the recent report by the World Wildlife Fund Living Planet Index that 50% of wildlife has gone from the planet over the last 45 years. Clearly this includes substantial numbers of mammals, birds, reptiles,</p>	<p>Carried by 36 votes to 15, with 1 abstention.</p>	<p>DEE (S. Scane)</p>

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<p>amphibians and fish disappearing from, the Oxfordshire ecosystem since 1970.</p> <p>One estimate for UK wildlife decline since 1970 is about a 58% reduction. The Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust has said this report is valid for our area, in terms of their observations.</p> <p>The County Council has already shown its concern with bee colony collapse and is pledged to support the species with a programme designed to assist bee communities to prosper. However the WWF Living Index Research suggests a deeper and even more serious concern across a wide spectrum of creatures that constitute our local Oxfordshire Wildlife.</p> <p>The Council requests that the report currently being undertaken by the Local Nature Partnership is circulated to all members and considered by Cabinet to illustrate what may be done to reverse the decline in wildlife population numbers here in Oxfordshire.”</p>		
<p>17. Motion From Councillor David Williams</p> <p>“This Council notes with dismay the continued expansion of the Academy and Free Schools programme endorsed in the 2015 manifestos of the Conservative and Labour Parties. The Council calls on the Leaders of the Parties to follow the example of the Swedish Government and end this experiment in Governance and return all schools to democratic control and accountability with clear universal professional standards, commitment to a similar curriculum, non-selective criteria and general equity in funding.</p> <p>The Council is concerned at the billions of pounds that have been diverted from mainstream education to try to make Free Schools work and the dramatic impact this</p>	<p>The time being 3.30 pm this motion was considered dropped.</p>	

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<p>has had on local authority schools funding.</p> <p>The Council would seek to illustrate to the Secretary of State for Education the advantages of maintaining and enhancing the ' Local Education Authority ' with its excellent central role in providing collective services to schools in a wide range of areas. The Council is concerned that the obvious advantages in collectively improving the quality of local education provision provided via the LEA are being wasted in the fragmentation and atomisation that Academies and Free Schools generate.</p> <p>The Chief Executive to forward copies of this motion to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Education on the 11 May 2015."</p>		

