



County Council

3 November 2015

Agenda

Declarations of Interest

The duty to declare.....

Under the Localism Act 2011 it is a criminal offence to

- (a) fail to register a disclosable pecuniary interest within 28 days of election or co-option (or re-election or re-appointment), or
- (b) provide false or misleading information on registration, or
- (c) participate in discussion or voting in a meeting on a matter in which the member or co-opted member has a disclosable pecuniary interest.

Whose Interests must be included?

The Act provides that the interests which must be notified are those of a member or co-opted member of the authority, or

- those of a spouse or civil partner of the member or co-opted member;
- those of a person with whom the member or co-opted member is living as husband/wife
- those of a person with whom the member or co-opted member is living as if they were civil partners.

(in each case where the member or co-opted member is aware that the other person has the interest).

What if I remember that I have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest during the Meeting?

The Code requires that, at a meeting, where a member or co-opted member has a disclosable interest (of which they are aware) in any matter being considered, they disclose that interest to the meeting. The Council will continue to include an appropriate item on agendas for all meetings, to facilitate this.

Although not explicitly required by the legislation or by the code, it is recommended that in the interests of transparency and for the benefit of all in attendance at the meeting (including members of the public) the nature as well as the existence of the interest is disclosed.

A member or co-opted member who has disclosed a pecuniary interest at a meeting must not participate (or participate further) in any discussion of the matter; and must not participate in any vote or further vote taken; and must withdraw from the room.

Members are asked to continue to pay regard to the following provisions in the code that *“You must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself”* or *“You must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned.....”*

Please seek advice from the Monitoring Officer prior to the meeting should you have any doubt about your approach.

List of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:

Employment (includes *“any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain”*), **Sponsorship, Contracts, Land, Licences, Corporate Tenancies, Securities.**

For a full list of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and further Guidance on this matter please see the Guide to the New Code of Conduct and Register of Interests at Members’ conduct guidelines. <http://intranet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wps/wcm/connect/occ/Insite/Elected+members/> or contact Glenn Watson on (01865) 815270 or glenn.watson@oxfordshire.gov.uk for a hard copy of the document.

If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named on the front page, but please give as much notice as possible before the meeting.

To: **Members of the County Council**

Notice of a Meeting of the County Council

Tuesday, 3 November 2015 at 10.00 am

County Hall, Oxford OX1 1ND



P.G. Clark
Head of Paid Service

October 2015

Contact Officer: **Deborah Miller**
Tel: (01865) 815384; E-Mail: deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk

In order to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, notice is given that Items 3, 7 and 12 will be recorded. The purpose of recording proceedings is to provide an *aide-memoire* to assist the clerk of the meeting in the drafting of minutes.

Members are asked to sign the attendance book which will be available in the corridor outside the Council Chamber. A list of members present at the meeting will be compiled from this book.

A buffet luncheon will be provided

AGENDA

1. Minutes (Pages 1 - 34)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2015 (**CC1**) and to receive information arising from them.

2. Apologies for Absence

3. Declarations of Interest - see guidance note

Members are reminded that they must declare their interests orally at the meeting and specify (a) the nature of the interest and (b) which items on the agenda are the relevant items. This applies also to items where members have interests by virtue of their membership of a district council in Oxfordshire.

4. Official Communications

5. Appointments

To make any changes to the membership of the Cabinet, scrutiny and other committees on the nomination of political groups.

6. Petitions and Public Address

7. Questions with Notice from Members of the Public

8. Questions with Notice from Members of the Council

9. Report of the Cabinet (Pages 35 - 40)

Report of the Cabinet meetings held on 15 September 2015 and 20 October 2015 (CC9).

10. Adult Services Workforce Strategy (Pages 41 - 46)

Report by Director for Adult Social Care (CC10).

The Adult Social Care sector in Oxfordshire is facing significant challenges with workforce capacity and capability, arising from growing demand for care and support and the increasing complexity of care and support needs.

Modelling by the Council has established that the county's social care workforce needs to grow by up to 750 every year for the next 10 years just to keep pace with the growing numbers of people requiring care.

To address the longer term workforce issues, Oxfordshire County Council worked with stakeholders during 2014/15 to develop and produce the Oxfordshire Adult Social Care Workforce Strategy 2015/18 and draft implementation plan.

The purpose of the Workforce Strategy is to build the capacity and capability of the workforce and the implementation plan outlines practical steps to achieve this.

On 20 October, the Cabinet considered and approved the Workforce Strategy and

agreed that the report be presented to full Council.

Council is RECOMMENDED to note the report.

11. Virements to Council (Pages 47 - 50)

Report by the Chief Finance Officer (CC11)

As set out in the Financial Monitoring and Business Strategy Delivery Report to Cabinet on 20 October 2015, there are two virements that under the virement rules need to be agreed by Council. The virements are in respect of the un-ring-fenced grant received by the Council relating to the closure of the Independent Living Fund and the transfer £2.0m from Public Health reserves to the Capital Programme for the Children's Homes Project. Details are set out in Annex 1 to the report.

Council is RECOMMENDED to agree:

- (a) the virements in respect of the unring-fenced grant received by the Council relating to the closure of the Independent Living Fund;***
- (b) the transfer £2.0m from Public Health reserves to the Capital Programme for the Children's Homes Project.***

12. Oxfordshire Devolution - Themed Debate (Pages 51 - 78)

Report by the Leader of the Council (CC12).

On 4 September, the Leaders of the six Oxfordshire Authorities, along with the Local Enterprise Partnership and the Clinical Commissioning Group submitted an expression of interest to government setting out initial proposals for devolution in Oxfordshire for discussion with government. This is attached at Annex A. The proposals request greater local control over significant funding for transport, skills training and health services.

At its meeting on 20 October Cabinet agreed that a debate should be held at full council in order to understand all members' views. This paper is provided to inform discussions. It contains an overview of the context, the proposals, the current work underway and sets out the next stages in the process.

Council is RECOMMENDED to note the report and to consider the possible implications of devolution to Oxfordshire.

MOTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

WOULD MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE THAT ANY AMENDMENTS TO MOTIONS WITH NOTICE MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE PROPER OFFICER IN WRITING BY 9.00 AM ON THE MONDAY BEFORE THE MEETING

13. Motion From Councillor Liz Brighthouse

“This Council, being deeply disturbed at the cuts it has already implemented, those it has agreed but not yet implemented and the additional cuts which will be required as it sets next year's budget, calls on the Government not to set a limit on the Council Tax increase as such a restriction stifles local democracy and will severely hamper our ability to meet the needs of Oxfordshire's Citizens. If such a restriction is subsequently set it asks officers in consultation with Group Leaders to set up an informal survey on the attitude of Oxfordshire's residents to a referendum to meet those needs by an increase in the Council Tax.”

14. Motion From Councillor David Williams

“Having taken into account the comments that have been made during the consultation period thus far, the Council requests that the Cabinet reconsider that the closure of any of the Children's Centres be set aside and not included in the forthcoming budget settlement as an action to assist with further savings. The Council recognises that the closures may be a false economy, the impact on families being such that closure will in all probability result in greater financial pressures on the social services and the local NHS. As individuals, mostly women will be forced to give up part time employment, as a result of the planned closures. The Council also recognises that this policy will not only deeply impact on thousands of families and their children but also damage the local economy.

During the next six months the Council will assist the Children's Centres in their ongoing quest for greater efficiency where it can. However for the foreseeable future the option of closure will be lifted and existing financial support retained for all the centres in the network. The Cabinet to take account of this full Council budgetary decision whilst formulating the accounts for the next financial year 2016-2017.”

15. Motion From Councillor David Williams

“This Council welcomes the return of the Business Rate to local Council control but is concerned that the Chancellor is still pledged to continue to reduce the level of Rates Support Grant in his objective of achieving a free market in raising local taxation for that philosophy takes no account of the needs in various local authorities and will only serve to further widen the gap between affluent and deprived areas of the Country.

The Council is also concerned that the 'devolution' of control of the Business Rate will be of limited value if it is set at a national flat rate determined by central government a flat rate that the Council cannot modify or sub divide as it sees fit.

After more details are revealed in the New Year, a special briefing to be established that all Councillors and senior officers should be invited to attend to illustrate what this change in responsibilities will mean in financial income and what flexibility the Chancellor has actually given, if any, to local councils to implement a real devolved Business Rate service.”

16. Motion From Councillor Sam Coates

“This Council notes the problems that are emerging with the implementation of the ‘Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015’ for teachers and social workers, as well as those in the local community, such as landlords and religious leaders.

There is a challenge for specified authorities, including local authorities, schools, the police, health and others, to implement the new legal obligation in the exercise of their functions, in order to have ‘due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism’ and, especially for schools to promote ‘British values’, in order to ensure the protection of vulnerable adults and young people at risk of radicalisation.

The legislation, like all laws based on ‘suspicion’ could breach free speech and professional confidentiality and with its legal obligations places responsibilities on officers of the Council that may be deemed unfair. There is also the fear that a network of false accusations could arise wasting precious police time and stigmatising specific young people. However, these fears and challenges need to be balanced with ensuring that vulnerable people are safeguarded from exploitation by extremists.

This Council will ask the Director For Children, Education & Families to work collaboratively and sensitively with schools, professional groups, school governors, trade unions, local faith groups and others to ensure that implementation of the new duty is done constructively and in consultation with local communities as appropriate.”

17. Motion From Councillor Gill Sanders

“This Council recognising that many parents do not take up the offer of a funded place for their 2 year olds, asks the Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Families to write to the Secretary of State asking that the criteria for receiving the grant be extended to include parents who do not have the confidence to leave their small children but who would happily take up and benefit from taking up a place if they could stay with their 2 year old.”

Pre-Meeting Briefing

There will be a pre-meeting briefing at County Hall on **Monday 2 November 2015 at 10.15 am** for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Group Leaders and Deputy Group Leaders

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OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 8 September 2015 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 4.20 pm.

Present:

Councillor John Sanders – in the Chair

Councillors:

Lynda Atkins	Mark Gray	Neil Owen
Jamila Azad	Patrick Greene	Zoé Patrick
David Bartholomew	Tim Hallchurch MBE	Glynis Phillips
Mike Beal	Pete Handley	Susanna Pressel
Maurice Billington	Jenny Hannaby	Laura Price
Liz Brighthouse OBE	Nick Hards	Anne Purse
Kevin Bulmer	Neville F. Harris	G.A. Reynolds
Nick Carter	Steve Harrod	Alison Rooke
Louise Chapman	Mrs Judith Heathcoat	Rodney Rose
Mark Cherry	Hilary Hibbert-Biles	Gillian Sanders
John Christie	John Howson	Les Sibley
Sam Coates	Ian Hudspeth	Roz Smith
Yvonne Constance OBE	Bob Johnston	Lawrie Stratford
Steve Curran	Stewart Lilly	John Tanner
Surinder Dhesi	Lorraine Lindsay-Gale	Melinda Tilley
Arash Fatemian	Sandy Lovatt	Michael Waine
Neil Fawcett	Mark Lygo	David Williams
Jean Fooks	Kieron Mallon	David Wilmshurst
Mrs C. Fulljames	Charles Mathew	
Anthony Gearing	James Mills	

The Council considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting and decided as set out below. Except insofar as otherwise specified, the reasons for the decisions are contained in the agenda and reports, copies of which are attached to the signed Minutes.

50/15 MINUTES

(Agenda Item 1)

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 July 2015 were approved and signed.

51/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(Agenda Item 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Godden, Langridge, Owen and Webber.

The Council welcomed Zoe Patrick back on her return to the Chamber.

52/15 OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

(Agenda Item 4)

The Chairman reported as follows:

Council paid tribute to the Joanna Simons on her 10 years' service as Chief Executive to Oxfordshire County Council. The Chairman presented Joanna with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of Council as a token of its appreciation.

Council paid tribute and held a minute's silence to honour the memory of former County Councillor Ann Bonner, County Councillor from 2009-2013 and former County Councillor Richard Rymer, County Councillor from 1985 – 1989.

53/15 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS

(Agenda Item 6)

Council received the following public address:

Ms Helen Marshall, spoke on behalf of Protect Rural Oxfordshire (PRO) against the proposals in relation to Park & Ride Sites set out in Agenda Item 14, Local Transport Plan 2015 – 2031. PRO believed the sites proposed in the Plan would have a severe detrimental impact on the greenbelt and that the County Council should have conducted proper research into the impact of such sites before including them in the Strategy. PRO further questioned the logic of locating Park & Ride sites in the Countryside, thus moving congestion onto rural roads. Furthermore, there was no information in the Park & Ride Strategy explaining why 6 of the proposed sites were in the greenbelt and the cumulative effect this would have, or whether alternative sites had been considered. She urged the Council to reject the LTP4 until a proper evidence based study had been carried out into Park & Ride provision in Oxfordshire.

Ms Julie Maberley, speaking in relation to Agenda Item 14, urged the Council to oppose the Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) on the basis that the Strategy was not strategic and did not include planned funds for the transport infrastructure needed to support the proposed growth in the Wantage & Grove area in terms of road infrastructure, public transport, cycling and local schools.

Ms Jill Huish, local Resident and user of children centres in Oxford spoke in relation to agenda Item 8, Questions with Notice from Members of the Council against the closures of Children's Centres. She related her personal experiences with the centres, including the extensive support she received through Domestic Violence. She urged the County Council to reconsider closing the centres as they provided essential support to mothers and families such as outreach, domestic violence, breast feeding, mental health support, speech therapy, freedom support and nutrition allowing families to

help themselves before intervention was needed. She believed the closure of the centres would see an increase in Social Services intervention and leave many families in Oxfordshire isolated and vulnerable.

Mr Alexander Murray, Local resident of Witney spoke in support Agenda Item 15, Motion from Councillor Laura Price. He expressed deep concern that the trust had been implementing changes to the Community Hospital without due and proper consultation and that further changes would result in patients from Witney having to go elsewhere for treatment. He urged the Council to support the Motion put forward by Councillor Laura Price.

Mr David Hartley, West Oxon 38 Campaign Group spoke in support of Agenda Item 15, Motion from Councillor Laura Price. He expressed deep concern over the implemented changes carried out thus far including ward closure and staff losses at the Witney Community Hospital. He further expressed concern that the implementations had not been carried out with the expected transparency or formal consultation with all 'stakeholders' and that the decision by the OCCG, raised serious questions regarding the future integrity of WCH to offer the high standard of health provision it had been clearly able to manage up until these apparently arbitrary and unilateral changes.

54/15 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
(Agenda Item 7)

Mrs Alison Williams to Councillor Judith Heathcoat

Can the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care assure ratepayers, Councillors and those who use the services that thorough risk assessments have been undertaken which take into account potential health & safety hazards that will be faced by the most vulnerable people in our county as a result of reduction in services due to the most recent cuts to their budgets in this financial year and following years?

Furthermore, can the responsible Councillor explain and give proof to elected members residents and users that reassure us that none of the people of Oxfordshire will be at any serious risk or harm as a result of this third round of severe cuts in services.

Answer:

Adult Social Care prioritises the safety and wellbeing of all service users and carers, and has overarching statutory responsibility for safeguarding the adult population of the county. As such, all decisions taken in the directorate include full consideration of the potential impact they will have, both positive and negative, to ensure that there will not be any unacceptable risks or consequences resulting from proposed changes.

In line with national good practice and Oxfordshire County Council policy, all proposals to change policy, service delivery or projects are informed by a

Service and Community Impact Assessment (SCIA). This considers the potential impact of the proposals on individuals and communities, staff, other service areas, and partner and provider organisations. Assessments consider the full range of potential risks and impacts, including health and safety, and set out the action that will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts identified.

The Service and Community Impact Assessments are used to inform decision-making within Adult Social Care and for the Council as a whole - Service and Community Impact Assessments accompany Cabinet papers recommending changes in policy, projects and service delivery. An overall impact assessment considering the cumulative impact of changes in the council budget on particular groups and individuals is also produced each year as part of the papers agreed by Cabinet and Council.

Supplementary Question

Would you agree with me that your answer merely describes the process and the services and that the Community Impact Assessments, on the Council Website, do not clearly identify any evidence or show low, medium and high risk assessments addressing health and safety and legal rights of vulnerable people? Do you not agree that they do not set objectives, which have due regard to the duties placed on the Council by their own Equality Policy, the Human Rights Act 2010, or the Council's own Constitution, which can identify councillors who vote for those savage cuts, if legal proceedings ensue, because now you are remiss in gathering sufficient evidence to inform your decisions.

Answer

What the supplementary question shows is that it is believed by many that we are cutting what people get. Oxfordshire County Council is not, we will continue to meet eligibility need. Paragraph 1 states that we have overarching statutory responsibility for safeguarding the adult population. Paragraph 2 outlines national good practice, which we uphold and Paragraph 3 answers the question overall.

55/15 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(Agenda Item 8)

16 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.

In relation to Question 15 (Question from Councillor Harris to Councillor Hudspeth) Councillor Hudspeth gave a commitment to organise a meeting of interested councillors across the County to discuss the points set out in Councillor Harris's question.

56/15 SENIOR OFFICER APPOINTMENTS

(Agenda Item 9)

At the last meeting of Council on 14 July, the Council commenced the statutory procedure for making the appointment of Head of Paid Service, nominating Mr Peter Clark, Chief Legal Officer. Council also noted that if it wished to appoint the Chief Legal Officer as the Head of Paid Service then it would also need to make a nomination to the post of Monitoring Officer. This was because the law did not allow the same person to be both a Monitoring Officer and a Head of Paid Service for the same Authority. As a result, Council nominated Mr Nick Graham, the Deputy Head of Law and Culture, to be the successor Monitoring Officer. These nominations were subject to consultation with Cabinet Members. No objections were made to either appointment.

Council had before them a report (CC9) which set out the procedural requirements for Council to finalise these senior officer appointments.

RESOLVED: (on a motion by Councillor Hudspeth, seconded by Councillor Rose and carried by 58 votes to 0, with 1 abstention) to confirm the following:

- (a) that the Chief Legal Officer be appointed as the Council's Head of Paid Service;
- (b) that the Deputy Head of Law and Culture be appointed as the Council's Monitoring Officer;
- (c) that both appointments take effect on the cessation of the current Chief Executive's employment with the Council.

57/15 TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN 2014/15

(Agenda Item 10)

The Council had before them a report by the Chief Finance Officer (CC10) which set out the Treasury Management activity undertaken in the financial year 2014/15 in compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice. The report included Debt and Investment activity, Prudential Indicator Outturn, Investment Strategy, and interest receivable and payable for the financial year.

During debate, the Shadow Cabinet Member asked a number of detailed questions which the Cabinet Member, Councillor Lawrie Stratford agreed to respond to in writing. The questions were as follows:

1. Is lending to other local authorities genuinely safe;
2. In the light of our cash balance of £341m and his recent criticisms of councils' cash balances, are we at risk of being penalised by the Chancellor;
3. While growth at 3% sounds impressive (Para 7), doesn't the trade deficit of 5 or 6% of GDP pose risks; and

4. In view of the economic slow-down in China, should we reconsider the inclusion of Overseas-China Banking Corporation in our list Lending List?

The Cabinet Member for Finance, Councillor Lawrie Stratford gave an undertaking to respond to the questions in writing.

RESOLVED: (on a motion by Councillor Stratford, seconded by Councillor Hudspeth and carried nem con) to note the Council's Treasury Management Activity in 2014/15.

58/15 PARTNERSHIPS UPDATE REPORT

(Agenda Item 11)

The Council had before them an Annual report which set out some of the key activities over the past year of both the Oxfordshire Partnership and a number of other key formal partnerships within which the County Council played a part.

The report provided an update on the Oxfordshire-wide partnerships which were critical in progressing key countywide priorities, enabling partners to work across the themes of a thriving Oxfordshire, including economic growth, health and wellbeing, thriving communities, and support to the most vulnerable.

Each partnership report addressed the following points: the current focus for the Partnership; the personnel (Chairman and supporting staff) of the Partnership; the Partnership's governance arrangements; the Partnership's key achievements in the last year; the aims for the Partnership in the year ahead; the key challenges for the Partnership and how those would be addressed going forward.

RESOLVED: (on a motion by Councillor Hudspeth, seconded by Councillor Rose and carried nem con) to note the report.

59/15 DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT

(Agenda Item 12)

The Council had before them the 8th Annual Report by the Director of Public Health which summarised key issues associated with the Public Health of the County. It included details of progress over the past year as well as information on future work. It was an independent report for all organisations and individuals.

The report had also been considered during July 2015 at the Oxfordshire Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board and Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet.

RESOLVED: (on a motion by Councillor Hibbert-Biles, seconded by Councillor Hudspeth and carried nem con) to receive the report.

60/15 REPORT OF THE CABINET

(Agenda Item 13)

The Council received the report of the Cabinet.

In relation to paragraph 7 (2015/16 Financial Monitoring & Business Strategy Delivery Report – May 2015) (Question from Councillor Smith) Councillor Stratford gave an assurance to ask Councillor Nimmo Smith to provide Councillor Smith with a written answer to the following 2 questions:

Transport & highways budgets for projects – when will we see how that money will be spent?

What is being done about the A40 crossing and traffic calming in Quarry Hollow?

In relation to paragraph 8 (Public Health Annual Report) (Question from Councillor Phillips) Councillor Hibbert-Biles gave an assurance to provide Councillor Phillips with a written answer with details on why the 7 Health targets would not be met.

61/15 CONNECTING OXFORDSHIRE: LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 2015 - 2031

(Agenda Item 14)

With the agreement of Council, Councillor Nimmo Smith accepted the proposed amendment by Councillor Fooks as follows:

“This Council passed a motion in April 2014 recommending that LTP4 should recognize the need to reduce pollutants from road traffic.

Whilst admitting that air quality “may well get worse with increasing traffic levels”, LTP4 seriously underestimates the impact on health of exposure to NOx gases and Particulates.

LTP4 estimates that 13,000 premature deaths a year are caused by overall combustion emissions, with road transport being the biggest source, although the estimate until recently was that 29,000 premature deaths are caused each year due to particulates alone. Even this figure is less than half the latest estimate by the “Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants”.

Council therefore requests that LTP4 should be strengthened in its aims to reduce air pollution by more positively:

- Encouraging walking and cycling;
- restricting diesel vehicles in town centres;
- working more proactively with the city and District Councils to develop and enact Air Quality Action Plans;
- introducing low-or zero-emission mass transit vehicles.”

Following debate, the motion as amended was put to the vote and was agreed by 32 votes to 25, with 2 abstentions.

RESOLVED: (on a motion by Councillor Nimmo Smith, seconded by Councillor Hudspeth and carried by 32 votes to 25, with 2 abstentions) to:

- (a) adopt Connecting Oxfordshire: Local Transport Plan 2015-2031 (LTP4) as council policy; and
- (b) instruct the Deputy Director of Environment and Economy (Strategy & Infrastructure Planning), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment, to keep the document under review and to make any necessary changes, including the amendment by Councillor Jean Fooks, subject to any such changes being reported to County Council for approval within 12 months.

62/15 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR LAURA PRICE

(Agenda Item 15)

With the consent of Council, Councillor Price moved and Councillor Heathcoat seconded her motion as amended below in strikethrough:

“Since May 2014 several of our Community Hospitals have undergone changes to the services they deliver and how those services are delivered. Individually these changes have not been deemed appropriate for public consultation and communities have been left feeling cheated of an opportunity to engage.

These hospitals form an integral part of the work of Oxfordshire Adult Social Care and are crucial in providing seamless appropriate and timely care for vulnerable elderly and disabled people in the County.

This Council, therefore, asks that in their role as commissioner, the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group lead on a full public consultation on the future shape of Oxfordshire’s Community Hospitals and that Oxfordshire Council fully engage with the process ~~and Oxfordshire County Council urgently co-ordinate a full public consultation on the future shape of Oxfordshire’s Community Hospitals~~ before further incremental changes damage the public’s relationship with these vital services.”

Following debate, the motion, as amended was put to the vote and was carried nem con.

RESOLVED: (nem con)

Since May 2014 several of our Community Hospitals have undergone changes to the services they deliver and how those services are delivered. Individually these changes have not been deemed appropriate for public consultation and communities have been left feeling cheated of an opportunity to engage.

These hospitals form an integral part of the work of Oxfordshire Adult Social Care and are crucial in providing seamless appropriate and timely care for vulnerable elderly and disabled people in the County.

This Council, therefore, asks that in their role as commissioner, the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group lead on a full public consultation on the future shape of Oxfordshire's Community Hospitals and that Oxfordshire Council fully engage with the process before further incremental changes damage the public's relationship with these vital services.

63/15 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR KEVIN BULMER

(Agenda Item 16)

Councillor Bulmer moved and Councillor Harrod seconded the following motion:

“As we all know, this Council is facing extreme pressure to reduce expenditure, to the extent that we are now considering closing some of our Household Waste Recycling Centres in order to save some £350,000 annually. An alternative to these closures would be to charge residents for their use. However, long-standing legislation from the Civic Amenities Act 1967 to the Environmental Protection Act 1990 has required local authorities to provide free-to-use household waste recycling centres for their residents to dispose of household rubbish and recycling. The government's 2011 waste review upheld this principle.

The government is concerned these charges will inconvenience residents; increase fly-tipping and back-yard burning; and make recycling harder for people rather than its stated objective of making it easier. The government believes that residents should continue to have free access to household waste recycling centres in their local authority area.

However, when the alternative to 'free access' becomes 'no access', this argument loses some of its impetus. In spite of the noted success of kerbside recycling in Oxfordshire, there are still a million-plus trips made to HWRCs in this county annually. Clearly, a nominal charge of a pound a time would generate far more revenue than the £350,000 savings target.

This Council calls upon the Leader of the Council to send a letter to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government requesting an urgent re-evaluation of the government's stance, thereby to enable LAs to charge residents to use HWRCs, in order to prevent their closure.”

Following debate, the motion was put to the vote and was agreed by 38 votes to 16.

RESOLVED: accordingly.

64/15 MOTION BY COUNCILLOR ROZ SMITH

(Agenda Item 17)

With the consent of Council, Councillor Smith moved and Councillor Johnson seconded her motion as amended by Councillor Bartholomew below in bold italics and strikethrough:

“This Council recognises the invaluable work undertaken by volunteers running village halls and community centres throughout Oxfordshire. The community buildings the volunteers look after provide facilities such as lunch clubs, exercise classes, pre-schools, libraries and other activities to improve health and wellbeing.

Austerity measures and budgets cuts have meant grants towards the costs of improving and maintaining the village halls and community centres are diminishing. The volunteers have to fund raise even more vigorously to maintain and upgrade the buildings they look after. Most building work on village halls and centres is liable for VAT at the standard rate of 20%; ***but usually parish councils are able to claim this back. However, in some instances charities or community groups not aligned with parish councils could, for example, have to find another £20,000 for the VAT bill on a £100,000 extension.*** for instance, a village hall committee raising funds for a £100,000 extension has to find another £20,000 for the VAT bill. This is a tax on voluntary effort.

This Council agrees to show support for the National Village Halls, ***by instructing the Chief Financial Officer to write to parish councils clarifying the VAT position and by writing to all Oxfordshire MPs to ask them to support calls to reduce the VAT burden on charitable organisations looking after our village halls and community buildings when VAT cannot be reclaimed.*** ~~Forum campaign to reduce the VAT rate for building improvements to charitable organisations by writing to all Oxfordshire MPs to ask them to support the campaign to reduce this tax burden on charitable organisations looking after our village halls and community buildings when considering the next national budget.”~~

Following debate, the motion, as amended was put to the vote and was carried nem con.

RESOLVED: (nem con)

This Council recognises the invaluable work undertaken by volunteers running village halls and community centres throughout Oxfordshire. The community buildings the volunteers look after provide facilities such as lunch clubs, exercise classes, pre-schools, libraries and other activities to improve health and wellbeing.

Austerity measures and budgets cuts have meant grants towards the costs of improving and maintaining the village halls and community centres are diminishing. The volunteers have to fund raise even more vigorously to

maintain and upgrade the buildings they look after. Most building work on village halls and centres is liable for VAT at the standard rate of 20%; but usually parish councils are able to claim this back. However, in some instances charities or community groups not aligned with parish councils could, for example, have to find another £20,000 for the VAT bill on a £100,000 extension. For instance, a village hall committee raising funds for a £100,000 extension has to find another £20,000 for the VAT bill. This is a tax on voluntary effort.

This Council agrees to show support for the National Village Halls, by instructing the Chief Financial Officer to write to parish councils clarifying the VAT position and by writing to all Oxfordshire MPs to ask them to support calls to reduce the VAT burden on charitable organisations looking after our village halls and community buildings when VAT cannot be reclaimed.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing

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QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Questions are listed in the order in which they were received. The time allowed for this agenda item will not exceed 30 minutes. Should any questioner not have received an answer in that time, a written answer will be provided.

Questions	Answers
<p>1. COUNCILLOR BOB JOHNSTON</p> <p>What is the status of rail (both heavy and light) in respect of LTP4, given that all reference to them was deleted at the July Cabinet meeting?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>This is going to be covered in the report to Council (8 September) on LTP4. The relevant extract is as follows:</p> <p>“The addendum to Cabinet outlined our strategic priorities and ambition for rail investment in Oxfordshire. Extensive consultation took place on the 2012 Strategy and work to revise this is substantially complete. The updated Strategy is proposed to be finalised this autumn, for stakeholder consultation and further consideration/amendment, before being submitted for approval as part of the LTP4 update in spring 2016.”</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Given that spring is somewhat a slippery concept and can be defined variously would the Cabinet Member like to indicate which is the most likely meeting of Cabinet and Council that the revised proposals can come to?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Well it will be as soon as it’s actually been prepared. Hopefully this will be towards the end of the year and then through the Cabinet and Council after that at the earliest opportunity.</p>
<p>2. COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS</p> <p>Cutting £6 million from the subsidies from bus services will be undoubtedly mean that certain services especially in rural areas and</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The capital funding investment being used to improve the road network is coming from Central Government, developments, or the Local Enterprise Partnership to support and enable Oxfordshire’s future growth. It is generally the result of</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>the Dial a Ride network are in danger of closure. Does the Cabinet Member for Transport agree with me that there is something seriously wrong when the County is spending millions on road widening schemes, redesigning roundabout and building ever more park and rides whilst at the same time turning its back on public transport and its obvious advantages in transport planning , pollution control and carbon emissions?</p>	<p>specific bids to government which have clear growth outcomes linked to it and cannot be spent on other areas of council business. In many instances these schemes will provide improved bus service journeys. The Council's Local Transport Plan is very much focused on improving and investing in the bus network creating conditions and maximising levels of patronage to ensure bus services can be operated on a commercial basis.</p> <p>With continuing financial pressures the Council cannot justify or sustain investing its limited revenue funding year on year into subsidising Bus Services. Ensuring accessibility for those in rural areas is a challenge and one we recognise - we must look at different way and model of providing this. The Council currently supports approximately 9% of the bus network, the remainder being run on a commercial basis, and it is committed to supporting rural communities within the financial constraints that it has. We have made a lot of progress on this through the community transport project but a significant proportion of this support needs to be through providing an environment where the commercial bus network can grow so that it does not place an on-going burden on the tax payers of Oxfordshire.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Do you not think it is a contrast that here we are making £6m worth of cuts to subsidies to our buses while at the same time we seem to have a pot of money for redesigning roundabouts, widening roads and a new range of park and rides, everything to do with developing car support in the County Council. Isn't it sad that we have a situation where public transport is being cut and private car travel is actually being encouraged?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Councillor Williams will be aware that there is an A40 consultation going on which will include a possibility of a dedicated bus lane from Eynsham to the Wolvercote Roundabout area. We are in a position where we are encouraging and chasing economic development in this County which brings in central government money, which is where the major infrastructure works are being carried out. This doesn't preclude choice being built into any of the programmes and he will know from LTP4, which we will be discussing later on today, that actually choice is foremost in that particular programme which allows for people to use buses, cars, trains, river if they want to and walk and cycle.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>3. COUNCILLOR SAM COATES</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member for Transport indicate how many full time designated cycle officer are members of the dedicated transport infrastructure planning team? Could the Portfolio Holder take into account that most local authorities have cycle officers (Coventry have 6) as a part of the senior design team and without them cycling is always an afterthought with a constant and supreme priority for cars.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The simple answer is the Council has no full time, designated cycle officers. However, this is because cycling, along with other specific modes of transport is part of the role of all the transport planners. They are expected to consider what we can do to promote/encourage and deliver infrastructure for cyclists, in both planning and design teams, ensuring cycling is not an afterthought. Most schemes we build tend to have a cycling element or have indirect benefits for cyclists and we have been very successful in attracting funding through this model. This has been the Council's approach for some years.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Given the stated ambition for cycling developments in the forthcoming transport plan does he not think that the lack of a dedicated cycling officer is quite concerning and could he attempt to quantify perhaps what the collective knowledge within the general planners that we do have, for example does that equal 1 dedicated cycling officer?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>We do not have a dedicated cycling officer for the reason that we want all the officers to look holistically at all the options that are available and not just at any one particular option which is why we don't have people dedicated for any other the schemes that we are doing they are all cross-cutting.</p>
<p>4. COUNCILLOR SAM COATES</p> <p>Would the Cabinet Member comment on the recently issued figures from the Department of Transport which show that Oxfordshire is now far behind Cambridgeshire in its monthly</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>A number of significant measures are being put in place to create the foundation for cycling to be a major model of travel in Oxfordshire. The new Oxfordshire Cycling Strategy forms an integral part of Connecting Oxfordshire: Local</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>cycle usage rates (30% Cambridge and 24% Oxfordshire). Could he outline what measures are being implemented to narrow this significant gap?</p>	<p>Transport Plan 2015-2031 (LTP4), alongside Area Strategies which set out specifically what will be implemented in these areas. It has been written in close collaboration with the Oxfordshire Cycle Network (a county-wide network of cycle campaigners) and our colleagues from Public Health and Countryside. Here are some of the measures that we will be putting in place:</p> <p>1. A Quality Infrastructure We will identify a series of strategic routes in collaboration with users, which we will develop into Cycle Premium Routes and Cycle Super Routes, which will become the focus of our future investment. Over time, local cycle networks will be upgraded to Connector Routes, which will enable safe, signed routes throughout the county as well as providing links to the Cycle Premium Routes and Cycle Super Routes</p> <p>2. Cycling as part of a Journey Cycling alone cannot replace the car for long journeys but a combination of cycle-rail or cycle-bus can. We will create better links between our developing cycle network and popular public transport hubs with safe and secure cycle parking available – not just in the obvious places such as rail stations, but also at main stops on key bus routes.</p> <p>3. New Developments In September 2013, Oxfordshire Councillors approved a motion that included requiring cycle-friendly measures into all new road schemes and housing developments. For large, new or expanded housing developments, developers must demonstrate through master planning how their site has been planned to make cycling convenient and safe for cyclists and must be constructed with cycling in mind. We will ask developers to fund cyclability audits so that local users can evaluate the quality of existing cycle routes and how they could be improved.</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p data-bbox="880 225 1637 256">4. Providing a Safe and Well Maintained Network</p> <p data-bbox="880 264 2029 576">Evidence shows that sharing narrow carriageway space with fast moving vehicles is why most people will not cycle on the carriageway. We will provide more segregated cycle lanes and other measures such as advance stop lines at junctions. We will consider lower speed limits and other traffic calming measures. Where space is not available, we will seek to sign cyclists along safer route options. A safe cycle network is also a well-maintained cycle network. Given limited resources, we will identify a list of priorities for maintenance on key cycle routes.</p> <p data-bbox="880 627 1346 659">5. Encourage People to Cycle</p> <p data-bbox="880 667 2033 1023">Even in cycling cities like Oxford and Cambridge, the majority of people do not cycle regularly. We want to make people feel that cycling is something for them. In collaboration with the Oxfordshire Cycle Network, we will develop options to support new or returning cyclists to build confidence in all aspects of cycling. In collaboration with our Public Health colleagues, we will promote cycling to people who are concerned about their health and fitness. We are also currently exploring ways of expanding the extremely successful pilot OXONBIKE cycle hire scheme serving Thornhill, Headington and Cowley to cover the whole city - and possibly beyond.</p> <p data-bbox="880 1070 1245 1102">6. Implementation Plan</p> <p data-bbox="880 1110 2018 1262">In summary, cycling is a vital component of the council's transport policy. A number of cycle schemes are underway to strengthen infrastructure and encourage more people to cycle. Provision for cyclists will continue to play a key role in planning for growth across Oxfordshire.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Can I also ask you if you would consider talking to your colleagues in Cambridge about how they have maintained such high cycling rates and how we can seek to do the same?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I have a cousin in Cambridge who was Leader of the City Council at one time. I will talk to him and I do meet him regularly.</p>
<p>5. COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS</p> <p>Is the Leader of the Council concerned that all meeting of the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership are held in secret with no members of the public and even County councillors excluded? How does the Leader who sometimes attends the LEP defend this lack of accountability in view of the Government's stance that as the LEP is spending public money LEPs are liable to an 'assurance framework' on their website that includes openness and transparency? How can the other Nolan Principles of Public Life such as honesty and objective leadership be affirmed if all meetings are secret?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>The tone of the question by Cllr Williams is trying to give the impression that the LEP is some sort of secretive organisation that is spending tax payer's money. I would suggest that Cllr Williams reads through all the documentation of the LEP website. The LEP was set up by the coalition government and operates under the relevant regulations. He will see that all democratically elected members of the 6 councillors are members of the LEP and therefore the democratic accountability sits firmly with them. I'm not sure what Cllr Williams is trying to say about my attendance when he uses the word 'sometimes' as I have attended 21 of the 25 meeting since I've been Leader. The partnership report debated at today's Council meeting gives all members the opportunity to ask questions regarding this successful partnership.</p> <p>He will also see that the LEP has been successful in obtaining funding deals worth over £200 million the benefits of which are already seen on the Southern approaches. Is Councillor Williams suggesting that this funding of vital infrastructure in Oxfordshire is something that he and the Green Party would not support?</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Would the Leader of the Council agree with me that meetings which are not open to the public, where you can only get the minutes two months after they have been approved by</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I think there are two questions there and I am happy to answer both of them. First of all, 'No' regarding the first question. Secondly, if the way the government is producing funding, which is absolutely vital to Oxfordshire, comes through a local enterprise partner, then I am happy to support that because it is based on</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>the following meeting is not transparency and the LEP is a classic example of a closed quango? Would he agree with me that really we should have that money?</p>	<p>everything that is coming forward. The Local Transport Plan 4, which we are going to be discussing later, is embedded in everything, and it you look at what we have had for the last 20 years in Oxfordshire, everybody has been crying out for more infrastructure development. In last 18-24 months we have actually started to deliver. We have had £200million worth of infrastructure investment through the local enterprise partnership and I think that is a good thing for Oxfordshire because just look at everything that is going on. Yes there are traffic road works, but at the southern roundabout traffic is flowing easily, Green Road, traffic flowing easily through there. We will have the same through Oxfordshire and if that is the governments of the day preferred route then so be it. I will work with the LEP to make sure we get the funding that the residents of Oxfordshire and the businesses of Oxfordshire need to thrive.</p>
<p>6. COUNCILLOR SAM COATES</p> <p>There have been numerous suggestions in this Council County Chamber about how to lobby the Government against further cuts in the level of rates support grant in the name of the 'Austerity' Programme most of which have been rejected or amended into impotence.</p> <p>Could I ask what you have actually done so far to formally lobby members of the Government on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council that the long term programme of cuts set out in 2010, the cuts announced in June 2015 and the further cuts expected in the Autumn Statement are more than this Council can take without devastating consequences to services? Does he agree that crocodile tears are not enough?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>I can confirm that every time I have been formally asked a council meeting to write to government I do so. There are frequent briefings to the local MPs that contain the financial details of the council. The deficit reduction is a national issue and we are full members of LGA and CCN who make the case on behalf of us and their other members, as do officers through their own networks.</p> <p>At every opportunity when I meet MPs I always make them aware of not just Oxfordshire funding situation but that of all councils across the UK. I do not see the different between a formal or informal meeting; in fact I would say that an informal meeting offers a better opportunity to get a point across. I do not see the point of going back through my diary over the last 5 years bringing forward a list of times I have met MPs or government ministers but I can assure Cllr Coates that I do talk frequently about our financial situation.</p> <p>I would like to remind Cllr Coates that on 7 May 2015 the country elected a Conservative government that has a clear aim of reducing the country's deficit. This will mean we all will have to prioritise the funding resources to those most vulnerable in our society. What the country clearly rejected was the fantasy</p>

Questions	Answers
	policies of the Green party that would simply rack up even more debt that would only be passed on to our children.
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Has the Leader had any representations to the Government specifically about the forthcoming spending review and the money for local government that will come out of that?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Yes.</p>
<p>7. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>What assurances can you give the parents and children who use Grandpont Children's Centre and Donnington Doorstep family centre about the future provision of open-access support for parents and children in my division?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR MELINDA TILLEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES</p> <p>I do not wish to pre-empt the Consultation process, by answering this question. I need to keep an open mind for the results of the Consultation process.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>It is perfectly clear from the document that has been published for Cabinet that Councillor Tilley can give no assurances to the parents in my division or anywhere else in Oxfordshire about Children's Centres staying open because it is her intend to close them?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I thought I have written that in my answer, I thought I had answered his question. Until the consultation is completed, I cannot answer questions like that and Councillor Tanner should know better. I always do my best to answer questions.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>8. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>Does the Cabinet member agree with me that the popular Redbridge Recycling Centre in my division should continue to remain open following the consultation on the savage cuts to recycling centres around Oxfordshire?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Councillor Tanner is being very premature in the use of such words as “savage” and “cuts”, when the consultation process has barely even started. The main aim of the process is to have a strategy in place to allow S106 to be collected to improve and replace [as necessary] our Household Waste and Recycling Centres. All areas of the County council have been asked to identify savings in preparation for the coming year’s budgets, with a target of £350K to come from HWRC’s. Should this mean the number of sites be reduced to 3 or 4, then the aim will be to place them in reach of all – a centre in or around the City will certainly be needed, although I fail to see why Cllr Tanner should think his Division should be privileged above all others.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Would the Cabinet Member not agree with me that he ought to know that Redbridge Recycling Centre, as the biggest and the most successful in the County, is absolutely vital that it should continue and it is just fortuitous that it is in my division?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I am aware whose division the Redbridge Recycling is.</p>
<p>9. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>How bad does the road surface of the heavily used Folly Bridge in Oxford have to become before the County Council takes seriously its responsibility to keep that (and other road surfaces) at a decent level for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council is currently in the process of programming investigatory work to Folly Bridge, St Aldates. This work is necessary in order to add the bridge surface to our forward programme of carriageway patching. The investigatory work includes digging trial pits on the bridge to ascertain the (build-up of bituminous layers), details of the existing construction and to gain certainty on the locations and depths of utility services. The trial pits will also give evidence of any potential water ingress to the bridge deck and will assist in</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>determining the specification of the most suitable (re-surfacing material) type of repair. Following these investigations, it is anticipated that the necessary work to Folly Bridge will be undertaken early next financial year. Until this work is completed, Folly Bridge is inspected each month as part of the St Aldates inspection route. Any safety defects identified during these inspections will be remedied as per our inspection policy.</p>
<p>10. COUNCILLOR SURINDER DHESI</p> <p>What is the County Council doing to encourage more children to participate in the free school meals uptake?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR MELINDA TILLEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES</p> <p>Free school meals are, of course, of immediate benefit to the children and families entitled to them, both from a financial and nutritional (and therefore learning) point of view.</p> <p>They are, also, of immediate financial benefit to schools as the principal determinant of the Pupil Premium; the more children at a school in receipt of free school meals (under the original free school meal mechanism as distinct from the new Universal Free School meal entitlement) the more pupil premium the school will receive.</p> <p>Headteachers and governors are very well aware of the importance of all of these benefits, not least the financial ones and, generally, do all they can at a local level to maximise take up.</p> <p>It is, of course, for parents to decide whether they wish to apply for free school meals and it would be difficult to come up with just one initiative for increasing uptake that would work for all schools where take up is low given the many and various barriers to take up from school to school, many of which flow from parents' perceptions.</p> <p>Colleagues in Facilities Management are working with individual schools, the Food With Thought catering team and other catering providers to try and identify which barriers are relevant to which schools. They intend to send out a survey to</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>all parents (via schools where the take up is below 80%) to help establish the causes of low take up.</p> <p>Of the 89 schools identified as having a take up of lower than 80% (measured at the January Census day), 65 have been referred back to the DfE Task Force and have received / will receive an individual visit from an advisor who will work with the school and the catering company to produce a report outlining potential solutions for that particular school. This will be particularly useful in the schools where there is limited enthusiasm from the staff for the Universal Free School Meals initiative. When these visits have been completed we shall be in a position to decide whether an 'all schools' initiative would be beneficial.</p> <p>In addition, some works have been taking place over the summer and into this term to help address some barriers already identified. Examples include new kitchens, additional or new tables, upgraded servery equipment aimed at improving the quality of food offer and the dining experience.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Have we contacted other councils to find out about their response and how they have increased their uptake please?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>We have been talking to other Councils about what they do, but there is very little that we can actually do, it is up to schools although we are helping schools to get the message out to parents that they need to sign up for this. It is a very difficult problem, people will make their own decisions, we can't clap them in irons and send them to schools and say you will have a free lunch. So we do talk to other councils all the time about how they doing it.</p>
<p>11. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>Please can you tell us what is happening about the "Tri-Counties" proposal?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>The title has changed to England's Economic Heartland to enable other councils to join. I am pleased to say that a joint letter supported by OxLEP has been sent to the Chancellor and Secretaries of State outlining the proposal, I attach a copy.</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>My reason for a larger alliance has always been clear. The number one transport issue which affects all the councils in Oxfordshire is the A34, as any incident has a knock-on effect across the network, as I'm sure Cllr Presell is only too aware. I first asked the Secretary of State for Transport about local control three years ago, as I believe we can find a better local solution. However as we're only talking about 30 miles of road, then it's always going to be a challenge, due to economies of scale etc. By joining together with the councils, we have a larger offer of trunk roads to work together on. We currently have indicative funding of £35 million for the junctions at Peartree & Botley, with around £15 million for Lodge Hill. Then there is the additional junction on the M40 near Bicester. This brings the funding to around £100 million, yes the proposed work will ease the traffic by increasing the capacity but it won't be the final solution. However, if we use the funds to work on an alternative solution linking into the Oxford-Cambridge expressway, we may be able to achieve greater funding and find a more permanent solution to the A34 that would enable business to flourish within Oxfordshire.</p> <p>I am a strong supporter of an Oxfordshire Devolution proposal as I see the two deals as complementing each other rather than competing.</p> <p>Chancellor of the Exchequer England's Economic Heartland 1 Horse Guards Road Programme Office LONDON Buckinghamshire County Council SW1A 2HQ County Hall</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Walton Street Aylesbury HP20 1UA</p> <p>Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government 2 Marsham Street LONDON SW1P 4DF</p> <p>Secretary of State for Transport Great Minster House 33 Horseferry Road LONDON</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p data-bbox="880 221 1464 245">Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills</p> <p data-bbox="880 253 1061 344">1 Victoria Street London SW1H 0ET</p> <p data-bbox="880 379 1032 421">29th July 2015</p> <p data-bbox="880 461 1319 485">Dear Chancellor and Secretaries of State</p> <p data-bbox="880 525 1980 549">England's Economic Heartland Strategic Alliance: Strategic Transport and Infrastructure Proposition</p> <p data-bbox="880 588 2013 646">The Strategic Alliance of Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire is delighted to submit our Strategic Transport and Infrastructure Proposition.</p> <p data-bbox="880 686 2013 810">We are at the heart of science and technological innovation in the UK. With a population of 1.9m and an economy valued at £48bn, we are an economic powerhouse that matches any outside of London. Our economic success comes not from having a single dominant city rather it comes from our network of innovators and entrepreneurs for whom an efficient transport system is vital.</p> <p data-bbox="880 850 2024 943">Our productivity is 30% higher than traditional city-regions: investment in new jobs generates 40% higher return. However, these impressive figures mask a simple fact: to be truly competitive requires investment in order to boost our productivity to match the levels of our global competitors.</p> <p data-bbox="880 983 2024 1075">Our proposition sets out how the County Councils and Local Enterprise Partnerships are working together on strategic infrastructure to realise the potential of our economy to grow by 20% by 2020 – delivering an additional £9bn per annum for the UK economy.</p> <p data-bbox="880 1115 1688 1139">Our proposition is unique in terms of the scale of its ambition and its offer.</p> <p data-bbox="880 1179 2024 1335">We can reduce the costs of infrastructure projects by up to 40% and accelerate their delivery by a third by simplifying our processes, removing duplication and realising efficiencies in the use of the technical skills available to us. We will deliver investment faster and more efficiently, make the funding available work harder and are engaging with our Local Planning Authorities to ensure that our transport proposition contributes to accelerating the delivery of new jobs and homes.</p> <p data-bbox="880 1375 2013 1433">Moreover, following a meeting in Central Bedfordshire's offices last week, we have opened up a very positive conversation with our neighbouring Unitary authorities, and have agreed with them that we will</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>rapidly develop the Alliance proposition further so as to create an even bigger and more powerful offer for England's Economic Heartland.</p> <p>Our proposition is submitted with the intent of securing a new deal with Government on strategic transport that will enable England's Economic Heartland to beat even stronger.</p> <p>We look forward to having an early discussion with you and your officials as part of your wider considerations ahead of the Comprehensive Spending Review.</p> <p>Yours sincerely</p> <p>Cllr Martin Tett Cllr Ian Hudspeth Cllr Jim Harker Leader Leader Leader Buckinghamshire County Council Oxfordshire County Council Northamptonshire County Council</p> <p>Alex Pratt Adrian Shooter John Markham Chairman Chairman Chairman Buckinghamshire Local Oxfordshire Local Northamptonshire Enterprise Enterprise Partnership Enterprise Partnership Partnership</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>At the beginning of the reply that I had from the Leader he says that the joint letter was supported by the Oxfordshire LEP but is it not the case that the LEP declined to support it, but the Chairman went ahead and signed the letter anyway without authority and I also wondered if there has been a reply to the letter that was sent in July?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>The Chairman of the LEP was carrying out his responsibilities of the LEP Board.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>12. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>Five year old children in Oxfordshire have a very high incidence of tooth decay, compared with other similar counties. Please can you tell us why this is and what we are doing about it?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR HILARY HIBBERT-BILES, CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH & THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR</p> <p>The latest available data on oral health of 5 year old children in Oxfordshire is from a survey in 2012/12 as part of a National programme of surveys. This data was discussed in the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting of 18 September 2014, the report of which is publicly available.</p> <p>The average number of decayed, missing and filled teeth (d3mft) for 5yr old children in Oxfordshire is 0.98, which overall is statistically similar than national levels (d3mft = 0.94).</p> <p>The mean number of 5yr olds with decayed, missing or filled teeth in Oxfordshire has increased slightly in 2011/12, however is this based on a smaller sample size (approximately 26% of all 5yr olds).</p> <p>Cherwell and Oxford City continue to have higher than the national average in terms of numbers of decayed, missing and filled teeth for 5yr olds.</p> <p>The rate of decay in 5yr old children in West Oxfordshire increased since the last survey. It is thought that this increase is likely due to a statistical anomaly created by the sampling methods used for surveying the children.</p> <p>The mean for South Oxfordshire and the Vale of the White Horse is lower than England.</p> <p>The County Council let an improved contract for prevention commencing 1 April 2015 which in collaboration with wider dental services aims to contribute to prevention oral health problems in children. The priorities of this service are detailed in the most recent Director of Public Health annual report.</p> <p>The Public Health Directorate recommend that all young children should regularly attend a dentist from when teeth first begin to appear in the mouth. As</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>such the council advocates parents to consult their local dentist for advice and guidance on the oral health needs of their child.</p> <p>The responsibility of the commissioning of dental services lies with the NHS England Local Area Team. We would advise the councillor to contact the NHS England LAT if they wish to have information on the delivery of local clinical dental services.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>On the question of oral health I am sure that people would agree that under 5's are critical and wonder if the Cabinet Member can tell us what the role is of the Children's Centres in promoting oral health for the under 5's?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I think children's centres do promote oral health but in actual fact it is the responsibility of the NHS not this Council. We are a monitoring organisation.</p>
<p>13. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>Please can you tell us how many two-year olds in Oxfordshire currently have a place in a nursery school or other setting? How does this compare with other counties?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR MELINDA TILLEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES</p> <p>The local authority does not keep records of all two year-olds attending childcare provision (parents paying fees). On-going records are kept of two year-olds accessing local authority 'funded' places. In the summer term, 2015, there were 1428 children taking up a place from a possible eligible cohort of 1900. This represents 74% take-up across nursery schools, children's centres, pre-schools, day-care and childminders. For take-up, Oxfordshire is 45th of the 152 local authorities.</p> <p>In June 2015, Oxfordshire was sixth of the 19 South East local authorities ranked by percentage take-up of funded two year-old places. Average take-up was 64%.</p> <p>Compared with statistical neighbours, Oxfordshire was fifth. Buckinghamshire was the highest at 78%, and average take-up was 71%.</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>The DfE sends ranked score-cards to local authorities on a termly basis. Oxfordshire has performed well throughout the process with percentage take-up consistently in the 70s.</p> <p>The majority of funded two year-olds in Oxfordshire attend private or voluntary childcare provision although local authority teams are proactive in encouraging schools to develop provision for two year-olds with some positive results.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>From the answer I gather that about 500 children are eligible for a funded place but don't have one, this is the 2 year olds, and I wondered if we have been able to analyse why they are not taking up their full funded place and if we agree that this is vital for educational attainment how can we increase the awareness of the families as to the benefits of these places for all 2 year olds who are eligible and how we can increase the take up by those who want a place.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I am afraid that parental choice is part of this and believe it or not, some families prefer to have their children at home between 2 and 3 particularly so I don't see what we can actually do about this, because they have a choice, we can provide the places if parents require it, we know that.</p>
<p>14. COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS</p> <p>Clearly the present guidance on School admissions and Appeal is focused on the direct well-being of the child but would the Portfolio holder agree that domestic circumstances such as a registered disabled parents put under stress or unable to cope by the decision to refuse a place must be taken into account for that too can have an</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR MELINDA TILLEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES</p> <p>The School Admissions Code of Practice is quite restrictive in terms of what factors can be included in over-subscription criteria and specifically excludes a number relating to things such as parental income, education, hobbies or previous activities. Parental disability isn't referred to either as an allowable factor nor as one which is prohibited. However, any over-subscription criterion must be "reasonable, clear, objective, procedurally fair and comply with all relevant legislation, including equalities legislation." [para 1.8 of the Code]. It is difficult to think of such a criterion that could be applied where only one parent</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>influence on the child's future happiness?</p> <p>Would the Cabinet Member for Children and Education to write on behalf of the Council to the Secretary of State for Education to seek a review of the Guidance Codes sent to local Authorities and the Independent School Admission Appeal Members which addresses the Councils concern?</p>	<p>has a significant disability. Where both parents have a disability that would prevent them walking their child to school, the Council would provide free transport even if the journey were under the statutory walking distance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="887 368 1984 437">□ The over-subscription criteria for most schools do, however, give priority to <i>children</i> with disabilities where physically accessing the school is an issue. <li data-bbox="887 480 2029 954">□ Appeals are considered by Independent Appeal Panels. Where these are 'class size appeals' (those where the class already has 30 children) there are only very limited circumstances in which the appeal can be upheld. Essentially it comes down to whether there was an administrative error by the Council which, had it not occurred, would have resulted in the child being allocated a school place. In 'class size appeals' there is no weighing of the parents' & child's circumstances against the impact that an additional child would have on the efficient operation of the school. The 'Infant Class Size Limit' means that if a 31st child were admitted the school would need to take 'qualifying measures' which would include having to employ an additional teacher at a cost of at least £30,000 p.a. against additional pupil funding of around £4,000 p.a. In the absence of maladministration this cost is sufficient basis to reject the appeal. <li data-bbox="887 997 2018 1249">□ I understand from officers that the current Admissions Code of Practice is being reviewed and the Schools Minister, Nick Gibb, has said that the priority given to siblings is being looked at as this has emerged as a national issue with growing numbers of families having to send their children to different schools. I will ask him whether he thinks that parental disabilities should also be considered in relation to either or both of the admissions and appeals processes.
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>At the moment there are some vagaries as to whether the existing criteria actually do cover</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>The admissions policy at the moment states that if there is one able bodied parent, then we do not have to take the disability of the other into consideration.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>parental disability and there may be legal challenge that the County is not abiding by its legal responsibilities. Could she comment on as to whether the County Council would fight that particular stance if it was brought forward by a parent in a legal dispute?</p>	<p>In the case you are talking about, I think the letter needs to go. It is already written and is upstairs waiting for me to sign it until you had asked your question. So I will do that but the criteria at the moment does say that we can look at one able bodied parent. If both are disabled then we will take the children to school.</p>
<p>15. COUNCILLOR NEVILLE HARRIS</p> <p>The report of November 14th 2014 (published 19th January 2015) Strategic Financial Case for a Unitary Authority raised again the opportunity for a discussion with a view to determination of how the interests of the residents of Oxfordshire could be best served in terms of streamlined effective, efficient and equitable local government. Does the Leader agree that, as laudable as such discussion and determination would be, no meaningful attempt to promote them has followed the report's publication?</p> <p>Please advise me on how you think a referendum might be organised by OCC which would enable the views of the County's residents to be expressed with regard to their various elected councillors seriously embarking on such worthwhile discussions. The multiplicity of tax gathering decision makers and resulting different levels of taxation puzzle many, as does the absence of a single planning authority. No less puzzling is the plethora of senior officers, accounts</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>The purpose of commissioning the report was to establish the various saving that could potentially be realised from the various options of local government within Oxfordshire.</p> <p>The idea of a referendum is an interesting suggestion but we must bear in mind that there would be a cost of around £600,000. Whatever the outcome of a referendum the Government are clear that they would not allow a reorganisation of Local Government unless all parties agreed.</p> <p>I am willing to talk to Councillor Harris or any councillor about saving taxpayers money.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>departments, public relations teams and many other examples of needless plurality.</p> <p>People do understand how reactive those whose jobs might be in jeopardy and those whose political influence might be reduced or removed might be. Accordingly could you give particular attention as to how potential vested interest could be minimised if not excluded from such discussions?</p> <p>Do you also agree that any discussion on the form and shape of local government for Oxfordshire would be challenging and that a referendum with its possible accompanying campaigns for a yes or no vote would put before Oxfordshire's residents all of the arguments and counter arguments for both sides of the proposition.</p> <p>Would he further agree to talk to me and any other interested County, District or City Councillor on how such a referendum might be best arranged and worded.</p>	
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Will he take the initiative in organising a meeting of interested Councillors from across the County to further the proposals that are implicit in my question?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Yes I would be more than happy arrange a meeting with Councillor Harris and any other members of the Council to look at ways of reducing the burden on tax payers.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>16. COUNCILLOR SURINDER DHESI</p> <p>How much money is spent in repairing persistent potholes?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The Council's contract requires a 2 year guarantee on any defect repair and so the Council do not pay any additional money for repair of persistent potholes.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>How often do we monitor works of quality on the potholes.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>We have a regime of inspecting the repairs when they have been completed. We have a regime for checking the condition of the roads on a regular basis and assessing the requirement for dealing with potholes and a regime for monitoring the potholes once the work has been completed before a contractor is paid.</p>

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Division(s): N/A

COUNTY COUNCIL – 3 NOVEMBER 2015

REPORT OF THE CABINET

Cabinet Member: Leader

1. Oxfordshire Devolution

(Cabinet, 20 October 2015)

Cabinet gave consideration to the expression of interest for devolution to Oxfordshire that was submitted to government on 4 September and referred the matter to full Council for a full debate.

N.B A report is included for discussion elsewhere on this agenda.

2. Aureus School (Great Western Park Secondary), Didcot

(Cabinet, 20 October 2015)

Cabinet agreed a delegation to the Chief Finance Officer and Director for Environment & Economy in consultation with the Leader to approve the Stage 2 Full Business Case and the award of the construction contract for an 11-16 co-educational school providing 1,200 places..

Cabinet Member: Deputy Leader

3. Staffing Report Quarter 1 2015/16

(Cabinet, 15 September 2015)

Cabinet noted a report that gave an update on staffing numbers and related activity during the period 1 April 2015 to 30 June 2015. It gave details of the actual staffing numbers at 30 June 2015 in terms of Full Time Equivalents. In addition, the report provided information on the cost of posts being covered by agency staff.

4. Cabinet Business Monitoring Report for Quarter 4

(Cabinet, 20 October 2015)

Cabinet noted a report which provided details of performance for quarter one (2015/16) in order to monitor the performance of the Council in key service areas.

Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

5. Consultation on the Future Provision of Intermediate Care in North Oxfordshire

(Cabinet, 15 September 2015)

Cabinet considered a report on a proposal for public consultation on the future of the way Intermediate Care is provided in North Oxfordshire. Intermediate Care is services which support people to avoid going into hospital or help people get back home as quickly as possible. The consultation was to ask for people's views on Intermediate Care continuing to be provided through a bed-based service in Chipping Norton and on the development of home-based Intermediate Care.

Cabinet agreed that there is a public consultation on the way Intermediate Care is provided in North Oxfordshire in the future.

6. A New Model for Health and Care in the Henley-on-Thames Area

(Cabinet, 20 October 2015)

Cabinet considered a report outlining the future model of health and care being established in the Henley-on-Thames area, including the plans for the new Townlands Hospital, which was agreed at the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group Governing Body on 24 September 2015. Cabinet noted the intentions of the Clinical Commissioning Group and the potential implications for the County Council.

7. Learning Disability Health Provision

(Cabinet, 20 October 2015)

Cabinet considered a report seeking a decision in respect of the current contract for learning disability health services.

Cabinet approved the Learning Disability Strategy for Oxfordshire; noted the extension of Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust's contract for health services with Oxfordshire County Council and approved the transfer of the contract for Learning Disability health services to Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group as soon as an acceptable contract has been agreed.

8. Adult Social Care Workforce Development Strategy

(Cabinet, 20 October 2015)

Cabinet endorsed the Adult Social Care Workforce Strategy 2015 to 2018, committed to implementing the strategy delivery plan and requested regular progress reports.

N.B A report is included for discussion elsewhere on this agenda.

9. Information and Advice – Strategy and Procurement Plan

(Cabinet, 20 October 2015)

Cabinet considered a report seeking approval of the information and advice strategy developed in response to the requirements in the Care Act 2014 for local authorities to provide information and advice relating to care and support issues for adults and carers.

Cabinet approved the Information and Advice Strategy and approved the plan for the procurement of a specialist advice service for Oxfordshire.

Cabinet Member: Children, Education & Families

10. Future Arrangements for Children's Social Care

(Cabinet, 15 September 2015)

In common with councils across England, Oxfordshire County Council have to make savings across all service areas as a result of reductions in government funding, pressures on all services and restrictions on ability to raise Council Tax. The Children, Education and Families Directorate need to find savings of £8 million.

The Council has developed a preferred model for a new 0-19 service based on integrating the services provided by Children's Centres, Early Intervention Hubs and Children's Social Care. This approach was recommended by the cross-party Cabinet Advisory Group set up to look at new ways of working.

The new service will focus on supporting children on child protection plans, children in need and those identified as vulnerable through Oxfordshire's Thriving Families programme.

Cabinet had before them a report setting out options which they approved for public consultation.

11. New Arrangements for the Delivery of Education Support and Engagement with Schools in Oxfordshire in Response to Future National and Local Challenges

(Cabinet, 20 October 2015)

The growth of school autonomy has triggered a debate about the role of local authorities and the conditions necessary to encourage and sustain a self-improving system. Cabinet considered a report that argued that there is still significant strategic value in retaining in-house school improvement services.

Cabinet approved, in principle, the creation of a ring-fenced trading service for Schools and Learning, trading with third parties and to allow for further developmental work and consultation with key stakeholders.

Cabinet also endorsed the proposal to reconfigure the remaining services into a streamlined and integrated Central School Support Portfolio comprising the remaining non-delegable functions.

12. Academies Programme 2015-20: Strategic Groupings of Schools

(Cabinet, 20 October 2015)

Cabinet had before them a report setting out the current position in the County and strategic implications for the academies programme following the publication of a new programme of legislative change by the new Government.

Cabinet adopted the principles of the 'Strategic Implications for Academies Programme' and agreed: to adopt a more assertive policy in identifying appropriate sponsors for schools required to convert to academy status; to promote appropriate groupings to form new Multi Academy Trusts and encourage the growth of existing Multi Academy Trusts based in the county; to further develop and promote the collaborative company model, both to incorporate more schools in these and to extend the scope of their pooling of resources and responsibility and to use collaborative companies as a 'stepping stone' to the formation of Multi Academy Trusts.

Cabinet Member: Environment

13. Direct Delivery by Developers of Major Off-Site Highway Works

(Cabinet, 15 September 2015)

In June 2013 Cabinet resolved, with respect to major infrastructure requirements associated with new developments, to approve the principle that direct delivery of such major infrastructure by the developers was acceptable; subject to adherence to specific key principles. Following the introduction of the approved processes Cabinet considered a report seeking changes to the key principles with regards to Highways infrastructure in order to provide added flexibility and speed up the process of completing S106 agreements.

Cabinet agreed to approve the changes to the key principles of direct delivery obligations to be integrated within S106 agreements (for Transport).

Cabinet Member: Finance

14. Service & Resource Planning 2016/17

(Cabinet, 15 September 2015)

Cabinet had before them the first in the series of reports on the Service & Resource Planning process for 2016/17 which will culminate in Council setting a budget for 2016/17 in February 2016. The report set the context and the starting point for the process, including:

- the assumptions on which the existing Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) is based,
- known and potential financial issues for 2016/17 and beyond which impact on the existing MTFP, and
- a proposed process for Service & Resource Planning for 2016/17 including a timetable of events.

Cabinet approved the Service and Resource Planning process for 2016/17; and approved a four year period for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Programme to 2019/20.

15. 2015/16 Financial Monitoring & Business Strategy Delivery Plan

(Cabinet, 20 October 2015)

Cabinet had before them a report focussing on the delivery of the Directorate Business Strategies that were agreed as part of the Service and Resource Planning Process for 2015/16 – 2017/18. Parts 1 and 2 included projections for revenue, reserves and balances as at the end of August 2015. Capital Programme monitoring and update is included at Part 3 and Part 4 set out a change to Fees and Charges.

Cabinet noted the report; approved the virement requests; recommended Council to approve a virement in respect of the unringfenced grant received by the Council relating to the closure of the Independent Living Fund and the transfer of £2m from Public Health reserves to the Children's Homes Capital Project; approved the bad debt write off; noted the Treasury Management lending list; approved the fees and charges and the updated capital programme.

N.B The matters referred to in the report for approval by Council are included for consideration elsewhere on this agenda.

IAN HUDSPETH

Leader of the Council

October 2015

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Division(s): N/A

COPY

CABINET – 20 OCTOBER 2015 ADULT SOCIAL CARE WORKFORCE STRATEGY

Report by Director of Adult Social Care

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to:
 - a) Update Cabinet on the Adult Social Care Workforce Strategy
 - b) Outline the strategy's delivery plan including governance arrangements
 - c) Seek Cabinet's endorsement of the strategy and the delivery plan

Background

2. Adult social care sector in Oxfordshire is facing significant challenges with the workforce capacity and capability, arising from growing demand for care and support and the increasing complexity of care and support needs.
3. Modelling by the Council has established that the county's social care workforce needs to grow by up to 750 carers every year for the next 10 years just to keep pace with the growing numbers of people requiring care.
4. We have also identified that the current capability of the social care workforce is a barrier to the Council and Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group's (OCCG) aim of supporting more people with long term conditions and complex needs to live independently in their own homes.
5. Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) has worked in partnership with the Oxfordshire Association of Care Providers (OACP), Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and others, to promote the care sector as a career, help providers recruit and retain staff and run training initiatives.
6. The workforce programme is focused on the external social care workforce (i.e. non-Council) that includes home care and care home workers and nurses in care homes.

Workforce strategy

7. To address the longer term workforce issues, Oxfordshire County Council worked with stakeholders during 2014/15 to develop and produce the Oxfordshire Adult Social Care Workforce Strategy 2015/18 and draft implementation plan.
8. The strategy documents were made available for wider stakeholder engagement between 30 January and 13 April 2015. The single issue that attracted most comment from stakeholders was training. Stakeholders also identified specific skill

gaps, in particular around dementia and assistive technology. There was general enthusiasm for apprenticeships as a route into social care for young people.

9. The workforce strategy and implementation plan has been well received by other local authorities in the region. The South East Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) Region is proposing to use the documentation as a template for local authorities.

Workforce programme

Current programme

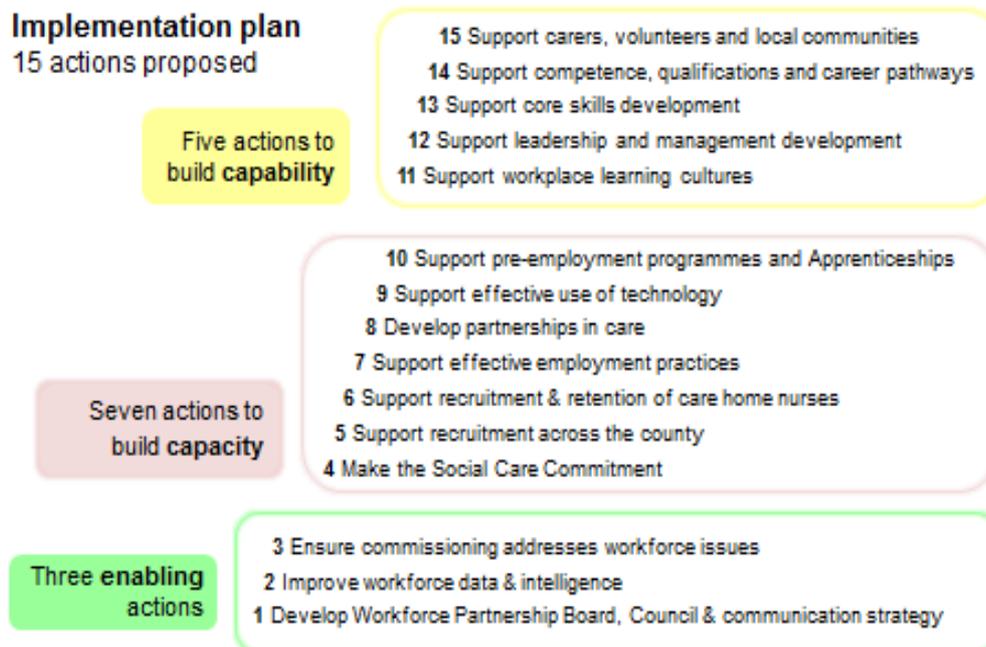
10. During 2014/15 the workforce programme - funded by a one year grant from Health Education Thames Valley - has focused on a number of specific activities as well as the development of the workforce strategy. These activities are summarised in the table below:

Project / work-stream	Purpose	Deliverables
1. Assistive technology awareness, training & installations	Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness of health and social care workers on the benefits and use of assistive technology. • Increase equipment installations in people's homes to prevent care packages stepping up, reduce ambulance calls and to reduce hospital admissions.
	Target(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 216 social and health care workers trained • 250 installations of standalone technology
	Delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 252 social and health care workers trained • Over 1,000 installations of standalone technology
2. Dementia learning & development	Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the capability of the care workforce by achieving core workforce competencies
	Target(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 319 people trained via 7 different course types
	Delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 487 people trained via a range of course types and qualifications.
3. Values-based recruitment pilot project	Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruiting for values and behaviours has been shown to be effective in reducing staff turnover rates, which are high in social care. • The Council is working with the Oxfordshire Association of Care Providers to run values and behaviour pilots with 6 organisations with the aim of reducing staff turnover. • The materials for this pilot will then be shared with other providers to develop their capacity to recruit and select on this basis.

	Target(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot of values based interviewing with 4 social care providers
	Delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 social care providers participated in pilot • Values & behaviours framework • 2 day training course in values-based interviewing techniques and related tools and resources • Model for values-based recruitment and interviewing

Future programme

11. The purpose of the Workforce Strategy is to build the capacity and increase the capability of the social care workforce in Oxfordshire.
12. The implementation plan sets out the practical steps that can be taken to achieve the strategy. It comprises 3 core elements and 15 headline actions, which are summarised as follows:
 - Actions to increase workforce capacity - 7 actions to increase attraction and recruitment, improve retention and reduce staff turnover, optimise use of technology, deliver more apprenticeships, improve employment practice.
 - Actions to increase workforce capability - 5 actions to increase the skills and competence of the workforce including actions to improve leadership and management, improve learning at work and support implementation of the Care Certificate.
 - Enabling actions - governance, regular stakeholder engagement forum, communications and engagement activities, actions to improve workforce data and intelligence, workforce commissioning toolkit.



13. The strategy includes a number of key activities, some of which are as follows:

Action on recruitment & recruitment events

14. The strategy delivery plan includes a wide range of actions aimed at attracting more people of all ages, including 16/17 year old and people 50+ to work in adult social care. Oxfordshire has recently commissioned the Oxfordshire Association of Care Providers (OACP) to organise six job fairs over the winter period. The purpose of the job fairs is to attract job seekers who may be interested in social care jobs and to link them to social care providers. These initiatives and others, including the development of a "work in adult social care" jobs portal, vacancy matching service, provision of employment advice for potential candidates and employers, delivery of an iCare Ambassador Scheme and more, will be delivered.

Values Based Recruitment

15. Oxfordshire County Council is leading the development of values-based recruitment in social care. Over the coming months Oxfordshire is planning to run a series of one day training courses on values based recruitment to enable social care employers to implement the approach in their organisation and help build a pool of values-based recruitment trainers.

Apprenticeships

16. The county needs to grow the number of young people recruited into social and health care careers in response to rising demand for care and support. The

workforce programme has proposed a target to triple number of health and social care apprenticeships to 45 completed apprenticeships per year. The new contracts for home care require providers to employ an apprentice for every £500,000 of business awarded by the County Council.

Workforce Commissioning Toolkit

17. Oxfordshire has developed key elements of a workforce commissioning toolkit. This thinking has been applied to the Help to Live at Home programme for home care. The contract now includes a workforce schedule as part of the service specification, tender questions for providers on workforce issues and the inclusion of specific items such as training in the breakdown of costs. These aspects will be applied to other social care tenders.

Workforce Learning Cultures

18. Learning in the workplace is a practical and desirable option for developing the skills, knowledge and competencies of the social care workforce.
19. Oxfordshire partnered with TDAR (Transfer & Development of Learning at Work) an EU-funded project, to trial with social care employers a new half day workshop on developing cultures that support learning at work. The workshop focuses on the many simple and low cost things that managers can do to support learning and reflection through good management practice. It was well received by the participation employers.

Whole Systems Approach

20. Oxfordshire County Council is working with NHS partners to progress a whole systems approach to workforce issues.
21. The need and opportunity for collaboration on workforce issues is also currently being explored through a South East ADASS led scoping study on the issues facing 18 South East local authorities.
22. A more detailed explanation of these activities and other activities that are proposed as part of the workforce programme, is set out in the implementation plan, which has been widely circulated (a copy of which is available on request).

Governance

23. Delivery of the Workforce Strategy will be managed and overseen by a Workforce Programme Board, comprising representatives of the following organisations and interests:
 - Oxfordshire County Council (Joint Commissioning)
 - Oxfordshire Association of Care Providers
 - Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group
 - Representatives of service users and carers

24. The delivery plan includes a Workforce Engagement Forum with six-monthly learning and networking events modelled on an approach used by Health Education Thames Valley. Other engagement activities proposed include the development of learning networks to help support individuals working in the sector to develop and share their skills and promote leadership on care quality issues.

Funding

25. Developing the Workforce Strategy and delivery plan has put the Council in a strong position to bid for and potentially secure external funding to develop the workforce.
26. We are preparing bids for funding to deliver specific programmes for work including a programme aimed at recruiting and re-training older workers to work in adult social care and another to increase workforce capability initially in care homes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

27. **Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:**

(a) endorse the Adult Social Care Workforce Strategy 2015 to 2018;

(b) commit to implementing the strategy delivery plan;

(c) request regular progress reports from the Director of Adult Social Care on progress in implementing the strategy and towards achievement of its objectives and targets.

JOHN JACKSON

Director of Adult Social Services

Contact Officer: Shaun Bennett: Commercial Services and Market Development Manager

20 October 2015

Division(s): N/A

COUNCIL – 3 NOVEMBER 2015

2015/16 - REQUESTS FOR VIREMENTS

Report by the Chief Finance Officer

Virement Requests Requiring Council Approval

1. As set out in the Financial Monitoring and Business Strategy Delivery Report to Cabinet on 20 October 2015 there are two virements that under the virement rules need to be agreed by Council. Details are set out below and in Annex 1.

Independent Living Fund

2. Following the Independent Living Fund closure, a grant of £3.0m has been provided to the Council. As the grant is un-ringfenced and will be held corporately it is proposed that Council agree a virement to add expenditure budgets of £1.7m to the Learning Disabilities Pool and £0.6m to the Physical Disabilities Pool to meet the increased costs of the agreed personal budgets. It is also proposed that Council agree the use of the £0.6m balance of the grant to offset the overspend on the Learning Disabilities Pooled Budget in 2015/16 and the full year effect of the additional expenditure from the closure of the Independent Living Fund in 2016/17.

Public Health

3. Under the terms of the Public Health grant it is legitimate to use the funding on functions which have a significant effect on, or in connection with, the exercise of the public health functions specified in Section 73B(2) of the National Health Service Act 2006. It is proposed that Council agree to transfer £2.0m from the Public Health Reserve to the capital programme to fund the development of Children's Homes. This is in addition to the £2.0m Council agreed on 20 May 2014. The total £4.0m contribution will reduce the need for prudential borrowing to fund the scheme from £0.5m to £0.2m.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Council is RECOMMENDED to agree:

- (a) **the virements in respect of the unringfenced grant received by the Council relating to the closure of the Independent Living Fund;**
- (b) **the transfer £2.0m from Public Health reserves to the Capital Programme for the Children's Homes Project.**

LORNA BAXTER

Chief Finance Officer

Background papers: Financial Monitoring and Business Delivery Report August 2015.

Contact Officers: Katy Jurczynszyn, Strategic Finance Manager
(Financial Strategy and Monitoring)

01865 323975

October 2015

**Financial Monitoring and Business Strategy Delivery Report
COUNCIL - 3 NOVEMBER 2015**

COUNCIL IS RECOMMENDED TO APPROVE THE VIREMENTS AS DETAILED BELOW:

Directorate	Month of Cabinet meeting	Narration	Budget book line	Service Area	Permanent / Temporary	Expenditure + increase / - decrease £000	Income - increase / + decrease £000
Inter-Directorate	Oct	Creation of Income and Expenditure Budgets in respect to Independent Living Fund Grant received from Department for Communities & Local Government	SCS1-SC	Learning Disabilities Pooled Budget Contribution	P	1,725.0	
			SCS1-5A	Physical Disabilities Pooled Budget Contribution	P	631.3	
			SCS2-1BCD	Learning Disabilities Non-Pool Services	P	647.4	
			SM	Strategic Measures	P		-3,003.7
		One - off contribution of £2.000m from the unspent Public Health Grant Funding towards the Capital Programme for the provision of children's homes.	PH1	Public Health	T	-2,000.0	
		Capital Programme	Capital Programme Funding	T		2,000.0	
Grand Total						1,003.7	-1,003.7

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Division(s): N/A

COUNCIL – 3 NOVEMBER 2015

OXFORDSHIRE DEVOLUTION

Report by the Leader of the Council

Summary

1. On 4 September, the Leaders of the six Oxfordshire Authorities, along with the Local Enterprise Partnership and the Clinical Commissioning Group submitted an expression of interest to government setting out initial proposals for devolution in Oxfordshire for discussion with government. This is attached at Annex A. The proposals request greater local control over significant funding for transport, skills training and health services.
2. At its meeting on 20 October Cabinet agreed that a debate should be held at full council in order to understand all members' views. This paper is provided to inform discussions. It contains an overview of the context, the proposals, the current work underway and sets out the next stages in the process.
3. Council is RECOMMENDED to note the report and to consider the possible implications of devolution to Oxfordshire.

Context and national overview

4. Through its programme of devolution deals, the government is inviting groups of councils to develop proposals for new ways of working that will increase economic growth and improve services. In return, government will consider proposals for devolution of funding and powers on condition that governance arrangements provide robust accountability. Following the General Election, the government is taking forward the Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill to provide a statutory footing for governance arrangements and a framework for future deals.
5. Councils across the country are at different stages of progress with proposals for devolution. During 2014 and early 2015 deals were negotiated and agreed with Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Sheffield City Region, West Yorkshire Combined Authority and Cornwall.
6. Following the July Budget, Government invited expressions of interest in further deals for consideration as part of the spending review process to be submitted by 4 September 2015.
7. Ours was one of a total of 34 submissions from groupings of councils across the country. The major themes covered by these proposals are:
 - Skills and employment
 - Transport

- Housing and planning
- Fiscal – particularly 100% retention of Business Rates
- Business support/enterprise/innovation
- Health and well-being
- Public estate

Oxfordshire Devolution Deal

8. Following discussions over the summer, the Leaders of the County and District Councils in Oxfordshire along with the Local Economic Partnership and the Clinical Commissioning Group developed initial proposals for an Oxfordshire Devolution Deal. These were jointly submitted as an expression of interest for further exploration on 4 September. The document is attached at Annex A.
9. There is a strong rationale for an Oxfordshire Deal because of the alignment of the local economy and public service providers and our strong joint working arrangements. The countywide Local Economic Partnership is aligned with the County, City and District Councils, and county is almost entirely covered by a single Clinical Commissioning Group. We have already established the Oxfordshire Growth Board bringing together the local authorities and the LEP to deliver commitments in Strategic Economic Plan and the £56m City Deal and £118m Growth Deals already agreed with Government.
10. The expression of interest sets out proposals for how we could achieve faster delivery of our Economic Plan with different ways of working and more local control over funding and issues that are currently hampering delivery.
11. Our proposals are summarised under four main themes:
 - **Delivering the infrastructure – particularly the roads network – that is required to support economic growth** – delivery of infrastructure would be accelerated through sustained and committed funding streams locally secured through tax revenues arising from new development.
 - **Helping people to get the necessary skills and benefit from good jobs created in hi-tech industries** - through devolution and better targeting of funding for skills so it supports development of the skills base needed by local employers; and better coordination of business support programmes to support innovative and entrepreneurial companies.
 - **Tackling housing shortages and affordability** – through aligning strategic infrastructure and housing investment and an integrated approach to strategic planning.
 - **Ensuring health and social care services meet growing demand as the population ages and funding to public services is reduced** – by bringing together the public money spent on the health and social care of Oxfordshire residents and seeking the powers to manage it as a whole.

Governance

12. The government is placing strong emphasis on the need for local areas to strengthen their governance arrangements as part of their deal proposals and is strongly encouraging areas to consider establishing Combined Authorities.
13. Our submission recognises that strong governance is critical and proposes to build on the robust joint working governance arrangements we already have in place through the Growth Board and the Health and Well Being Board:
 - The Oxfordshire Growth Board is a Joint Statutory Committee charged on behalf of the LEP with the delivery of the Strategic Economic Plan and the City Deal and Local Growth Deals. Membership includes the Leaders of the six local authorities (who are the voting members) together with representatives from the Local Enterprise Partnership including the Oxfordshire Skills Board, Oxford and Oxford Brookes Universities. The Homes and Communities Agency, Environment Agency, Network Rail and the Highways Agency are also represented.
 - The Health and Wellbeing Board oversees all health issues in the County via a well- established Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy which joins up plans and activities of all the councils and the NHS. The Health and Wellbeing Board oversees c£330 million of pooled budgets, the local Children’s Trust and safeguarding boards and takes a lead role on public health, health and housing related issues.
14. Our submission proposes to review the governance arrangements of the Health and Wellbeing and the Growth Board to ensure they are sufficiently robust and aligned to oversee additional functions proposed. We also agree to undertake a governance review of our existing joint working arrangements with a view to establishing a Combined Authority if the devolution on offer was substantial enough to warrant it.

Status of the Expression of Interest

15. The discussions that resulted in the submission of the expression of interest took place over a short period of time and covered a wide range of issues. The submission is one step in a longer process and a number of issues set out in the document have moved on as discussions continue, both locally and with central government.
16. Our submission emphasises that there remain a number of issues in the document that require significant further discussion. It also makes it clear that the proposals have not been subject to wide consultation with councillors or the public and any final proposals will need to be subject to full consultation with Oxfordshire’s residents and formally approved by each council.

Progressing the Oxfordshire Deal

17. Following the submission of our Expression of Interest we have been participating in further discussions with officials to further develop the proposals.
18. Working groups have been set up for each of the strands of work involving all authorities, the Local Enterprise Partnership, and health partners. A senior level coordination group has also been established to oversee the development of the proposals.
19. The County, City and District Leaders meet to consider revised proposals late in October, if at that stage a further iteration of the proposals are agreed, it is likely this will be followed by a discussion with Ministers and decisions about the next stages agreed.

RECOMMENDATION

20. **Council is RECOMMENDED to note the report and to consider the possible implications of devolution to Oxfordshire.**

IAN HUDSPETH

Leader of the Council

Contact Officer: Maggie Scott, Chief Policy Officer, Tel: 01865 816081

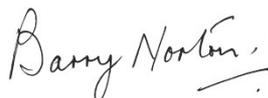
October 2015

**DELIVERING GROWTH THROUGH INNOVATION:
Expression of Interest for Devolution to Oxfordshire**

This proposal sets out the areas for devolution that Oxfordshire authorities are interested in exploring further with central government.

The document should be regarded as an initial expression of interest that has been developed in a short period of time by the Leaders of Oxfordshire local authorities, along with the local clinical commissioning group and other local partners. The process in getting to this point has been useful and in a short period of time there have been robust discussions covering a wide range of issues. There remain a number of issues in the document that require significant further discussion. There has not yet been wide consultation with councillors or the public. Any final proposals that are developed from these initial ideas will need to be subject to full and proper consultation with Oxfordshire's residents be formally approved by each council.

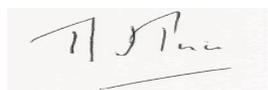
The following partners have prepared this submission*:



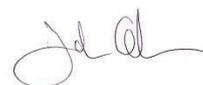
Cllr Barry Norton
Leader
West Oxfordshire District Council



Cllr Barry Wood
Leader
Cherwell District Council



Cllr Bob Price
Leader
Oxford City Council



Cllr John Cotton
Leader
South Oxfordshire District Council



Cllr Matthew Barber
Leader
Vale of the White Horse DC



Cllr Ian Hudspeth
Leader
Oxfordshire County Council



Adrian Shooter
Chairman
Oxfordshire LEP



David Smith
Chief Executive
Oxfordshire CCG

*Due to the time constraints the document as submitted will be subject to respective LA Full Council or Cabinet ratification as appropriate

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Oxfordshire has a globally significant and very successful economy that has grown rapidly over the past few years. We know that with the right foundations and productively working together we can go even further in strengthening our position as a global cluster in innovation and continuing to grow our economic contribution locally and nationally. We have a robust and ambitious Strategic Economic Plan¹ that will result in around 100,000 new homes and an additional 85,600 new jobs by 2030. However existing funding mechanisms do not work well for us, in particular we are unable to provide the infrastructure that is needed to further accelerate growth.

These proposals for devolution to Oxfordshire set out how we will continue to work together differently to achieve faster delivery of the current Economic Plan, in return for sustained sources of funding and more local control over issues that are currently hampering delivery.

Our proposals cover

- A recognition that, in governance, form should follow function. We therefore agree to commit to undertaking a governance review of our existing joint working arrangements with a view to establishing a combined authority in support of a substantial devolution deal.
- Developing a new funding model to deliver infrastructure requirements. This would bring together funds secured through housing and employment delivery including, the City Deal, Local Growth Fund, New Homes Bonus and Business Rates growth. These proposals will give the Oxfordshire authorities a secure basis upon which to undertake prudential borrowing to unlock the significant infrastructure investment that is critical to realising Oxfordshire's economic potential.
- Alignment of the County Council's Economic Development team and associated budgets into Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership
- Delivery of a coordinated business support service – Oxfordshire Business Support (OBS) incorporating ESIF, LGF and partner resources.
- Better matching local skills provision to the unique needs of our economy
- Securing delivery of around 100,000 new homes in Oxfordshire by 2031 as set out in our Strategic Housing Market Assessment and Strategic Economic Plan. Our existing commitments to City Deal delivery has seen significant completions above historic trends. This commitment is reflected in our offer to government but requires substantial infrastructure and policy support if we are to achieve such transformational growth.
- We will build upon our existing Growth Board working arrangements to support an integrated approach to strategic planning that builds on our District level local plans and we will explore innovative new mechanisms to deliver housing more effectively
- Securing a wider range of housing products including starter homes and key worker accommodation for the health, primary/secondary education and University/research sectors. This broadening and acknowledgement of the demand side pressure will deliver a more responsive housing mix beyond traditional key worker definitions.

¹ http://www.oxfordshirelep.com/sites/default/files/efc/20SEP_FINAL_March14_0.pdf

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- A new way of working across the public sector which includes a wider range of cross county working in the management of health and social care; our intention is to bring health budgets together to deliver better outcomes for Oxfordshire residents.

About Oxfordshire

Oxfordshire is home to 672,500 residents and has a globally important and unique economy. At its centre, Oxford is a global brand, known the world over for its pre-eminent academic institutions and its heritage.

Our economy is inextricably linked to the outputs from the two universities, the teaching hospital and its associated research functions, and a concentration of the UK's big science and research institutions. The changes proposed will help to develop increased productivity, faster growth and infrastructure capacity, thus realising the unique potential of the University and private sector research resources in Oxfordshire.

- The Oxford area is amongst the top five Technology Innovation Ecosystems in the world² and home to an impressive knowledge intensive cluster with over 1,500 high tech companies employing around 43,000 people.
- The county's economic output was valued at £19.2bn in 2013³, making us an important net contributor to the Treasury.
- We have the fastest growing economy of any LEP area since the recession, with economic growth of over 20% GVA between 2009 and 2013⁴ - more than double the growth rate of core city LEP areas such as Greater Manchester or the Leeds City Region, and higher than Greater London.
- We are the most innovative area in the country⁵, second only to London for growth of fast growing businesses⁶
- We currently have the lowest JSA claimant count in the country (2178 (0.5%) - July 2015)

Oxfordshire is home to one of the largest concentrations of research and development activity in Western Europe, and hosts the global headquarters and principal research and development facilities of some of the world's leading technology companies:

Our economic strength is centred around key innovation and knowledge rich sectors;

- Automotive and advanced manufacturing
- Life sciences
- Space and satellite applications
- Creative and digital
- Electronics, sensors and instrumentation

² Source: Technology Innovation Ecosystem Benchmarking Study: Key findings from Phase 1, Graham, 2013

³ 2013 is the latest year for which official government statistics are available.

⁴ Source: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/re-reference-tables.html?edition=tcm%3A77-393471>

⁵ Benchmarking local innovation – the innovation geography of the UK, Enterprise Research Centre, June 2015, <http://www.enterpriseresearch.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Benchmarking-Local-Innovation1.pdf>

⁶ Enterprise Research Centre

World leading companies such as Oxford Instruments, Siemens MR Magnet Technology, BMW, Oxford University Press, Sophos, RM plc, Infineum and Sharp drive economic growth and innovation. They sit within an innovation ecosystem supported by world class academic and applied research organisations linked to Oxford University, and a host of globally renowned research establishments, including the Science & Technology Facilities Council; Rutherford Appleton Laboratory; Diamond Light Source, the national synchrotron facility; UK Atomic Energy Authority Culham Centre for Fusion Energy; the recently established European Space Agency and Satellite Applications Catapult Centre.

This unique mix of world leading business, academia and research, together capitalise on Oxford's global brand to drive local productivity and support many other local businesses. We have over 30,000 businesses in the county, with 3,500 new businesses created each year, and a GVA per head that is 17% higher than the UK average. We are also one of the country's key tourist destinations, with over 26m visitors to the county per annum, contributing over £1.5bn to the local economy in 2013⁷.

Whilst the local economy is growing steadily, we believe that we can generate more rapid growth if we get some underlying factors right. Like other Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnerships, we operate in a globally competitive arena where historic success cannot be assumed to continue without significant attention to the supporting framework of people, facilities and connecting infrastructure..

Oxfordshire's economy has grown consistently over the period 1997 to 2013, contributing £19.2 billion to GDP in 2013. However, the Oxfordshire Innovation Engine Report published in 2014 found that the rate of growth in Oxfordshire had been constrained and could be significantly improved by many things, including:

- the need to accommodate additional growth in the 'Knowledge Spine' running between Harwell, Oxford and Bicester to accommodate high tech business and employment
- improve capacity of the strategic and local transport infrastructure, including fast public transport services; grow and develop business networks
- develop measures to encourage increased institutional investment building upon our strong and nationally significant sector propositions including Life science, Advanced Engineering (Motorsport), Satellite and Space Related Technology and Creative and Digital sector
- meet the demand for housing and commercial premises to respond to the urgent needs of the growing business base and economy.
- provide strong public and private sector leadership to realise Oxfordshire's potential through a new and agreed governance structure.

Many of these issues are addressed in our Strategic Economic Plan, which sets out the aims of creating more than 85,000 jobs by 2030, and the Strategic Housing Market Assessment for Oxfordshire which identifies the need for around an additional 100,000 houses by 2031. In particular, the Strategic Housing Market Assessment for Oxfordshire has led to a substantial acceleration of the release of land for new housing and employment land through the Local Plan process, with the

⁷ Source: *The Economic Impact of Tourism on Oxfordshire: Estimates for 2013* (Tourism South East Research Unit), September 2014

Cherwell Local Plan now adopted and others making refinements to land supply to address the scale of growth needed. This scale of growth is truly transformational, demonstrating local commitment to growth and signalling an “Open for Business” culture.

However, a number of underlying challenges remain, and the proposals set out in this document have been developed with the intention of tackling the constraints and enabling Oxfordshire's full economic growth potential to be unlocked.

- **The cost and availability of housing** – is being addressed through the SHMA and Growth Board process, but we see significant potential for the mix of housing to be improved and delivery to be maximised
- Delivering the **infrastructure** that the local economy and communities require
- Ensuring our residents are equipped with the **skills** that the high tech economy demands
- Provision of **public services** as the public sector continues to be squeezed financially, in particular addressing the ageing population and increasing demand for **health and social care**. As well as the key role of business and universities in driving the local economy we also need the broader public sector to rise to the challenge. Our health and social care services are also an extension of the delivery arm of Oxfordshire's research and scientific innovation programmes. We know that if the key issues such as educational attainment, skills, housing and infrastructure, are not addressed, innovation and growth will stall.

The local framework

We believe that we have a strong geographic basis for a devolution deal. Oxfordshire's economy and public service providers benefit from a high degree of coterminosity, with the functional economic area represented by a countywide Local Enterprise Partnership, aligned with our County, City and district Councils, and a single Clinical Commissioning Group that is broadly coterminous with the county.

In 2014 the six local authorities in Oxfordshire established the Oxfordshire Growth Board⁸ building upon the long standing Spatial Planning and Infrastructure Partnership. This is a Joint Statutory Committee charged with the delivery, on behalf of the Local Enterprise Partnership, of the projects agreed in the City Deal and Local Growth Deals that are delivered by the councils, working collaboratively. The Growth Board membership includes the Leaders of the six local authorities (who are the voting members) together with representatives from the Local Enterprise Partnership including the Oxfordshire Skills Board, Oxford and Oxford Brookes Universities. The Homes and Communities Agency, Environment Agency, Network Rail and the Highways Agency are also represented.

The Oxfordshire partners recognise that there will, on occasions, be priorities with implications which stretch beyond Oxfordshire. Where this is the case the partners will look to form project teams with adjoining authorities and Local Enterprise

⁸ Terms of reference for the Growth Board are available at:
<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/sites/default/files/folders/documents/communityandliving/ourworkwithcommunities/oxfordshirepartnership/TermsOfReference.pdf>

Partnerships that enable appropriate solutions to be developed and taken forward in support of project delivery. England's Economic Heartland is an example of an alliance with neighbors that provides a forum for such discussions; equally Oxfordshire will work with other adjoining neighbors where that is appropriate for the issue under consideration. The Oxford to Cambridge Expressway study is an example of the kind of project that will be undertaken on a collaborative basis using this approach.

The Health and Wellbeing Board oversees all health issues in the County via a well-established Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy which brings together the intentions and outcomes of Oxfordshire's District Councils, the County Council and all parts of the NHS. The Health and Wellbeing Board oversees c£330M of pooled budgets, the local Children's Trust and safeguarding boards and takes a lead role on health and housing related issues.

Structure of this document

Oxfordshire has an ambitious Innovation led Strategic Economic Plan structured into sections on:

- Connectivity
- People
- Place
- Enterprise

These devolution proposals will support a more secure delivery of our Strategic Economic Plan commitments and will build upon our successful city deal and LGF programmes. Our proposals are structured under these SEP priority themes and are designed to deliver our common objectives. For each area we identify the rationale; what we are offering, what we ask of Government and what we plan to deliver.

We have also included an additional strand on public sector reform, covering a proposal for devolution of health budgets and finally we set out the financial approach we intend to adopt alongside governance arrangements.

We believe that these are a powerful set of proposals that will allow Oxfordshire to strengthen its role as a key driver of national economic growth and better meet the needs of our residents, academic institutions and business.

Proposed areas of devolution in Oxfordshire

Connectivity

Proposal 1: Infrastructure provision

Accelerated planning and delivery of infrastructure growth in Oxfordshire achieved through sustained and committed funding streams locally secured through tax revenues arising from new development.

Rationale

Infrastructure investment in Oxfordshire has increased substantially through Local Growth Fund and City Deal arrangements with funding of over £200m secured to deliver £1bn of infrastructure development. However, even with this increased investment we have a massive deficit of well over £1bn in committed funding in order to meet our major infrastructure requirements. The problem is two-fold: insufficient amount of funding against need and, lack of funding certainty. This creates an environment of limited investment confidence from both public and private sectors to forward fund infrastructure planning and delivery which we know would have a positive impact on accelerated growth. We have examples of large development sites which will not come forward as hoped, due to the scale of infrastructure needed to unlock the whole of the site. This slows down the delivery trajectory and adds risk to overall delivery. A good example of this is the Didcot power station site, where comprehensive redevelopment is dependent upon a new bridge across the main London to Bristol and South Wales railway line. The costs of providing this bridge are significant and will not be funded through the redevelopment alone.

Sustained sources of funding are needed to supplement the bid processes for national infrastructure money (in particular the Local Growth Fund, which we hope will be retained in future), and to complement other funding routes for an internationally significant growth area, such as Innovate UK.

We propose the creation of a new infrastructure investment fund through the retention of the uplift in business rate income that is generated from increased economic growth, and invested in prioritised infrastructure.

Offer

Oxfordshire authorities will use a locally agreed element of New Homes Bonus to forward fund, through borrowing or direct financing, locally agreed prioritised infrastructure investment. Such an approach will address strategic and local infrastructure constraints which affect delivery of existing approved schemes and unlock growth. Scheme priorities will be agreed locally but managed through the Growth Board and allow Oxfordshire authorities to deliver locally while also funding early stage work to identify and plan for emerging strategic infrastructure priorities.

Ask

Government is requested to commit to providing the New Homes Bonus for the next 20 years to support the Strategic Economic Plan outcomes. This would allow the

Oxfordshire authorities to take a structured approach to the use of New Homes Bonus to support investment into locally important infrastructure schemes. Potentially, such a commitment could unlock in excess of £350m to help realise Oxfordshire's economic potential by providing the certainty required to facilitate borrowing .

Deliverables

Through this funding, we will be able to support a strengthened approach to the design, development and delivery of infrastructure schemes to support growth:

- a) direct delivery of smaller scale schemes such as expansion of schools, junction capacity and enhancement projects;
- b) assessment and design for major infrastructure proposals such as improving the nationally important corridors of the M40, A40, A420 and A34;
- c) to support cross-boundary infrastructure projects and bids such as the Oxford to Cambridge expressway;
- d) to deliver our major infrastructure proposals, including for example
 - medium sized schemes with match-funding such as the Lodge Hill A34 slip roads;
 - a new by-pass to support job and housing growth at Culham;
 - develop distribution networks to support jobs and housing growth in Bicester and Banbury such as the SE Perimeter Road to support Local Plan allocated growth in Banbury;
 - further regeneration and growth at Milton Park through the Science Bridge proposal and potential expansion of the EZ to include the Didcot A Power Station and adjacent land .
 - a new Park and Ride system for Oxford, including rapid transit corridors in line with the County's Local Transport Plan.
 - Improve the A40 capacity to support more investment into West Oxfordshire creating more jobs and reducing the need to commute out.
 - Rail investment including new stations and reopening lines to serve employment sites such as the Oxford Eastern Arc

With this funding, we will be able to forward fund major initiatives that will provide the basis for working with development partners and the private sector to deliver growth oriented projects.

People

Proposal 2: Skills and employment⁹

In a challenging landscape of near full employment, our ambition is to secure the skills base needed by local employers to support further innovation led growth, and the transfer of new ideas across our economy through an aligned and responsive local skills infrastructure..

Ask

Control of all SFA funding should be vested in the devolved body to ensure that resource is targeted to address local priorities identified by the LEP and local employers. We will ensure that this funding stream is better aligned to local resources to meet employer demands rather than priorities identified at national level or driven by the provider network.

We therefore propose devolved funding and responsibility for;

- Skills Funding Agency adult skills budgets
- Skills Funding Agency apprenticeship budgets
- Skills Funding Agency adult community learning budgets
- National Careers Service information advice and guidance allocations

Working through OxLEP's Skills Board will seek to align and pool resources to re-shape training and learning provision in Oxfordshire to ensure the skills and training that Oxfordshire employers demand, both current and projected are available, easily accessible and more responsive to employer needs. Research shows national current provision pays insufficient regard to the local needs of Oxfordshire's employers, particularly in knowledge rich sectors that drive growth.

Rationale

Oxfordshire is one of the strongest, fastest growing economies in the UK and was recently cited as the most innovative. As one of only three net contributors to UKPLC (£19.2bn GVA 2013) we also have the lowest JSA claimant count (2178 (0.5%) - July 2015) nationally.

An economy based on 'big science' and innovation has a unique set of skills and training requirements that the current national approach and SFA infrastructure is unable to support fully.

The complexity of the system is the greatest barrier. Employers find it confusing, difficult to navigate and overly bureaucratic.

We are aware that the SFA funds 452 providers that deliver in Oxfordshire – of which only c24 deliver substantive outcomes. This creates duplication, confusion and over-supply in some curriculum areas, with other curriculum areas under supplied.

Eleven Oxfordshire based providers draw in excess of £33.8m of funding into the county – however the complexity of the system makes it challenging to understand exactly how much of that supports delivery on Oxfordshire. The table below details the split between the different types of delivery.

⁹ All data is based on 2013/14 academic year which is the last full data set we have access to

Delivery	Funding
16-18 Apprenticeships	£7,235,219
19+ Apprenticeships	£8,817,273
Non-apprenticeship adult skills	£13,285,900
Community learning	£2,239,545
Discretionary support/24+ loans	£2,228,998
Total	£33,806,934

Within this challenging, excessively complex environment employer engagement has frequently turned into employer enragement.

To simplify this and encourage additional take up of training and up-skilling the current multiple top down funding streams need to be aligned and commissioned locally to deliver best value for the area, better coordination of funding bids, better alignment to the drivers of growth and increased flexibility in the system to respond to the needs of employers - many of which do not fit the current prescriptive nature of the skills system.

Equally within the current envelope of provision we see significant mismatches between provision and our economy. Professional, Scientific and Technical sectors account for 21% of our business base, yet only 5% of SFA funds support provision within those sectors.

Our challenge may be characterised by the UK Space sector. Predicted to grow to a £40bn sector by 2030 with c100,000 new jobs nationally its clear the UK is a global leader in the sector. Research goes onto to suggest that c10%-12% of those predicted new jobs (many of which have yet to be invented) will be within the Harwell travel to work area. In its current form the skills infrastructure is struggling to support this level of growth in a specialist sector, its questionable how aware the skills infrastructure is of its growth potential, and how responsive they can be to the specialist demands of employers in the sector. Young people currently in the education system will be essential to drive and support growth – yet it could be argued that the vast majority of those who inform, advise and guide young people are blissfully unaware of what’s going on around them – focussed on the ‘here and now’ with little if any room for ‘horizon scanning’.

Our Strategic Economic Plan sets out ambitious plans for 85,600 new jobs to 2030. We have significant opportunities for accelerated economic growth, to increase productivity, innovation and GVA – based on a devolved and more responsive skills infrastructure.

Offer

Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership and the Oxfordshire Skills Board will work with Government and local Further Education and training providers to re-shape training provision across the county. This will improve skills levels, recognising training as well as qualifications and better address the current and future skills needs of our economy.

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We will

- Develop proposals to align the Government's Adult Skills and Apprenticeship budgets alongside local resources based on the agreed objectives of an Oxfordshire local outcome agreement aligned to the Governments Productivity Plan
- Be at the forefront of reviewing post 16 education and training provision in line with Governments objectives – with a clear ambition to extend the reach of the review to include our most influential providers (c24) - not just FE and 6th form colleges (4) – widening the scope of the review to more accurately reflect the most influential in our provider network
- Formally align the County Council's Economic Development team and associated budgets into Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (subject to confirmed on-going funding to OxLEP post March 16)
- Bring forward increased levels of apprenticeship delivery – to support the Government's target of 3m additional starts by 2020
- Align local budgets such as the Adult Community Learning budget, ESF and local programmes
- Through our emerging 'Opportunities to Inspire - 02i' create a local infrastructure where young people and those that advise and guide young people have access to top quality employer engagement and labour market intelligence based on growth locally as well as nationally

Deliverables

- A significantly enhanced and more productive skills eco-system that ensures a larger percentage of public money is spent on skills that employers need and value and lead to better job outcomes.
- A more flexible, agile system that focuses greater emphasis on innovation and science and sectors experiencing current labour shortage and projected growth.
- A step change in STEM take up – our aim is to double provision to meet employer demand.
- A better qualified workforce – 7% increase to level 2, 15% to level 3
- Through 02i we will work jointly with the Careers and Enterprise Company to coordinate employer-education activity more effectively, creating a network of Enterprise Advisors, more meaningful engagements between schools and business and better quality work experience placements.

Place

Proposal 3: Planning and Housing delivery

To drive delivery of around 100,000 additional houses that are identified in Oxfordshire's Strategic Housing Market Assessment. The county's growth potential is severely hampered by the excessively high housing costs that prevail in both the purchasing and rental markets. Major recruitment and retention problems are being experienced by many parts of both the public and private sectors for technically and professionally qualified staff. The future success of the University of Oxford as a leading global research and innovation centre is under threat due to the cost and availability of housing.

Rationale

In order to deliver this scale of new housing we have identified a need to:

- Align strategic infrastructure and housing investment
- Take a longer term view of development with local plans looking beyond a 15 year period to provide effective place shaping and the highest quality development.
- Working in partnership with the HCA, we would seek to align and deploy existing HCA products where appropriate to address local market failure, and to support the county's housing priorities
- Make effective use of the HCA's Regeneration based CPO powers
- Address housing mix, tenures and models of delivery through increased collaboration with the HCA, building on the strong operational links already in place within the Cherwell DC area.
- Commit retained business rate income uplift in addition to New Homes Bonus to support local and strategic infrastructure investment
- Give further support to communities wishing to develop neighbourhood plans in order to accelerate and smooth the delivery of new homes.
- Increase the planning capacity and resources available to accelerate housing and commercial development

The Homes and Communities Agency performs a valuable national role in assisting Registered Providers to provide affordable housing and, increasingly, a wider range of housing tenures. We would look to develop a more comprehensive partnership with the HCA, building on existing working arrangements, in order to ensure the successful deployment of HCA products that are relevant to Oxfordshire. We recognise the challenges of high house prices, an overheated urban economy and complexity of maintaining the outstanding rural environment alongside an ambitious knowledge economy growth agenda. We would aim to establish operational level project teams to ensure a finely targeted and local approach to housing provision.

Offer

To support an integrated approach to strategic planning that builds on local plans and powers, and introduce innovative new mechanisms to deliver housing more quickly. Within this framework, councils and neighbourhood planning groups will utilise this strategic planning approach when determining locations and levels of growth. Local partners will look beyond a 15 year period to provide effective place

shaping and the highest quality development. We will deliver a harmonised approach to development that accelerates growth and is fully supported by local communities

In partnership with the HCA, we will produce an Oxfordshire housing investment strategy, with a consolidation of existing HCA products to address the county's housing priorities. With an ambitious delivery plan we will ensure government and local authority funding is strategically placed to address the barriers to housing delivery, create more effective partnerships with house builders and greatly accelerate delivery of the housing products that best suit the Oxfordshire economy.

In particular, we are keen to ensure that the scale of housing investment and HCA engagement at locations such as Bicester is broadened across the County, with a sharper focus on addressing the cost of construction, housing type, support for starter homes, key worker, rural housing and housing affordability.

Ask

To enable effective planning and delivery the Oxfordshire councils require greater control over the planning framework. We ask for removal of the five year land supply requirement, which, although it seeks to maintain the pace of house building, inadvertently undermines our plans for sustainable growth, regeneration of our towns and the confidence of our communities. We will deliver our housing targets through having a strong and strategically planned pipeline of schemes that are being worked up in partnership with developers and communities such that they have pre-application approval and are ready to bring forward as and when other sites are delayed. Neighbourhood plans will encompass these new projects providing we and they can ensure they come forward at an appropriate time, in tandem with transport initiatives and school provision.

We seek government commitment to remove the facility for developers to retrospectively appeal against affordable housing allocations. The affordable housing element of our developments provide opportunities for home ownership, intermediate rent and affordable rent to support employment growth. In all cases we will ensure schemes are viable by means of independent viability assessments and will work constructively with developers to provide optimum solutions to meet all housing needs.

We ask for further planning freedoms to develop a long pipeline of schemes that we will manage to ensure delivery of our target housing numbers.

Additionally to allow us to postpone sites that are not being brought forward in a timely way we ask for powers to allow us to push back such sites and bring forward others to replace them. This will incentivise developers to accelerate development. It will help resolve the problem of development land being sterilised as land owners will realise that if sites are not automatically allocated in perpetuity their value drops and restrictive option agreements are not a good buy.

Oxfordshire partners seek a commitment from the HCA to work proactively through our Growth Board and future governance arrangements to jointly prioritise and align investment priorities and powers to improve effectiveness and housing delivery. Alongside this devolved approach we see major potential for building a closer understanding with mortgage providers of

the scale and pace of house building across the County. This joint approach with the HCA would include exploring bespoke mortgage packages, such as Lloyds is developing in support of the UKs largest self-build development at Graven Hill, Bicester.

Deliverables

Oxfordshire's partners intend to drive housing delivery proactively by delivering the vision and outcomes set out in the SHMA and SEP. To deliver our vision and sustainable growth we need to plan for growth in such a way that employment growth and housing development are supported by targeted infrastructure investment.

Our experience over the past five years has taught us that unplanned housing development has created major infrastructure gaps, putting pressure on towns and villages and causing resentment and hostility towards housing growth. We will seek to overcome this problem by long term planning with the full involvement of local communities, and a logical phasing of development to enable essential infrastructure to be delivered in tandem with growth.

The partnership is already showing through the City Deal and the current Local Plans that the scale and pace of housing delivery could be and has been accelerated. Considerable land is being released for housing growth on both brown and green field sites, to meet the needs identified in the Oxfordshire SHMA, and the Local Plans are identifying the right locations for meeting this need.

The partnership is keen to focus the use of HCA powers to unlock a number of identified sites and thus accelerate additional growth, secure a wider range of housing products including starter homes and self- build that better support knowledge economy growth. Housing output will increase in line with the targets in the investment strategy.

Enterprise

Proposal 4: Business growth

To support the start-up, growth and scale up of strong resilient innovative and entrepreneurial companies by harnessing the combined efforts of government funded business development and support agencies with the aim of enhancing access to initiatives through greater alignment to and partnership with our Oxfordshire Business Support (OBS) programme – our Growth Hub – which in turn drives business productivity and growth.

Rationale

Numerous organisations are engaged in driving business support, inward investment and business growth – from national programmes such as UKTI, Innovate UK and Growth Accelerator to local organisations such as Invest in Oxfordshire, and local authority economic development resources. In addition the research base in Oxfordshire is an attractor to a range of business sectors needing innovative solutions to their commercial challenges.

There is evidence of overlapping objectives and duplication in business support provision . This leads to confusion and frustration on the part of high growth potential companies which can have multiple organisations offering the same type of support.

The Oxfordshire Strategic Economic Plan identifies that *‘levels of uptake of some of the nationally developed business support schemes are not as high as would be expected. The main reason is the complexity of offers and support that can be communicated to a business, leaving a feeling of confusion and inertia’*.

Offer

Building on the success of our Oxfordshire Business Support (OBS) programme we seek to extend and enhance the range of valued business support services on offer locally including those to small businesses who are an important part of the Oxfordshire economy. By working more collaboratively with national programmes we will provide a co-ordinated, consortia based approach – a localised single point of contact to business that aligns the various programmes, whether national, sector based or local by simplifying the awareness of and access to existing programmes.

Increased levels of investment into the Science Vale Oxford Enterprise Zone

Building on our existing relationships with UKTI we will develop an inward investment and business growth strategy that will increase foreign investment projects and will offer a tailored support programme for high growth companies investing in the county through Invest in Oxfordshire.

We will increase the percentage of medium and large companies from 11.5% to exceed the national average of 11.7% in order to greatly increase Oxfordshire’s GVA. We will achieve this by improving technology readiness of our high growth knowledge economy businesses and providing the right levels of support at the right time. Oxfordshire will retain more of its high growth companies which will grow and thrive.

A better coordinated business support offer across the local ‘economic development family’ by better alignment across OxLEP, OBS and local authority resources through the emerging Joint Oxfordshire Business Support (JOBS) initiative.

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Greater awareness of the Oxfordshire offer internationally that drives increased levels of investment by developing sector analysis 'deep dives' across our primary sectors of;

- Automotive & motorsports
- Space & satellite technologies
- Life Sciences
- Creative & digital
- Electronic, sensors & instrumentation

Ask

To work in partnership with existing government funded business support programmes to deliver a more collaborative, coordinated offer to high growth potential businesses to greatly increase growth, business retention and productivity.

Deliverables

- We will achieve the targets we set through the strategy for increasing the number of companies within Oxfordshire in the medium and large end of the employment spectrum.
- Alignment of national programmes locally through Oxfordshire Business Support Programme, to provide an integrated and coherent package of support to business across Oxfordshire to deliver growth through innovation
- Increased networking and connectivity between research institutions, businesses, SMEs and start-ups: the lack of fertile dialogue and exchange has been identified as a clear constraint on growth potential. We will in particular be broadening the scope of the existing initiatives in this area, and continuing them into the future
- Support to link high growth potential entrepreneurs, SMEs, start-ups and academia to grow
- Provision of high quality support to SMEs to strengthen core management and systems, acquire business skills and advice and improve resilience

Our programme will have active engagement and involvement of the universities alongside other key organisations (large companies, sector bodies, innovation experts, etc) in support of the design and development of the programmes. This will help to ensure that Oxfordshire SMEs better exploit the regional knowledge base provide long term support for companies through developing sustainable models of delivery.

Proposal 5: Public sector reform

We have developed strong working relationships between the county, city and district councils and other partners. However, recognising that, in governance, form should follow function. We therefore agree to commit to undertaking a governance review of our existing joint working arrangements with a view to establishing a combined authority in support of a substantial devolution deal.

We will build on these relationships with new models of joint working, based on a 'one team' approach for Oxfordshire's local government to deliver services for residents that are more efficient and at a lower cost. This work is at an early stage and detailed proposals will be developed in coming months.

We are keen to explore broader possibilities with other partners (eg transport providers and the Environment Agency) and consider new ways of working that will lead to better outcomes for Oxfordshire residents.

Proposal 6: Health, Social Care and Wellbeing

Proposal

Oxfordshire is well placed to make a transformative step-change in service delivery across Health, Social Care and associated wellbeing of the County, building on twenty years' experience of pooled budgets and close joint working.

Our proposal is:

- To bring together the public money spent on the health and social care of Oxfordshire residents and seek the powers to manage it as a whole. This means bringing the c.£150M spent on GP and primary care services and the c.£250M spent on specialist services under local control, making a total 'pot' of c. £1.23BN of health and social care funding to be allocated under a unified planning system co-designed with NHS England.
- Clear and strong governance is critical. We propose to review the well-established shared governance arrangements of the Health and Wellbeing Board and its subsidiary Boards to oversee the future planning and allocation of this shared resource. We would also review and re-define the relationship between the Health and Wellbeing Board to ensure synergy with the development of the strengthened Oxfordshire Growth Board proposed elsewhere in this paper.
- In addition, we would work closely with our major NHS and Social Care providers, building on the success of the Oxfordshire Transformation Board which enshrines strong collaboration between commissioner and provider.
- These new arrangements would see major benefits for the people of Oxfordshire in three areas which would go beyond traditional health and social care integration. These are:
Benefits for People - Plan and design the next generation of integrated GP, hospital and social services as a unified whole alongside the funding for specialist services on which our local teaching hospitals crucially depend.

A Better Start in Life - Current arrangements feature a strong multi-agency Children's Trust which plans services for children and keeps them safe. Aligning this work more closely with GP services, specialist services and the evolving Growth Board will allow us to achieve better health outcomes for children.

Benefits for Place - Good health and a sense of wellbeing are intimately bound up with issues such as community design, active travel, housing quality and commuting. Aligning the work of District Councils, County Council and the NHS through the planning system would facilitate better planning of communities as a whole.

This would give us an exciting opportunity to marry the Health and Wellbeing agenda with the County's ambitious plans for new homes and build in developments such as key worker housing, extra care housing and health care villages.

Ask

We would therefore ask Government:

- To work with us as we review the governance arrangements of the Health and Wellbeing Board, exploring any further powers needed, and find ways to dovetail this with the governance that will be required to support the devolution of funding and decision making powers.
- To identify and devolve Oxfordshire's 'share' of primary care and specialist commissioning resource to Oxfordshire CCG by arrangement with NHS England.
- To work with us to find the best ways to build health and wellbeing into the local planning system.
- To relax controls over management costs in the NHS locally to give the flexibility to manage the new system effectively.

Rationale

Demand on local services continues to grow as the population ages, with local growth projections for over 85s set to rise higher than the England average.

We also need to meet head-on the growing pressure on resources across the whole system.

Oxfordshire's health system has begun to meet this challenge and work is underway to transform primary care, social care, community services and hospital services.

Devolution would bring the following benefits which would assist us in meeting these challenges:

- Unified commissioning of all health and social care services.
- Aligning more closely health and social care commissioning with the research and innovation of our universities.
- Aligning unified health and wellbeing plans with the aligned plans of 5 District Councils to create healthier communities.

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- Greater transparency and clarity in decision making which is directly accountable to the public.

Offer

We wish to work alongside Government to:

- Re-shape services to meet the vision set out in the NHS 5 year forward view, working closely with NHS England
- Work closely with NHS Trusts and Oxford University to fast-track clinical innovation.
- Explore the potential for aligning health and wellbeing considerations in the planning of local communities
- Develop the governance arrangements necessary to oversee the new responsibilities we have requested.

Deliverables

In terms of improved health and wellbeing outcomes, the proposed arrangements would expect to deliver:

- A new system of 24/7 primary care to meet the needs of the 21st century.
- Re-shaped out of hospital services which genuinely 'merge' health and social care provision.
- Better coordinated urgent care service to avoid unnecessary admissions.
- A fast-track for health innovation to get research directly from test-bed to bedside.
- To experiment with place-based planning to tailor services to the needs of local residents.
- Improved collaboration between providers who will deliver services to meet specified outcomes.
- To explore the link between health provision, the local planning process and developer contributions.

Financing

Financing our Strategic Infrastructure aspirations (Proposal 1)

Oxfordshire needs infrastructure investment if we are to fulfil our ambition to deliver significant housing and economic growth. We need that infrastructure now, therefore a commitment to new and sustained sources of funding are required to give the authorities in Oxfordshire the confidence to either directly fund or undertake borrowing to deliver significant infrastructure investment which will realise Oxfordshire's economic potential. Using funds secured through accelerated housing and employment delivery, City Deal and LGF, the use of New Homes Bonus and the uplift in general Business Rates secured locally as part of this bid, our infrastructure programme can be developed and delivered.

Oxfordshire has three proposals to put to Government on sustained sources of funding:

Long term certainty over New Homes Bonus

This year Oxfordshire will receive nearly £16 million in new homes bonus payments and is estimated to be £20 million per annum by the time the full annual amount becomes payable. If Government commit to providing the New Homes Bonus for the next 20 years to align with the Strategic Economic Plan timetable, this will give the Oxfordshire Councils certainty over circa £0.5bn of income which could be used to support borrowing aligned to planned housing growth to fund an annual investment strategy thereby enabling investment to be targeted and delivered locally.

Business rates

Oxfordshire will generate almost £300 million of business rates in 2015/16, with approximately half returned to central government. This return to government includes growth above the baseline of some £5m. If Oxfordshire was able to retain all business rate income for 20-25 years above an agreed baseline formula including agreement to cancel the reset scheduled for 2020 we would be able to use this income to invest directly in projects or undertake advanced borrowing to further boost our investment delivery. Even before taking into account the ambition of the Strategic Economic Plan to deliver an additional 85,600 jobs and the associated increase in business rate growth that would generate, we would be able to undertake borrowing in the region of £75 m. With the additional jobs and accelerated infrastructure delivery this ability to borrow would grow exponentially.

Freedom to set fees for planning and licensing locally

The government sets fees for planning and licensing applications and these do not cover the costs we incur in delivering those services. We estimate the shortfall is between £2 and £3 million per annum. If we were able to cover costs we would be able to build and sustain our planning, transport and infrastructure teams to ensure value is added for the customer, quicker response times, develop self-help guidance and faster determination timelines.

Financing our Skills and Employment aspirations (Proposal 2)

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To ensure that resources are targeted to address local priorities and better aligned to meet local employer demands, we propose the Government devolves all SFA funding to Oxfordshire.

We therefore propose devolved funding and responsibility for;

- Skills Funding Agency adult skills budgets
- Skills Funding Agency apprenticeship budgets
- Skills Funding Agency adult community learning budgets
- National Careers Service information advice and guidance allocations

Financing our Housing and Planning aspirations (Proposal 3)

In order to improve effectiveness in the use of resource and accelerate housing delivery, we propose to work with the HCA to align investment priorities and target CPO powers effectively in support of the Oxfordshire Strategic Economic Plan outcomes.

Financing our Business Growth aspirations (Proposal 4)

To maximise economic growth, business retention and GVA, we propose that we work in partnership with UKTI, Growth Accelerator and Innovate UK, to direct their investment into Oxfordshire in support of our business growth and inward investment objectives. We would seek to direct this funding towards appropriate foreign investment opportunities and support for high growth, knowledge economy businesses.

Financing our Public Sector Reform aspirations (Proposal 5)

The six Councils in Oxfordshire are proactively planning for financial independence in delivery of services to residents by eliminating our reliance on Revenue Support Grant by 2020. Furthermore, new models of joint working are planned that will provide those services more efficiently and at a lower cost.

Financing our Health and Wellbeing aspirations (Proposal 6)

To take a transformative step-change in the health and wellbeing of the County, building on twenty years' experience of pooled budgets and close joint working, we propose the bringing together of the public money spent on the health and social care of Oxfordshire residents and seek the powers to manage it as a whole. This would consolidate health and social care funding of around £1.23bn and provide for a holistic approach to the growing pressure on resources across the whole system.

Financing the Oxfordshire proposals for devolution

		£bn
Proposal 1	New Homes Bonus (Oxfordshire offer)	0.35
Proposal 1	Borrowing against uplift in Business Rates (Oxfordshire offer)	0.1
Proposal 1	Local Growth Fund ask	0.4
Proposal 1	Local Growth Fund Offer	0.6
Proposal 1	Highways England ask	1.0
Proposal 2	Devolution of SFA funding	0.3
Proposal 6	Devolution of Health & Social Care funding	1.2
	TOTAL PROPOSALS	3.95

Governance

We think that we have robust joint working arrangements in place through the LEP and Growth Board and these allow us to take a strategic approach to planning for growth as evidenced by our Strategic Economic Plan, our City Deal and Local Growth Fund Arrangements.

We know that there are many important players beyond local authorities in Oxfordshire and we are delighted to have a strong LEP membership with full engagement of both local universities and the business sector. Local authorities through the Growth Board will continue to work closely with the LEP to understand and meet the needs of these globally important partners.

Our Offer

We are already committed to expanding and strengthening the role of the Growth Board to direct the completion of a spatial strategy for the county by 2018. As part of our co-location plans between county and district, we are committed to developing a strategic planning and infrastructure framework for the county. Working alongside the LEP we will support a review of the Strategic Economic Plan, this will enable all objectively assessed needs for the county, including jobs, housing and infrastructure, to be positioned strategically, and then allocated in a timely and effective manner locally.

However we recognise that in governance terms form should follow function.

We recognise that greater devolution of power and funding could see a reform of the Growth Board to enable it to be more strategic and take a stronger role in driving delivery. We therefore agree to commit to undertaking a governance review of our existing joint working arrangements with a view to establishing a combined authority in support of a substantial devolution deal for Oxfordshire.

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