



County Council

16 May 2017

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 **07776 997946** 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, 16 May 2017 at 10.30 am

County Hall, Oxford OX1 1ND



P.G. Clark
Chief Executive

May 2017

Committee Officer: **Deborah Miller**
Tel: 07920 084239; 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. Election of Chairman for the 2017/18 Council Year**
- 2. Election of Vice-Chairman for the 2017/18 Council Year**
- 3. Minutes (Pages 1 - 44)**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2017 (CC1) and to receive information arising from them.

4. **Apologies for Absence**

5. **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.

6. **Returning Officer's Report (Pages 45 - 54)**

To receive the Returning Officer's Report (**CC6**) on the election of Councillors on 4 May 2017.

7. **Officer Scheme of Delegation (Pages 55 - 74)**

Report by the Monitoring Officer (**CC7**).

At its Annual Meeting, Council is required to agree the officer scheme of delegation within the Council's Constitution.

The Scheme of Officer Delegation is contained in Part 7.2 of the Council's Constitution. The Scheme itself gives delegated authority to the Head of Paid Service, directors and other chief officers whose titles and/or areas of responsibility are set out in Part 2, Article 13 of the Constitution. Copies of the amended sections of the Constitution have been placed in the Members' Resource Room.

Since the Constitution was fully reviewed in 2014-15, the Council has undertaken a senior management review. The only changes are those arising from the previously agreed senior management review. The consequential changes to the Constitution were agreed by Audit and Governance Committee in January 2017 and by Full Council in March 2017. As such these relate to changes in post title and do not create additional or new delegations of powers.

Council is RECOMMENDED to note the proposed amendments to Article 13 and to Part 7.2 of the Constitution and to approve the Scheme of Officer Delegation (Part 7.3) as amended.

8. **Revised Committee Dates Following the Election (Pages 75 - 80)**

The Monitoring Officer reports as follows:

In light of the General Election, only meetings dealing with essential matters will meet during the purdah period. A revised list of Council dates is attached

In addition a request has been received from the District Councils to bring forward the budget meeting of full Council in February 2018 to facilitate their budget setting processes.

Council is RECOMMENDED to note the revised schedule of meetings and to agree to waive Rule 2.1 of the Council Procedure Rules to allow the February 2018 budget meeting of full Council to be held on 13 February.

9. Appointments

Members are asked to:

- (a) elect the Leader of the Council;
- (b) note the names, addresses and electoral divisions of the people appointed to the Cabinet by the Leader of the Council for the coming year and their respective portfolios;
- (c) note the Office of the Leader of the Opposition.

At the conclusion of the Council's proceedings all members are asked to remain in their seats in the Council chamber while committees meet for the purpose of electing Chairman and Deputy Chairman.

10. Review of Political Balance (Pages 81 - 84)

Report by the Director of Law & Governance (CC10)

The report reviews the political balance on Scrutiny and other committees and appoints members to them. **(ANNEXES TO FOLLOW)**.

The Council is RECOMMENDED to:

- (a) ***confirm the political balance on committees shown in Annex 2 to the report;***
- (b) ***appoint to committees the councillors and co-opted members shown in Annex 3, subject to any changes reported at the meeting.***

11. Scrutiny Committees - Annual Report (Pages 85 - 108)

The report (CC11) is structured to reflect the activity of the Council's three scrutiny committees; Performance Scrutiny, Education Scrutiny and Health Overview & Scrutiny and the Cabinet Advisory Groups. The report highlights the work carried out by each Committee to scrutinise service activity and performance as well as Cabinet decisions taken over the past year.

Council is RECOMMENDED to receive the report.

Pre-Meeting Briefing

There will be a pre-meeting briefing at County Hall on **Monday 15 May at 10.15 am** for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Group Leaders and Deputy Group Leaders.

Agenda Item 3

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 21 March 2017 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 3.50 pm.

Present:

Councillor Michael Waine – in the Chair

Councillors:

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

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.

106/17 MINUTES

(Agenda Item 1)

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 February 2017 were approved and signed.

107/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(Agenda Item 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hibbert-Biles and Rose.

108/17 OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

(Agenda Item 4)

The Chairman reported as follows:

Council paid tribute and agreed to write to and congratulate former employee of the County Council, Ms Sarah Burrows, who had received the Prime Minister's Points of Light Award which recognised outstanding individual volunteers and people who were making a change in their community.

Council paid tribute to Adult Social Care Staff who had worked tirelessly over the weekend to ensure 127 vulnerable adults were cared for in the wake of the collapse of the Cleeve Link Care Agency.

The Chairman reminded members that there would be a celebration at Birmingham's symphony Hall on Saturday 25 March to mark the 75th Anniversary of Oxfordshire's Award winning Music Service.

109/17 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS

(Agenda Item 6)

The Council received the following Petitions and Public address:

A Petition of some 20 signatures requesting that the Council make changes to the bus stops in the centre of Oxford so that the distance between them conforms to the recommendations of Inclusive Mobility 2005, i.e. a maximum of 400m but more hopefully 200m – 250m to ensure that the Council are not discriminating against people who cannot walk far.

The Chairman of the Council received the Petition and forwarded it to the Director for Environment & Economy to respond.

A Petition of some 130 signatures requesting that the County Council ensure close working between the County Council and TELL MAMA Thames Valley Advisory Board (a Muslim Anti Hate Crime organisation) working together with Thames Valley Police to reduce hate crimes to zero.

The Chairman of the Council received the Petition and forwarded it to the Director for Community Safety for response.

Mr Ken Williamson referred to the Sustainability and Transformation Plan Footprints which he believed were designed to defund the NHS by a further £30 Billion (20% of revenue) and add de-staffing and a total lack of workforce planning. He expressed concern that Transformation plans would place an additional 30% reliance on GPs, Community services and Social care, all of which were in crisis. Unpaid care by family and friends now involved 1 in 8 of the population and in Oxfordshire there were 800 vacancies for paid carers.

He urged Council to adopt the Leadership Team report and reject the damaging OTP plans, demanding that the Government restore funding to Local Authorities and the NHS in order to fully integrate Health and Social Care. Without that there would be tragedies and rising death rates for the people of Oxfordshire.

Mr Kingsmill-Stoker referred to the Centre for Workforce Intelligence's prediction that by 2055 Oxfordshire would need 2 million carers if demand continued as it was now. That coupled with the fact that Oxfordshire was one of the most expensive places to live in meant the possibility of a real shortage of carers. Private and voluntary sector people would work for maybe one or 2 years before burning out. He urged the Cabinet to bring Home Care Providers in-house in order to stop NVQ level 3 and 4 Carers leaving to work in supermarkets that paid a better hourly rate.

Mr Larry Sanders addressed the Council in support of Agenda Item 13 (Motion from Councillor Liz Brighthouse) and the amendment by Councillor Williams set out in the schedule of Business. He expressed the need for County Council to ask the Cabinet to bring Home Care Providers in-house to create a directly paid workforce with a career path which would be highly effective in an emergency, with a fair pay, encourage better turnover and create motivation in the workforce. He also encouraged the Council to consider an in-house care home.

110/17 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(Agenda Item 8)

28 Questions with notice were asked. Details of where questions and answers and supplementary questions and answers (where asked) are set out in Annex 1 to the Minutes.

In relation to question 9 (Question from Councillor Charles Mathew to Councillor Harrod), Councillor Harrod gave an undertaking to encourage co-operation between the school sectors.

In relation to question 22 (Question from Councillor Howson to Councillor Harrod), Councillor Harrod gave an undertaking to provide Councillor Harrod with a written answer as to whether there was any requirement for all new schools to be 'free schools'

111/17 REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

(Agenda Item 9)

The Council received the report of the Council.

112/17 INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS FOR TAKING EMERGENCY DECISIONS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

(Agenda Item 10)

Under the provisions of section 7 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), all the existing County Councillors would retire together on the fourth day following the elections (i.e. on 9 May 2017) and the newly elected and re-elected Councillors would take office from that day. All positions under the Council's political management arrangements except for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council and the Leader (for each of which there was a specific statutory exemption) fall vacant on that day, until they were filled at the first meeting of the County Council on 16 May 2017. In terms of formal member decision making there would therefore be a hiatus during this period and some provision would need to be made in the event that any urgent decisions are required.

Under the Constitution the Chief Executive had delegated power to take any Executive or non-Executive decision after consultation with the appropriate Director and following consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council or (in the case of non-executive functions) the relevant Committee Chairman and Deputy Chairman. As these positions would not be confirmed until 16 May 2017 this delegation would need to be temporarily varied so that these powers could be exercised following consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council and the Leader.

RESOLVED: (on a motion by Councillor Waine seconded by Councillor Patrick and carried nem con) to agree a temporary variation to Part 7.2 of the Constitution Specific Powers and Functions of Particular Officers with effect that from 9 May to 16 May 2017 paragraph 6.3 (c) is to be read as follows:-

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

113/17 CONSTITUTION REVIEW

(Agenda Item 11)

Under the Constitution, the Monitoring Officer was required to monitor and review the operation of the Constitution to ensure that its aims, principles and requirements were given full effect. This included making recommendations to Council on any necessary amendments. The Monitoring Officer was authorised to make any changes to the Constitution which were required to:

- Comply with the law
- Give effect to the decisions of Council (or Cabinet, Committees etc.)
- Correct errors and otherwise for accuracy or rectification

Other changes would only be made by Full Council, following a recommendation of the Monitoring Officer. The Council had before it a report

(CC11) which therefore recommended one change for Council's approval; noted that the Monitoring Officer would make any consequential changes to the Constitution arising from the Senior Management Review; and listed certain changes made by the Monitoring Officer under his delegated powers, for noting.

RESOLVED: (on a motion by Councillor Waine, seconded by Councillor Patrick and by 53 votes to 0, with 1 abstention) to:

- (a) agree the proposed change to the Council Procedure Rules outlined at paragraph 6 of this report (Financial Procedure Rules, write off provisions);
- (b) note that the Monitoring Officer will make any consequential amendments to the Constitution arising from the senior management review;
- (c) note the changes already made to the Constitution by the Monitoring Officer under delegated powers since the last annual Constitution Review report to Council (as outlined in Annex 1 to the report).

114/17 RESPONSE TO THE NHS CONSULTATION ON THE OXFORDSHIRE TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

(Agenda Item 12)

On 21 February the Cabinet had considered a paper from the Council leadership team setting out the officers' assessment of the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group's (OCCG) proposals for the future of health and care services in the County. They agreed the following recommendation, 'to welcome the opportunity to comment on this consultation, acknowledge the difficulties faced by NHS services locally as presented in the OCCGs case for change, but on balance not to support the proposals based on the lack of information on the impact on council services and that of the public.'

Cabinet's views on the proposals were presented to the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OJHOSC) on 7 March. The OJHOSC was the statutory consultee on substantial developments or variations in the provision of the health service. OJHOSC invited evidence from a wide range of organisations and would be responding to the OCCG consultation with comments and recommendations as well as meeting again to consider whether the OCCG had responded adequately to the issues it had raised.

Due to the scale, impact and interest of all members in the proposals to transform local health services Cabinet wanted to give County Council the opportunity to consider the potential impact on Council services and the public. These views will be collated and fed back to the OCCG as part of the consultation process. According the Council now had before it the report for consideration.

Councillor Heathcoat moved and Councillor Hudspeth seconded that the recommendations set out in the report and on the face on the Agenda be adopted.

There then followed a lengthy debate in which the Council indicated its strong opposition to the proposals and rejected the consultation. The following points were raised during debate:

Members discussed the Oxfordshire transformation proposals in the wider national context of significant financial challenge for the NHS and social care. They wanted to emphasise that they understood that the situation the CCG is facing is a result of national policy. The rising demand for health services and lack of funding to address this was a huge national issue which was being played out locally to the detriment of services for local people.

Members felt that the consultation did not make clear the impact on social care and there was a lack of modelling to accurately assess this. It was felt that the proposals would benefit from a workforce plan setting out how the impact on carers would be managed. It should not be assumed that county council services would be able to absorb the impact of the changes on social care. It was also noted that the care sector is financially very fragile as recent examples of agencies becoming insolvent shows.

Members expressed frustration that no options for alternative delivery options were presented in the consultation. Some members felt this implied a 'fait accompli' as no alternative future arrangements were presented for consideration. It was also unacceptable to expect proposals for substantial bed closures to be agreed without any detail about proposals for the future of services in the community. These would be vital to support changes in the acute system.

There were consistent concerns about the splitting of the proposals into two phases which it was agreed had resulted in a lack of coherent vision for the future of health and care services in Oxfordshire. Furthermore rolling so many specific issues into the consultation had meant that it lacked clarity. Members agreed that the impact of the proposals on primary care would be significant but this was not discussed in this first phase of proposals and was a significant flaw.

Oxfordshire was experiencing significant housing growth and members felt that there was insufficient planning for this in the proposals. Specifically there was concern about Banbury where significant changes to the levels of service at the Horton Hospital were proposed but also in the south of the county at Didcot which was experiencing substantial growth.

Parking and access to hospitals both in Oxford and Banbury was a particular concern to local members whose constituents already experience considerable difficulty accessing appointments.

The Oxfordshire Transformation proposals did not clearly align to the regional STP process and there were concerns about what the additional impact of these proposals would be on local health services. Members felt these proposals lacked transparency.

Following debate, the recommendations, incorporating the views above was put to the vote and was carried by 55 votes to 0, with 1 abstention)

RESOLVED: (by 55 votes to 0, with 1 abstention)

Council is RECOMMENDED to:

- (a) note the views expressed to HOSC by Cabinet on the proposals;***
- (b) identify further concerns, as set out above regarding the proposals;***
- (c) agree for Officers to summarise these further concerns to the OCCG as a response to the consultation;***
- (d) Share these concerns with HOSC to aid their further consideration of the OCCG proposals.***

115/17 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR LIZ BRIGHOUSE

(Agenda Item 13)

With the Consent of Council, Councillor Brighouse moved and Councillor Heathcoat seconded an amendment to her Motion at the suggestion of Councillor Howson and Councillor Heathcoat as shown below in bold italics/strikethrough:

“Despite:

- paying higher per hour costs than most authorities to our Home Care Providers;
- investing a significant amount of time and resources in enhancing the status of Home Care workers; and
- having changed the contracting arrangements for Home Care;

there is still a perception that this is a low status profession with poor pay and conditions of service. There is now a severe crisis in recruitment of Home Care professionals which is a greater threat to services than the financial challenges.

Oxfordshire County Council therefore asks the Cabinet to ~~start~~ **explore** a process to:

- create a directly employed workforce with training, continuous professional development, fair pay and conditions of service at its core;
- provide training and education opportunities for young people **and adults** in this area of employment and engage with young people in considering the caring professions as a future career path **through apprenticeships and other routes.**”

Councillor Williams moved and Councillor Coates seconded the following amendment as shown below in bold italics/strikethrough:

“Despite:

- paying higher per hour costs than most authorities to our Home Care Providers;
- investing a significant amount of time and resources in enhancing the status of Home Care workers; and
- having changed the contracting arrangements for Home Care;

there is still a perception that this is a low status profession with poor pay and conditions of service. There is now a severe crisis in recruitment of Home Care professionals which is a greater threat to services than the financial challenges.

Oxfordshire County Council therefore asks the Cabinet to ~~start~~ **explore** a process to:

- create a directly employed workforce with training, continuous professional development, fair pay and conditions of service at its core;
- provide training and education opportunities for young people **and adults** in this area of employment and engage with young people in considering the caring professions as a future career path **through apprenticeships and other routes.**”
- **Consider the feasibility of operating at least one care home directly by the Council to set quality standards and be a centre for training. The Council model to also give a clear picture of the true cost of care.**

Following debate, the amendment was put to the vote and was Business lost by 49 votes to 2, with 7 abstentions.

The substantive Motion as amended was then put to the vote and was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: (unanimously)

“Despite:

- paying higher per hour costs than most authorities to our Home Care Providers;
- investing a significant amount of time and resources in enhancing the status of Home Care workers; and
- having changed the contracting arrangements for Home Care;

there is still a perception that this is a low status profession with poor pay and conditions of service. There is now a severe crisis in recruitment of Home Care professionals which is a greater threat to services than the financial challenges.

Oxfordshire County Council therefore asks the Cabinet to *explore* a process to:

- create a directly employed workforce with training, continuous professional development, fair pay and conditions of service at its core;
- provide training and education opportunities for young people *and adults* in this area of employment and engage with young people in considering the caring professions as a future career path *through apprenticeships and other routes.*”

116/17 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR MELINDA TILLEY

(Agenda Item 14)

With the agreement of Council, Councillor Tilley moved and Councillor Brighthouse seconded her motion as amended by Councillor Brighthouse below in bold italics and strikethrough:

“This Council is concerned about the prevalence of prejudice-related bullying in schools and online, particularly the impact on vulnerable groups.

We are aware that cyber bullying is a growing issue and that some groups of children are more likely to experience and be affected by bullying. This Council, along with the Children’s Trust, and Corporate Parenting Panel, will do everything we can to raise awareness and try to halt this toxic bullying ***and asks the Education Scrutiny Committee to carry out a review in relation to the issue.***”

The Motion as amended was put to the vote and was carried nem con.

RESOLVED: (nem con)

“This Council is concerned about the prevalence of prejudice-related bullying in schools and online, particularly the impact on vulnerable groups.

We are aware that cyber bullying is a growing issue and that some groups of children are more likely to experience and be affected by bullying. This Council, along with the Children’s Trust, and Corporate Parenting Panel, will do everything we can to raise awareness and try to halt this toxic bullying and asks the Education Scrutiny Committee to carry out a review in relation to the issue.”

117/17 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR HOWSON

(Agenda Item 15)

Councillor Howson moved and Councillor Fooks seconded the following Motion:

“Across Oxfordshire small primary schools serve an important purpose in creating an education system where the school is firmly located within its community. Children can walk or cycle to school: these schools form a vital hub for many communities.

This Council wishes to express concern to the government at Westminster that the new funding formula for schools does not destroy schools with fewer

than 250 pupils unintentionally, as a result of making them financially unviable.

Many of these schools have been part of the education scene in Oxfordshire for more than 150 years.

Around 100 primary schools in Oxfordshire lose money under the proposed new formula and schools set to receive extra funding will be capped below the amount they should receive.

This Council asks the Cabinet Member for Education to write to the Secretary of State for Education to express the concerns of this Council that the proposed new formula could lead to the wholesale closure of small schools, especially as any resulting increase in transport costs would fall on the council tax payers of Oxfordshire and additionally that some Oxfordshire schools will not receive the full funding identified as due to them under the new formula.”

Following debate the Motion was put to the vote and was carried nem con.

RESOLVED: Accordingly.

118/17 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR MARK CHERRY

(Agenda Item 16)

Councillor Cherry moved and Councillor Mallon seconded the following Motion:

“The Bankside Road is needed urgently if the town is to avoid total gridlock on its roads. Oxfordshire is a net contributor to the National Economy and the North of the County continues to grow with the construction of 8000 houses and the construction of HS2. Therefore more businesses and more vehicles are inevitable. This issue has been talked about for over 30 years and it is now time for action.

"This Council calls on the Leader of Oxfordshire County Council to give urgent consideration of the Bankside link Road and for this to be prioritised in the Banbury area strategy in LTP4.”

Following debate the Motion was put to the vote and was carried nem con.

RESOLVED: Accordingly.

119/17 MOTIONS 17, 18 AND 19

(Agenda Item 17)

The time being after 3.52 pm, motions 17, 18 and 19 were considered dropped in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.5.5.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing

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QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Questions	Answers
<p>1. COUNCILLOR SURINDER DHESI</p> <p>I have had complaints that patients have been discharged from hospital without any Care plans. What process is there to make sure our vulnerable patients don't slip the net and ensure patients have Care Packages when they are discharged?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR JUDITH HEATHCOAT, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE</p> <p>When patients are discharged from hospital an assessment of their ongoing needs is made by a multi-disciplinary team within the hospital. Those patients who are able to return home independently (possibly with the support of family and friends) do leave without a care plan as one isn't required. Where someone is vulnerable and care needs are identified, the patient is referred to the Home Assessment and Reablement Team (HART). This service operates the nationally recommended discharge-to-assess model, i.e. the service makes a full assessment of a person's needs once they are at home, in their own environment, and develops a care plan to meet those needs. HART aims to support people to regain as much independence as possible. Following any period with HART if someone requires a long term care package, HART make the referral for this and continue to provide support until the new provider is in place.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Will you agree with me that it is very important that care packages are in place before patients are discharged?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>When patients are discharged from hospital an assessment of their ongoing needs is made by a multi-disciplinary team within the hospital. Those patients who are able to return home independently (possibly with the support of family and friends) do leave without a care plan as one isn't required.”</p> <p>So I believe that we are ensuring that the situation that Councillor Dhesi is telling me about is actually not so.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>2. COUNCILLOR SURINDER DHESI</p> <p>With Care Providers very concerned about staffing issues and being able to deliver service due to the effects of Brexit .Is there a strategy in place to look at different ways of working and ensuring that we have a backup plan?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR JUDITH HEATHCOAT, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE</p> <p>The Council has been aware for some time of the challenges in the social care workforce, and led the development of a comprehensive workforce strategy for the social care sector in 2014. The strategy includes a 15-point framework for action aimed at increasing workforce capacity and capability.</p> <p>The sector in Oxfordshire is notably over-reliant (more so than other geographical areas) on key groups of workers, including women, older workers, and foreign workers. Approximately 34% of the social care workforce in the county was born overseas, equivalent to around 5,000 workers. Roughly 50% of these workers originate from other EU countries. Providers have reported a significant drop off in interest and applications from EU workers since the 2016 referendum.</p> <p>The Council has identified the impact of Brexit on the supply of social care workers as a corporate risk. Officers are working to assess the nature of the risk and the actions that should be taken to address this. Key actions and work areas already identified in the adult social care workforce strategy are likely to form part of the solution, including actions to increase the capacity and capability of the workforce. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A range of initiatives aimed at helping social care employers to improve the competitiveness of social care's job offer <input type="checkbox"/> A recruitment campaign aimed at increasing the number of people interested in working in social care <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership initiatives with stakeholders including DWP / Job Centre Plus, local learning providers and social care providers, aimed at developing new routes into social care <input type="checkbox"/> Work with social care providers to ensure that all new recruits are supported with learning and development opportunities to improve employee retention.

Questions	Answers
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>With all the care companies going into liquidation is there something in place for the care workers?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>The response highlights the challenges that we face in Adult Social Care and we are not unique, there are challenges faced by other local authorities and I am afraid with BREXIT at the moment it is a case of an unknown, so I can't give an explicit answer today but I hope that everyone in the Chamber will see that there is work that is undergoing at the moment because of BREXIT.</p>
<p>3. COUNCILLOR SURINDER DHESI</p> <p>Schools in Oxfordshire have the highest truancy levels compared to rest of the country and have been ranked 25 percentile. About 14% of secondary schools pupils skipped 10% of their classes compared to 12.3% of pupils nationally. What is the Council doing to reducing truancy in the County?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR STEVE HARROD, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION</p> <p>It is probably helpful if I start by clarifying the nature of the data given in the question. These data relate to the Autumn/ Spring term 2016/17 and refer only to secondary schools and to those pupils who were persistently absent (which means that they have missed 10% or more of available lessons). We should also be aware that persistent absence is not, necessarily, the same as 'truancy' or unauthorised absence. Nevertheless, this does put Oxfordshire in the lowest quartile for this indicator which is, of course, not where we want to be.</p> <p>Responsibility for addressing attendance issues lies, principally, with the schools themselves. However, the local authority does work with schools to empower them to address those issues. This is done through workshops and training, some of which are provided free of charge. Schools may buy in additional services, particularly in relation to the need, on occasions, to engage with the legal system.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>What are reasons why these young people are not attending schools so that the attendance levels are low?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>There are many different reasons why pupils don't attend school, it ranges from involvement in the drug culture to problems at home but I know that are officers are working very closely with the schools to address all these issues.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>4. COUNCILLOR STEWART LILLY</p> <p>Research for the Children's Commissioner for England, Anne Longfield, has suggested that 80% of young carers are 'off the radar'.</p> <p>The researchers asked every English local authority for the numbers of young carers they support. The data supplied by 118 councils showed they are supporting 28,000 aged 5-17. But this figure is massively short of the 166,000 young carers identified in England by the 2011 Census.</p> <p>The Commissioner commented: "This report poses significant questions for local authorities about how they identify, assess and support young carers.</p> <p>"It is absolutely unacceptable to have so many children with considerable caring responsibilities going under the radar, invisible to the authorities and denied the opportunities available to other children." What view does the Cabinet Member for Children's Services take of the Commissioner's comments?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR MELINDA TILLEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES</p> <p>Oxfordshire completed its data return for this young carers' lightning review. The OCC Young Carers' Manager was the only local authority representative who contributed at the professionals focus group held at the Children's Commissioner Office.</p> <p>In Oxfordshire we have a Young Carers Service which is considered a national leader in the work undertaken to identify, assess and support children with caring roles. OCC Children's Services take their legal duty towards young carers and their families very seriously; we are aware that 70% of the referrals to the young carers service are not known to any children's safeguarding services at the point of referral and therefore we have a very robust young carers assessment process in place. This ensures that children's needs are identified.</p> <p>Our work with schools to identify and support young carers as vulnerable learners is well embedded locally and recognised nationally. Working in partnership with schools enables us to identify children at an early stage ensuring they meet best outcomes.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>5. COUNCILLOR NEIL FAWCETT</p> <p>What is the process for monitoring whether employment growth in the County is in line with the projections on which the Strategic Housing Market Assessment was based?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The Strategic Housing Market Assessment was based on economic forecasting work undertaken by Cambridge Economics in February 2014. The consultant's report concluded that under a Committed Economic Growth scenario, total employment in Oxfordshire is forecast to increase by around 88,000 over 2011-31, or 4,400 jobs pa (1% pa). The same economic forecasting work informed the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) target of creating 85,600 new jobs by 2031.</p> <p>The Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership has been monitoring jobs growth at a high level using data from the Office of National Statistics on job density and total jobs comprising of employee jobs, self-employment, HM Forces and government supported trainees. The refreshed Strategic Economic Plan (autumn 2016) explains that there is a lag in the production of national data but ONS data suggests the total number of jobs in Oxfordshire increased from 378,000 to 399,000 between 2011 and 2013 i.e. an increase of 21,000 jobs in two years. Employment growth since 2011 has been stronger than indicated by the employment forecasts used by the SHMA and the SEP.</p> <p>On the other hand housing growth over the last five years has fallen significantly short of the SHMA target of 5,000p.a. with only some 11,660 homes being completed. The table below shows an uneven distribution of delivery across the County</p> <p>Housing Completions 2011-16 Compared to SHMA (Source: LPA's Monitoring Data)</p>

Questions	Answers																																							
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="891 221 1111 405"></th> <th data-bbox="1115 221 1301 405">SHMA Annual Housing Need</th> <th data-bbox="1305 221 1525 405">SHMA 5year Housing need figure 2011-16</th> <th data-bbox="1529 221 1771 405">Housing Completions 2011-16</th> <th data-bbox="1776 221 2011 405">Total Completions as a % of SHMA need figure</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="891 408 1111 443">Cherwell</td> <td data-bbox="1115 408 1301 443">1,140</td> <td data-bbox="1305 408 1525 443">5,700</td> <td data-bbox="1529 408 1771 443">3,031</td> <td data-bbox="1776 408 2011 443">53%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="891 446 1111 481">Oxford City</td> <td data-bbox="1115 446 1301 481">1,400</td> <td data-bbox="1305 446 1525 481">7,000</td> <td data-bbox="1529 446 1771 481">1,371</td> <td data-bbox="1776 446 2011 481">20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="891 485 1111 520">South Oxon</td> <td data-bbox="1115 485 1301 520">775</td> <td data-bbox="1305 485 1525 520">3,875</td> <td data-bbox="1529 485 1771 520">2,732</td> <td data-bbox="1776 485 2011 520">71%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="891 523 1111 558">Vale</td> <td data-bbox="1115 523 1301 558">1,028</td> <td data-bbox="1305 523 1525 558">5,140</td> <td data-bbox="1529 523 1771 558">3,065</td> <td data-bbox="1776 523 2011 558">60%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="891 561 1111 596">West Oxon</td> <td data-bbox="1115 561 1301 596">660</td> <td data-bbox="1305 561 1525 596">3,300</td> <td data-bbox="1529 561 1771 596">1,464</td> <td data-bbox="1776 561 2011 596">44%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="891 600 1111 635">Oxfordshire</td> <td data-bbox="1115 600 1301 635">5,003</td> <td data-bbox="1305 600 1525 635">25,015</td> <td data-bbox="1529 600 1771 635">11,663</td> <td data-bbox="1776 600 2011 635">47%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>						SHMA Annual Housing Need	SHMA 5year Housing need figure 2011-16	Housing Completions 2011-16	Total Completions as a % of SHMA need figure	Cherwell	1,140	5,700	3,031	53%	Oxford City	1,400	7,000	1,371	20%	South Oxon	775	3,875	2,732	71%	Vale	1,028	5,140	3,065	60%	West Oxon	660	3,300	1,464	44%	Oxfordshire	5,003	25,015	11,663	47%
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<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>There is clearly a big gap between the targets and the delivery. How confident is the Cabinet Member that completions will start to catch up with the targets and particularly in the City which seems to be way behind where it should be?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I am aware of what the targets across the County are what I am looking for is a Unitary authority whereby all these things will be able to be addressed under one roof.</p>																																							
<p>6. COUNCILLOR NEIL FAWCETT</p> <p>What is the current timetable for the development of a full diamond interchange on the A34 at Lodge Hill?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>At the moment, we are waiting to hear on a funding application to Government for the scheme.</p> <p>We hope to hear about this next month.</p> <p>If funding is successful then we will commence detailed design this coming financial year, working closely with colleagues at Highways England on the design, with delivery programmed to be complete in 2020/21.</p>																																							

Questions	Answers
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Can Councillor Hudspeth reassure residents in North Abingdon that the County Council will take the position that the large development just north of Abingdon shouldn't go ahead until the funding is in place and there is a clear date for the provision of full interchange at Lodge Hill.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I agree with you the sentiment and think that can be an aspiration of the County Council, but it will be down to the Planning Committee and Vale of White Horse to actually make and take that decision.</p>
<p>7. COUNCILLOR NEIL FAWCETT</p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member ensure that permission will only be given for roadworks to take place in the vicinity of Drayton Road, Marcham Road or Ock Street in Abingdon in periods when traffic levels are low and that any traffic lights are managed to take account of morning and evening traffic flows.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Yes we will, though we cannot predict incidents on the A34 that may impact on alternative routes.</p>
<p>8. COUNCILLOR CHARLES MATHEW</p> <p>Would the Cabinet Member for Local Government, Business, IT and Customer Services confirm that the Broadband coverage for Oxfordshire will reach 95 per cent by the end of 2017 except for West Oxfordshire? What will the figure be for West Oxfordshire and why is it different from the rest of the county?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR CARTER, CABINET MEMBER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS, ICT & CUSTOMER SERVICES</p> <p>I am very pleased to confirm that we are on track to deliver 95% coverage for Oxfordshire by the end of this year (Dec 17) with the exception of West Oxfordshire. Members will be aware that our programme has been praised by government and by BT as one of the highest performers nationally.</p> <p>In West Oxfordshire, unfortunately, we believe that coverage is likely to remain at around the 90% mark following the collapse of the contract with Cotswold Broadband. Members may recall that in 2015, West Oxfordshire decided, alone,</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>Did West Oxfordshire's alternative with Cotswold Broadband prove satisfactory and how much coverage will it have by the end of 2017? I have communities crying out for broadband services.</p>	<p>that they did not want to take advantage of the County Council's contract with BT and constructed their own arrangement which has now unravelled. We understand that West Oxfordshire will be looking to re-tender again but clearly, for West Oxfordshire residents this will mean it is very unlikely that the situation will be any different by the end of this year.</p> <p>We are doing our best to help and we have taken steps with West Oxfordshire agreement to ensure that rural primary schools do not lose out and that communities on the district boundary are helped by us within the legal and contractual limits.</p> <p>This month has seen the launch of the next phase to support the most hard to reach communities in the final 5% of the county with the exception of West Oxfordshire. We expect to reach another 2000 properties through a continuation of the BT roll-out into 2018 and with no further Council funding.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Do communities in West Oxfordshire need to rely of West Oxfordshire District Council for future arrangements or can they adopt Oxfordshire County Council's independently?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Residents of West Oxfordshire are very unfortunately somewhat in limbo at the moment. The district council was alone in deciding two years ago that it didn't want, seemly on a point of principle, anything to do with the County Council's broadband programme.</p> <p>The City Council and other three districts of course came on board with the phase 2, bringing their own investment in. West Oxfordshire decided to go it alone with a small supplier and that is unfortunately the situation they have now encountered. My best prediction is that with the procurement that West Oxfordshire District now has to go through to fulfil the bureaucratic rules that surround state aid, the best estimate will be that it can't possibly be until closer to Christmas that the first spade is actually put into the ground in terms of whatever emerges as the phase 2 in West Oxfordshire. There is a chance that if the district council does decide to adopt BT as its contractor for the second phase in</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>West Oxfordshire that there may be a chance that we could rap that work into the main broadband programme that the County is continuing to run. That remains to be seen. However, in the meantime neither West Oxfordshire District is able to do a proper job nor can legally the County Council intervene. There are two incidences where the County Council can and must intervene. There are a couple of primary schools that continue to be marooned in West Oxfordshire and we have a legal obligation toward those.</p> <p>There will be a small benefit for the surrounding residential areas of those two schools from the work that is done for the schools themselves, but elsewhere in West Oxfordshire they are going to have to wait.</p>
<p>9. COUNCILLOR CHARLES MATHEW</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member for Schools please encourage Oxfordshire state schools more engagement with charitable private schools in Oxfordshire to share some of the latter's' expertise to enhance the cooperation to help achieve a better level of education, artistic and sporting activity within Oxfordshire? Is there contact presently?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR STEVE HARROD, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION</p> <p>I agree that there may well be benefits accruing from greater partnership with the independent sector. This was borne out by the independent/ state school partnerships (ISSP) programme set up in 1998 by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) in conjunction with the Sutton Trust, with the aim of providing structure and funding for the co-operation between the sectors. The OFSTED evaluation of the scheme, released in March 2005, concluded that the programme was a valuable and cost-effective way to develop relationships between the two school sectors, with many partnerships continuing beyond their initial funding period.</p> <p>I should however add an important cautionary note and point out that it isn't simply a matter of independent schools automatically being better than state; any co-operation should be two way.</p> <p>We are not aware of any formal, funded, links between the LA and the independent sector at the moment. There may however be local arrangements of which we have no central record.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Councillor Harrod thank you for your answer. Can I presume that you will be encouraging this opportunity to provide links between the LA and the Independent sector?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Together with the officers we will be rolling out a programme of visiting some of the independent schools to learn the best practice from them and share that visa a versa with the state schools and the other way round.</p>
<p>10. COUNCILLOR CHARLES MATHEW</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Minister for Property confirm that Carillion were paid a bonus for completion under budget of the new Classroom block at Bartholomew School, Eynsham and how much was paid? Could she also explain how this has been accepted when the build still has outstanding concerns and the final accounts have not been settled, some eighteen months after handover?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE, CABINET MEMBER FOR PROPERTY, CULTURAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES</p> <p>I can confirm that Carillion have not been paid a bonus for the project at Bartholomew school at Eynsham. However the framework contract does have a pain/gain mechanism under which Carillion contribute to the costs if they exceed the agreed maximum price (AMP) or OCC make a gain payment if the contractor's actual costs come in less than the AMP. No payment is made against this item until the defects period is signed off and the final account is agreed.</p> <p>With regards to Bartholomew school partial possession was granted in November 2015 to allow access to the 8 Classroom science block. Practical Completion was issued on the 17th June 2016 and the project is currently in the 12 months defect liability period. A further inspection will take place at the end of the defects period when any defects identified must be rectified by Carillion before they can be signed off. Any works required to address the defects are normally carried out in agreement with the school during holiday periods to minimise disruption.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Are you aware that this school took over the site in November 2015? Carillion has been paid £54,000 under the pain or gain</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Yes this situation is taking a very long time to sort out and I am sorry. I understand your frustration but we are very near completion, the key time is June this year, so not much longer.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>Agreement (see Charles Booths email to Adrian Rowlands on 23 May 2016 at the time of 18.09 pm. Will you please sort out the finances and complete the snags still outstanding.</p>	
<p>11. COUNCILLOR SAM COATES</p> <p>Given that an increasing number of services are becoming ever more reliant on voluntary efforts and partnerships with charities, would the leader agree that it is time to undertake a 'capacity survey' of charities and volunteers who may be engaged in the support of a wide variety of County services in the future?</p> <p>The intention of the review would be to determine which services may be sustained via voluntary efforts, and where costs and the need for specialist workers make services unsustainable with third sector partners.</p> <p>A capacity survey will at least establish that simply considering that responsibilities can be passed over to the voluntary sector continually is unsustainable.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>The Council currently contracts OCVA to provide support to the Voluntary and Community Sector in Oxfordshire. The contract was awarded to OCVA and began in April 2016, the contract value is approx. £170k per annum to deliver the following outcomes:</p> <p>Outcome 1 – Voluntary and community organisations have access to the relevant information, advice and tools necessary to increase their effectiveness and build their capacity to function effectively. Voluntary sector organisations are raising the role and importance of the sector in delivering services, influencing policy and shaping Oxfordshire’s rural and urban communities, supporting networking and co-ordination across the sector.</p> <p>Outcome 2 – Volunteering (social action) is promoted and developed</p> <p>Outcome 3 – Communities across Oxfordshire are supported and empowered to identify issues, find their own solutions and become more active, working in partnership with others where required.</p> <p>As part of the contract deliverables under outcome 1 a study was completed in the Cherwell area looking at the capacity within the sector. I have attached a copy of this report for you. Although the report set out to achieve the outcomes outlined in your question you will see in the conclusion of the report the limitations that prevented it from addressing all the issues.</p>

Questions	Answers
	I think it is also worth noting that the County Council is not seeking to pass responsibilities to the voluntary and community sector but encouraging them to consider where possible an enhanced provision of complementary services to our statutory provision. For this reason it is unlikely that we would be expecting the voluntary sector to support specialist workers making it unsustainable for them to operate.
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>When the Council decided to stop funding services such as, libraries and children centres, the voluntary sector takes up the work. Would he look at research on what the limits to voluntary capacity are to deliver these services that are no longer being provided by the Council?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I would like to thank all the volunteers and it is not just one particular sector you mentioned libraries and the people that are volunteering in the libraries wouldn't normally consider themselves part of the formal voluntary sector so, to conduct a study would miss the opportunities from all those people who do volunteer in libraries but of course again when people are volunteering on a Saturday morning helping a football club is that part of a voluntary organisation? So I think that Councillor Coates is not seeing what the voluntary sector is in Oxfordshire and how diverse it is and doing such a study would not produce the results he requires.</p>
<p>12. COUNCILLOR SAM COATES</p> <p>Excluding the many hundreds of thousands of pounds already spent by both sides in this devolution debate hiring extremely expensive international accountancy firms, how much has been spent so far on promoting the One Oxfordshire proposal? This could include officer time, public (but really private) consultation forums at £35 per participant, hiring a telephone canvassing company, literature, travel, websites and all the other costs that have been spent. Would the</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>We did not spend any money 'promoting' One Oxfordshire, but did ensure that residents and other stakeholders were aware of the draft proposal so they could provide feedback to improve the final document. That is exactly what has happened. To be helpful, I can tell you we have spent about £30,000 on informing people about the proposals and how they can have their say. We also paid £50,000 for the services of an independent research company to conduct a face-to-face survey and in-depth workshops with residents. This is rather less than the combined £250,000 that has been earmarked by three councils to oppose the proposals at all costs, without putting forward any alternatives. The Councillor might also be interested to hear that a survey of a representative sample of residents showed 70% support for a single unitary council. If we had</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>Leader admit that given the inconclusive results this has been a massive waste of public money that could well have been better spent on cash strapped services?</p>	<p>not commissioned this independent research, we would have only heard from a vocal minority.</p>
<p>13. COUNCILLOR SAM COATES</p> <p>The UK has second-highest number of deaths from NO2 pollution in Europe, according to a new reports this week (*) and Oxfordshire has its share of locations that fail EU air quality standards test. Progressive solutions seem remarkably slow to have any effect especially in the City. Would the Portfolio holder agree that a renewed effort must be made if we are to save the lives of literally thousands of people in Oxfordshire who will die from respiratory diseases if nothing is done?</p> <p>(*)https://theguardian.com/environment/2016/nov/23/uk-has-second-highest-number-of-deaths-from-no2-pollution-in-europe</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>County Council's Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) sets out three main goals, one of which is to 'reduce emissions, enhance air quality and support the transition to a low carbon economy'. LTP4 sets out to achieve this goal through a number of objectives including minimising the need to travel, reducing the proportion of journeys made by private car by making the use of public transport, walking and cycling more attractive and influencing the location and layout of development to maximise sustainable travel.</p> <p>Within Oxford, the ten year trends from Oxford City Council's data collection and analysis shows that nitrogen dioxide (NO2) levels have dropped by typically 35% at roadsides in the city centre. The Low Emission Zone introduced by the city and county councils in 2014 has played a key role in achieving this drop. Oxford has led the way in driving down emissions from traffic, but clearly there is more still to do.</p> <p>The county council's adopted Oxford Transport Strategy (OTS) recognises the challenges brought about through Nitrogen Dioxide emissions across the city. In Oxford a citywide Air Quality Management Area was declared in 2010, with targets set for keeping Nitrogen Dioxide emissions at safe levels (below 45 µg/m3 by 2020). Working towards these targets, the OTS sets out a range of ambitious proposals for reducing transport-related noise and air pollution including proposals to reduce traffic and to promote quieter, lower emission vehicles.</p> <p>Progress is currently being made in this regard. Both the county council and</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>Oxford City Council, who manage and monitor air quality in Oxford, are currently working on a joint zero emission zone study for the city in line with the ambition of the OTS to start rolling out a city centre zero-emission zone for all vehicles.</p> <p>We don't have any concrete proposals as yet outside Oxford. We do work with the Districts on air quality issues and, for example, will soon be carrying out traffic surveys in Wallingford that will help us to understand the potential to improve air quality in the town.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Does he have an idea of by what year he expects Oxfordshire's air pollution levels to be compliant with the law?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I don't have an answer to that at the moment, but what we are aiming to do is to do it as soon as possible.</p>
<p>14. COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS</p> <p>Would the Portfolio holder investigate the claims that the installation of new blue rich light bulbs (1) in our street lighting systems is having deleterious effects on people's health, ecology, road safety and sky glow? The claim is that this new bulb although saving money generates migraines and insomnia. Would the portfolio holder at least investigate this claim?</p> <p>(1) see http://www.lightaware.org as well as http://www.lightmare.org</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>I can confirm that the replacement LED street lights that have been used within Oxfordshire have a very small amount of blue content. This is due to the fact that light emitting diodes (LEDs) that have been specified to have a warmer colour temperature of between 3000 to 4000 Kelvin (see attached). We have also installed over four thousand LED units which dim after 10:00pm (i.e. reduced power & light output) without any recorded health issues within Oxfordshire.</p> <p>The 3000-4000K LED lanterns makes the color look more natural and provides better lighting for facial recognition for security and CCTV cameras etc. There are a number research papers, particular from American websites, that have questioned the health risks of blue light which involves LED TV, interior & external lighting, smart phones and tables etc. However for a health issue to occur you would be required to directly stare into the light source for a long period of time (i.e. over 5 hours and the LED having a colour temp of 6000K and above without a diffuser).</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>A report by Public Health England (CRCE-RDD 01-2016) also looked at the effect of LEDs on the human body and confirmed that LEDs can be known to suppress the body's melatonin production which may impact on "circadian rhythms" (the body's daily cycle), leading to sleep deprivation. However this is only provided that you are constantly looking at the light source.</p> <p>It says additional 'non-visual stimulation' may have short-term benefits for road safety but, according to the report, repeated exposure at night may be detrimental to health, depending on the dose, i.e. the light exposure received by a person.</p> <p>In its conclusion the report acknowledges that, compared to other existing lighting technologies, LEDs present valid energy- efficient options for lighting. However it ends: "Consideration should be given to reducing the correlated colour temperature of LED lighting to avoid potential adverse effects on melatonin production in the evening", although it does say the science is not yet mature enough to state a threshold.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Would he accept that the introduction of the blue lights is a new phenomenon and really we need to monitor this over a period of time? If there are ill effects on people then that will emerge obviously in the full of time. Would he give a commitment to monitor this particular implementation of a new technology?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Officers at the County will be monitoring this because it is a national and will be looked at on a national basis.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>15. COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS</p> <p>A number of Councils that operate as LEA's are considering a Fair Work Charter for teachers working in local schools. This obviously would be focused on classroom contact hours but would also include cover time for absent colleagues, holiday entitlement, sickness arrangements, In Service Training time and numerous other issues in the mix to create a Fair balance of work commitment.</p> <p>Although such a Charter could not be directly introduced as policy in the Academy sector given that they mostly came in line to back the remuneration policy devised two years ago would the Portfolio holder give a commitment to enter into consultations with the local teachers trade unions to produce such a local Fair Work Charter.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR STEVE HARROD, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION</p> <p>I am happy for the Fair Work Charter to be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the Teachers Joint Committee and Workforce Steering Group to explore what appetite, if any, there is for it amongst the recognised teacher trade unions. In the meantime I would hope that the leaderships of all schools give serious consideration to the national working party reports about reducing teachers' workloads.</p>
<p>16. COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS</p> <p>Before the control of the County Pensions Investments is handed over to the Brunel Trust (and effectively the Chancellor of the Exchequer) would the Pensions Committee make a firm decision to divest investment in the Fossil Fuel industry?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR STEWART LILLY, CHAIRMAN OF THE PENSION FUND COMMITTEE</p> <p>Before answering the specific questions, I would like to correct the misconceptions apparent in the preamble. The Oxfordshire Pension Fund Committee will not be handing over control of its investments to the Brunel Pension Partnership. As has been clearly stated throughout this process, the Committee will retain responsibility for agreeing its own investment strategy, including its allocation to the different investment classes, and its approach to how environmental, social and corporate governance issues should be taken into</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>This process has been commenced now by a number of public sector pensions groups and is based on the simple analysis that fossil fuels are finite and that investment in this area is not in the long term interest of public sector pensioners in securing the value of their assets. Would he agree that such a move would illustrate that the Oxfordshire Pension Fund had foresight in its investment strategy?</p>	<p>account in all investment decisions. The Brunel Company will then be responsible to appointing the individual fund managers to deliver the investment strategy agreed by the Oxfordshire Pension Fund.</p> <p>The Committee agreed its Investment strategy Statement on 10 March 2017 and this is available for you to read on the Fund's website. The Statement does not include any decision to divest investments whether in the fossil fuel industry or elsewhere. The Statement does recognise that environmental, social and corporate governance issues, including climate change, can have materially significant investment implications and as such requires our Investment Managers to monitor and assess the risks when selecting and retaining investments. We also require our Investment Managers to engage with companies to address known issues and risks, and where they believe that this engagement is not resulting in sufficient progress to address the risk, then divestment will be considered. We believe that such a process which considers each individual investment on its merits, investing in companies with superior potential returns after adjusting to the known risks including those associated with climate change is the best way of meeting our fiduciary responsibilities to the scheme employers and beneficiaries, and the best way of demonstrating foresight in our investment strategy.</p> <p>A blanket policy to divest in the fossil fuel industry without any regard for the individual circumstances, and the consequences for the Fund's remaining investments in companies which in many ways depend on the fossil fuel industry would appear to show very limited foresight. Total, the French energy company is the 4th largest oil and gas company in the world and therefore one you would be looking to divest from. However, <u>it is also the 2nd largest photovoltaic solar energy operator, and this, along with its clear policies in the area of climate change and sustainable development make it a very attractive long term investment, whilst also addressing the challenges of climate change.</u></p> <p>Climate change is an issue which impacts on all sectors of the economy, and true foresight recognises this, and leads to engagement with companies in each</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>sector to ensure that they have business plans which address the challenges stemming from climate change (as well as the other environmental, social and corporate governance risks). Our strategy allows us to challenge investments in Cruise Companies and Airlines which are ignoring the issues associated with their heavy fuel use and associated emissions, whilst allowing us to invest in fossil fuel companies like Total <u>who are at the forefront of developing alternative and renewable energy supplies</u>. Our strategy rather than simple divestment can therefore be seen to be sustainable and in the best interests of all our stakeholders.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Would Councillor Lilly accept that there is still some confusion as to what the role of the Brunel Trust is as opposed to the Pensions Committee and could he explain why on earth do we have the Brunel Trust because it seems to have no other real reason other than to take some of the powers and influence away from Local Government?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I would like to take this opportunity to thank Councillor Williams in acknowledging that the Oxfordshire Pension Fund as being one of the best in the Country and I certainly support that as its Chairman. We have made another £100m in the last quarter in assets which is good for our members. We are in the top 20 in the UK. Briefly we will still control our own assets. Brunel is a grouping of 10 organisations including the Environment Agency who are very important to us and the idea is to get cheaper (and I am talking many millions of pounds) deals through the investment managers as opposed to each of the 88 funds throughout the UK utilising their own resources, by bringing in now 10 throughout the UK and we are going to be called Brunel that will enable over a period of many years of limiting those costs to brokers by millions and millions of pounds because we will be able to bulk buy our investment.</p>
<p>17. COUNCILLOR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW</p> <p>At the October meeting of the Cabinet Advisory Group on Income Generation, I put forward a 'Speed Tube Protocol' proposal that I believe would not only dramatically improve</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Officers are grateful of the suggestion of a Speed Tube Protocol and have indeed met with Cllr Bartholomew to understand the proposal in more detail. Unfortunately due to the level of development the locality teams are currently responding to it has not been possible to investigate this proposal in any more</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>OCC Highways' response to planning applications, but also raise some £200,000 pa. The report due to the CAG in November did not happen and the CAG was subsequently disbanded. In view of this, I arranged a meeting in January with you and the Interim Director E&E Ops and it was agreed the feasibility of the proposal would be properly investigated. Some six months have now passed since I initially put forward the proposal and I have not been advised about recent progress, so I would be grateful for a full update on the matter.</p>	<p>detail. They do, however, plan to undertake an initial review exercise and provide some initial comments that will centre around practicality and viability of the proposal. This work will be led by the South & Vale locality team, and will be delivered during May to allow for resource to focus on the South Oxfordshire District Council Local Plan process. Once an initial review and comments are compiled officers will meet with Cllr Bartholomew to discuss outcomes and any possible next steps leading from this first piece of work.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>I would like to thank the Cabinet Member for his answer but have despaired that it is now 6 months since I brought the Council's attention to the fact that developers all over the County are laying speed tubes down to provide unregulated speed surveys in support of planning applications and that I had developed a protocol that would not only regulate this but would also raise £200,000 per annum for the Council. Officers have acknowledged that the protocol looks effective. In view of this, why is it another three months before officers are going to give it any further consideration and why isn't this important suggestion being given more priority?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>It isn't the case of kicking it into long grass which I think is the underlying sentiment behind the supplementary, but actually fitting it into the existing workload of the officers. The officers have queried the level of the income which has been suggested but it is being fitted into existing workloads.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>18. COUNCILLOR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW</p> <p>In June 2016 I alerted OCC Highways to road safety issues relating to the presence of loose gravel/silt on a road in Rotherfield Peppard. Although not a major issue in itself, the report did highlight a matter of much greater concern. OCC Highways asserted that loose gravel/silt constituted 'debris' and it was the responsibility of South Oxfordshire District Council to clear it. SODC refuted this and maintained it was an OCC Highways' responsibility. After months of inter-council squabbling, OCC fixed the particular problem on an exceptional basis, but the general issue does not appear to have been addressed, despite frequent reminders from me. I now have another parish complaining that some of their country lanes have been turned into dirt tracks with the recent wind and rain and I do not know how to best advise them. What is being done to resolve the question of responsibility in relation to this matter?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>In response to the question raised, the responsibility for clearing or cleaning the highway can be a cause for confusion. Both the County Council and District have a responsibility; however this is related to the powers under which each act and cleaning operations are often determined due to the cause. The cleanliness of roads is the responsibility of the District Council, while the upkeep and maintenance belongs with County Council.</p> <p>The District Council are responsible for the cleanliness and upkeep of the district's streets. To do this, they operate under a code of practice issued under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. This defines the standards to achieve. Roads are cleaned at varying frequencies according to their nature and use and the District Council often define this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> For South Oxfordshire District Council; <input type="checkbox"/> town centers are cleaned once a day and mechanically swept once a week; <input type="checkbox"/> town centre car parks are cleaned three times a week; <input type="checkbox"/> outer town areas are cleaned once a week and mechanically swept once a month; <input type="checkbox"/> large villages are cleaned on a rotation basis ; <input type="checkbox"/> small villages are cleaned on request. <p>The responsibility for inspecting and repairing faults on the highways, carriageway, footpaths and verges rests with Oxfordshire County Council. In addition the County Council is responsible for the clean-up of vehicle parts, traffic accident debris, oil, gravel, sand, mud and dropped cargo on the road. These</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>responsibilities are derived from the Highways Act 1980 section 41 and 150.</p> <p>Therefore, where an obstruction (for example as a result of a spillage) presents a safety risk, Oxfordshire County Council is responsible. For general cleanliness and road sweeping necessitated by environmental conditions, the District Council are responsible. Please see the links below for specific information.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/local-street-cleaning http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/environment/street-cleaning</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>I would like to thank the Cabinet Member for his answer but point out that all he has done is acknowledged that there is confusion between Councils about who is responsible for clearing silt and mud from rural country roads and all that happens at the moment is that the County Council and District Councils point at each other saying it's their job. Could the Cabinet Member please say which Council I should ask Bixton Asserton Parish to contact to get the mud and silt cleared from their country lanes?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Councillor Bartholomew will know that both the County and the District have deferred to each other on this particular aspect. What I would ask him to do is wait until we have got a Unitary authority and it will all be under one roof and the only way of sorting it out is by one set of people dealing with it.</p>
<p>19. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>It is very regrettable that the officers who organise traffic regulation orders are so over-worked. There have been some embarrassing failures to meet deadlines in recent months, notably the prestigious new</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>I share your concern that our staff are over-worked but I'm afraid that is the nature of local government these days. I know the new Director of Infrastructure Delivery is working on a staff restructure which will try to better balance the competing needs of budget constraints and growing demands for services with a thriving local economy; he and his staff are also reviewing working practices to</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>Go Ultra Low Oxford Residential On-street Charging project. This is an innovative government funded project run by Oxford City Council and Oxfordshire County Council to trial electric car charging technologies on streets where off-street parking is unavailable. Multiple suppliers and volunteers were working towards a date which has now been delayed by a month. The resolution of a problem in my division has also been delayed, putting children's lives at risk. The reputation of the Council is being damaged by such delays and the Cabinet member needs to find a way of speeding up this work.</p>	<p>ensure limited resources are used in the most efficient way.</p> <p>With regard to the provision of On-Street Charging Bays, I have agreed to hold an additional Cabinet Member Decisions Meeting on 3rd April where I will consider objections received to the proposals. It would not be appropriate to comment further pending receipt of the officer's report and any representations made directly at that meeting. I understand that whilst there has been a delay, the overall project is still on track.</p> <p>Concerning the site within your Division, I am told that officers are utilising the opportunity of a nearby development which requires alteration of the CPZ traffic order to make the changes you have requested – again as it's something which is subject to formal consultation I don't think it would be appropriate for me to comment further.</p>
<p>20. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>One of the most damaging cuts to the Council's budget last year was the cutting of all bus subsidies. Some parts of the County have managed to bring in small replacement services, often staffed by volunteers, but the isolation of older people and rural isolation have certainly been increased as a result of this deplorable cut. Is there any intention to review the effects of the cut and to confront the government with the shocking consequences of their war of attrition against local authorities?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>We have and will continue to offer support to those who are affected by the withdrawal of subsidies and monitor monthly the response to both the Comet and Community Transport Support</p> <p>A number of communities with help from the Council have been able to arrange local services.</p> <p>Currently there are more than 60 local schemes in the county with 1,300 volunteers providing 25,000 journeys each year. A number of communities continue to look into the feasibility of how a local service might work for them, again with Council guidance.</p> <p>The Oxfordshire Comet Service has proved to be a success, with over 120 members. Over the coming months the Council will be looking at ways to increase the capacity of the service.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Is there any intention, having looked at the terrible increase in older people in rural isolation because of the cuts in the bus subsidies to review the effects of the cuts and to confront the Government with the shocking consequences of their war of attrition against local authorities?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>There are still 54 of the bus routes which are still running without any subsidies which might have possibly closed down with the subsidies being removed. The County Council is reviewing the effects of the cuts. We are liaising with our MPs and directly with central government about the effects of these and we are not the only county that have got these kinds of issues. I refuse to accept that there are shocking consequences and I refuse to accept there is a war of attrition.</p>
<p>21. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>Please can you come up with an <i>accelerated</i> strategy to improve air quality in the County? There are some parts of the City where air quality is certainly damaging our health, and especially the health of our children. It is not good enough to aim to begin bringing in a zero emission zone in 2020 – we need to see progress before that.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The County Council adopted Oxford Transport Strategy (OTS) sets out a range of ambitious proposals for reducing transport-related noise and air pollution including proposals to reduce traffic and to promote quieter, lower emission vehicles. The County Council and Oxford City Council, who manage and monitor Oxford’s air quality, are working closely together to address this challenge, for example through the Go-ultra low project. We are also jointly commissioning a report into delivering a zero emission zone is expected to be completed in early spring. This will enable both council’s to continue to work together to further develop interventions for the city that will start to see the rolling out of a city centre zero-emission zone for all vehicles.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Are we doing a report into what we might be able to do in the future? You state that “we hope to start bringing in a zero emissions zone in 2020 but completed in 2035” that is not fast enough. People are dying as a result of poor air quality. What are you going to do</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>It will be started in 2020. What we hope to do is have significant effects from the start in 2020. 2035 is a long way off. I would like to think that starting in 2020 we will get it cleared out and sorted out within a shorter period of time as possible and not within 15 years.</p>

Questions	Answers
about it now?	
<p>22. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</p> <p>What progress is being made towards the establishment of a free special school in Didcot?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR STEVE HARROD, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION</p> <p>Unfortunately no free school bids for a new Didcot special school were submitted in time for consideration in the current round. Officers are encouraging existing trusts that operate special schools in Oxfordshire to submit a bid and have offered them support.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Can you tell us whether the requirement for all new schools to be free schools is effecting the planning for new special schools in Oxfordshire and particularly in the Didcot area?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Thank you for that, I am not sure that I can answer that off the top of my head but I can come back to you with a written answer later. I don't believe that there is such a requirement but I will have to check with the officers on that and see where we are.</p>
<p>23. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</p> <p>After the changes in the budget, will the cabinet member please confirm that Oxfordshire will have to pay the transport costs for any pupil on free school meals living in the county and gaining a place at a selective school within 15 miles of their home even though Oxfordshire as an authority does not support selective education?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR STEVE HARROD, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION</p> <p>We are, of course, still awaiting the government's formal response to the green paper consultation about extending selective education - by all accounts there has been very little support. The details of the new transport offer haven't been circulated yet to local authorities who are responsible for the provision of free home to school transport. However it does appear that the Council might have to fund transport for qualifying Oxfordshire children who attend selective schools in neighbouring authorities. It isn't clear whether this will only apply to new starters or will be retrospective.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Since the Chancellor made the announcement of this proposal in his budget,</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I can't possible comment on whether or not there might be a U-turn, we trust that there will be but in the event that there isn't then I guess we are going to be stuck</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>I don't know whether the Cabinet Member thinks we might expect a U-Turn at some point or does he expect that the Council Tax payers of Oxfordshire will have to pick up the bill for this new proposal to the detriment to other services?</p>	<p>with the bill.</p>
<p>24. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</p> <p>Can the cabinet member please set out how long it has taken for St Philip & St James School in north Oxford to obtain its additional outside space?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR STEVE HARROD, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION</p> <p>Since the opening of SS Phillip & James School in 2002, it has been recognised that there was a need for additional playing area. Consequently the County Council has been working with the City Council to try and identify a suitable plot of land. An area was originally identified but unfortunately this could not be transferred for legal reasons. An alternative parcel of land adjoining the school site was identified by the City Council and on 16th August 2016 ownership of the land transferred to the County.</p> <p>However the land needed remediation works to be carried out to make it suitable as a school playing field but this could not be commenced until Network Rail, who were installing new bridge crossing close to the site, had completed their works because of access issues. Network Rail completed installation late Jan 2017 and Carillion, who are carrying out the remediation works, commenced shortly after this date and remain on programme for completion on 23rd March 2017.</p> <p>The works includes laying of new turf which requires a further 4 to 6 weeks to become established so it is anticipated that the school should be able to use the outside playing area by the end of April. Therefore from acquiring the land to being available for the school to use as a playing area it has taken approximately 8 months.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member confirm that because of the failure of the City Council and the County Council to reach an agreement over the land transfer between 2002 and 2016, that the cost of the project has risen dramatically and included the need for an expensive second remediation study and that with a Unitary council the land dispute would not have been an issue.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I agree that with a Unitary council would make all our lives an awful lot easier and this would be one area where there would be an improvement as well.</p>
<p>25. COUNCILLOR STEWART LILLY</p> <p>Given the challenges we hear facing public libraries across the country can the Portfolio Holder for Cultural Services explain what's happening in Oxfordshire's libraries?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE, CABINET MEMBER FOR PROPERTY, CULTURAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES</p> <p>Here in Oxfordshire, our 43 Libraries are thriving and the whole service is embracing the future with confidence.</p> <p>We know that libraries are highly valued by our communities and this is demonstrated by the wealth of activities they are running and promoting across the County ranging from regular Rhyme time sessions for young children to Dementia cafes run by Age UK for carers and relatives.</p> <p>Of particular note in 2016:</p> <p>The summer Reading Challenge attracted more than 8500 children with 94 young people supporting as volunteers. There are now more than 200 adult reading groups supported by local libraries.</p> <p>Our Home Library Service continues to go from strength to strength and we now have more than 547 residents supported by 182 community volunteers.</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>Looking ahead, we know that Libraries have a great future in Oxfordshire and we are doing our best to extend access.</p> <p>Most recently for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have provided extended public access to libraries in Summertown, Grove and Eynsham seven days a week • Our library at Wood Green in Banbury is now operating as part of an integrated service within the new Leisure Centre and we will be doing the same in Charlbury later this year • Carterton and Wantage libraries are now being used by Children’s Services to run Children’s activities on the days they are normally closed to the public • We are working with Abingdon & Witney College to provide placements and work experience for College students in our Witney Library • Discussion has started with our local community partners on the relocation of Berinsfield Library into a new Community Hub as part of housing development plans for the area • In many of our libraries, our staff are actively supporting a broader range of services offered by the Council and most have been trained to provide digital assistance when needed. <p>And we are all looking forward to the re-opening of the County Library in the Westgate alongside the new John Lewis store in October this year. The refurbished library will include a broader range of services and facilities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Local Family History Service • Digital display space for Oxfordshire’s heritage • Wifi Café • Hot-desking space for Council staff • Support from our staff for residents who need help to access Council services

Questions	Answers
<p>26. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>Would the Cabinet member explain why it is no longer possible for the excellent cycling priority symbols to be painted or re-painted on Oxfordshire roads?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>I understand that Cllr Tanner is referring to the free-standing cycle markings that have been used in places such as the shopping areas in Cowley, Headington and Summertown.</p> <p>I am advised that some of the legislative restrictions on the placing of these cycle markings have been relaxed with the publication of the new Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions in 2016, although we are awaiting updated guidance from Department for Transport to support this prior to introducing these markings into new areas. Of course we always have to be careful to avoid the over-use of signs and markings which might then reduce their effectiveness in locations where they are most beneficial in keeping cyclists safe.</p> <p>In terms of re-painting those markings that already exist I am advised that this will be done alongside work to refresh the other road markings in the area. Officers are currently confirming the programme for road marking maintenance in 2017/18.</p>
<p>27. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>What plans does the County Council have for the redundant school playing-fields at Iffley Turn in my division that sit between Donnington Recreation Ground, Maywood Road and Meadow Lane in Oxford?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE, CABINET MEMBER FOR PROPERTY, CULTURAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES</p> <p>The County Council plans for the site have not changed since the detailed briefing paper was issued to Cllr Tanner on 22nd August 2016.</p> <p>This explained that the County Council had in 2014, 2015 and 2016 drawn the City Council's attention to the site being vacant, available and having potential for residential development which could help meet the significant housing shortage within the City.</p> <p>The case for allocating this site for residential development in the next Local Plan was taken up with the City Council at the bilateral meeting between the two</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>councils in early 2016.</p> <p>This was also reinforced at a meeting between OCC and representatives from the City Council planning department on 21st April 2016.</p> <p>The County Council recognise that Oxford cannot achieve the demand for housing indicated within the Strategic Housing Market Assessment due to its boundary constraints, the nature of the City's built environment and its significant cultural heritage but also that Oxford City must examine all options for growth.</p> <p>The development of this site for housing will therefore assist Oxford on meeting its obligations as well as meeting its housing needs within its boundaries.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Can I ask her for as long as she is Cabinet Member that Councillor Lindsay-Gale takes this forward? It is one thing for a district council to have an overall planning policy but planning applications are not always considered only on those policies and there is a great appetite within Oxford City Council to see this land as both a park and housing development. Can I urge her and whoever her successor may be to get an application in quickly so that this County Council can get some money, the people of Oxford can get some more housing and some more recreation.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Both Councils agree that this would be a very good solution and I don't know whether I will be back I rather hope so and if I am not yes I will encourage my successor to follow it through.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>28. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>Would the Cabinet member say why the County Council's sensible plans for rationalising the use of land and property are only being carried forward in Witney?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LAWRIE STRATFORD, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE</p> <p>On 9th March we wrote to all Councillors to advise that we are beginning the scoping phase of the Place Review programme. The Place Review programme involves taking a 'whole-place' approach to better understand the current and future needs of an area, and to more effectively align our public sector presence to these needs by exploring opportunities for service integration, co-location and reconfiguration of assets.</p> <p>During this internal scoping phase, between now and the end of May, we are looking at a number of places across the county.</p> <p>In order to internally test this new way of working, we had to choose a handful of places to start with first. Witney is just one of these.</p> <p>We want to be very clear, that through this scoping phase we are not prescribing or assuming any eventual order for the Place Reviews, we believe we need to be responsive to opportunities and to align with drivers from our partner organisations.</p> <p>As explained in the communication to councillors, we are looking to define and recommend a structured programme for Place Reviews by the end of Spring at which point we will also be able to openly engage on the learnings from the scoping phase.</p> <p>The Place Review programme is very far reaching and our ambition is to eventually cover all areas of the county.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Isn't it a great disappointment that you are only beginning to make the best use of</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>We have carried out a substantial disposal programme and raised in excess of £60m over the last 10 years in getting rid of properties that we don't need. I</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>property and land in Witney and that all over Oxfordshire there is land and property which is underused by this County Council? and that the government is not giving the County enough money, but there is a significant reason for the financial difficulties that this Council finds itself in and that is because you have not and will not develop the land and the property and use it sensibly.</p>	<p>know there are on-going discussions with district councils about shared usage. Obviously some of those discussions are more challenging than others, but I am happy to pass the question onto the appropriate members and give Councillor Tanner a fuller response if he feels it is necessary.</p>

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Division(s): N/A

COUNTY COUNCIL - 16 MAY 2017

REPORT OF ELECTION OF MEMBERS

Report by the Returning Officer

I hereby report that the names and address of the councillors elected for the respective Electoral Divisions of the County of Oxfordshire at the election held on the 4 May 2017 were:-

Abingdon East

Rooke, Alison Rosemary
6 Brode Close
Abingdon on Thames
Oxfordshire
OX14 2QJ

Abingdon North

Smith, Emily Jane
2 Sycamore Road
Botley
Oxford
OX2 9EJ

Abingdon South

Fawcett, Neil Macgregor
23 Turberville Close
Abingdon
OX14 5ER

Banbury Calthorpe

Reeves, Eddie
74 West Bar Street
Banbury
OX16 9RZ

Banbury Grimsbury & Castle

Banfield, Hannah Louise
39 Lord Fielding Close
Banbury
OX16 1GB

Banbury Hardwick

Ilott, Tony
14 Avon Carrow
Avon Dassett
Warwickshire
CV47 2AR

Banbury Ruscote

Cherry, Mark David
58 Appleby Close
Banbury
Oxon
OX16 0UX

Barton, Sandhills & Risinghurst	Phillips , Glynis 28 New High Street Headington Oxford OX3 7AQ
Benson & Cholsey	Gray , Mark Stuart 5 Little Lane Cholsey Wallingford Oxon OX10 9LX
Berinsfield & Garsington	Lindsay-Gale , Elizabeth Lorraine 31 The Green South Warborough Oxfordshire OX10 7DR
Bicester North	Stratford , Lawrie 8 Queens Court Bicester OX26 6JX
Bicester Town	Waine , Michael Frederick Haydon House 15 Cedar Drive Bicester OX26 4EZ
Bicester West	Sibley , Les 4 Derwent Road Bicester Oxon OX26 2JA
Bloxham & Easington	Mallon , Kieron Paul Wykham Park Farm Cottages Wykham Lane Banbury OX16 9UP
Burford & Carterton North	Field-Johnson , Nicholas Anthony Rose Cottage Asthall Leigh Witney Oxfordshire OX29 9PX

Carterton South & West	Handley, Pete Westbourne Pie Corner Shilton Oxon OX18 4AW
Chalgrove & Watlington	Harrod, Steve The Old Red Lion Church Road Great Milton Oxfordshire OX44 7PB
Charlbury & Wychwood	Leffman, Liz 10 Park Street Charlbury Oxon OX7 3PS
Chipping Norton	Biles, Hilary Rose Maple House Church Path Shipton-U-Wychwood Oxfordshire OX7 6BQ
Churchill & Lye Valley	Brighouse, Liz Willowbank Old Road Headington Oxford OX3 8TA
Cowley	Sanders, John Leo 200 Headington Road Oxford OX3 7PS
Deddington	Fatemian, Arash Ali 49 Red House Road Bodicote Banbury OX15 0QH
Didcot East & Hagbourne	Clark, Simon Richard 8 Finham Brook Didcot Oxfordshire OX11 7YE

Didcot Ladygrove

Harris, Neville Frank
180 Abingdon Road
Didcot
Oxon
OX11 9BP

Didcot West

Thompson, Alan Roy
3 Cronshaw Close
Didcot
Oxon
OX11 7JT

Eynsham

Mathew, Charles Christopher Bruce
Parsonage House
Main Road
Stanton Harcourt
Oxfordshire
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Hannaby, Jenny
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Grove & Wantage

Patrick, Zoe Anne
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Headington & Quarry	Smith , Roz 12 Weyland Road Oxford OX3 8PD
Hendreds & Harwell	Fox-Davies , Mike Pillar Lodge School Lane Harwell Oxfordshire OX11 0ES
Henley-on-Thames	Gawrysiak , Stefan John Pantiles Elizabeth Road Henley-on-Thames Oxon RG9 1RA
Iffley Fields & St Mary's	Evans , Helen Theresa 38 Boundary Brook Road Oxford OX4 4AW
Isis	Afridi , Sobia 56 Ferry Road New Marston Oxford OX3 0EU
Jericho & Osney	Pressel , Susanna 7 Rawlinson Road Oxford OX2 6UE
Kennington & Radley	Johnston , Bob 102 Kennington Road Kennington Oxford OX1 5PE

Kidlington South	Billington , Maurice 15 Evans Lane Kidlington Oxon OX5 2HX
Kingston & Cumnor	Fitzgerald-O'Connor , Anda Maruta Hatford House Hatford Faringdon Oxfordshire SN7 8JF
Kirtlington & Kidlington North	Griffiths , Carmen Rope Walk 106 Church Street Kidlington Oxfordshire OX5 2BB
Leys	McIlveen , Deborah 17 Three Corners Road Oxford OX4 7UF
Marston & Northway	Lygo , Mark Robert 20 Valentia Road Headington Oxford OX3 7PL
North Hinksey	Roberts , Judy 1 Stone Close Botley Oxford Oxfordshire OX2 9SQ
Otmoor	Sames , Dan 27 Shearwater Drive Bicester OX26 6YR
Ploughley	Corkin , Ian Slievenamon Fritwell Road Fewcott Bicester OX27 7NZ

Rose Hill & Littlemore	Sanders, Gill 200 Headington Road Oxford OX3 7PS
Shrivenham	Constance, Yvonne Jean Cross Bargain Farm Kingston Lisle Wantage Oxon OX12 9QY
Sonning Common	Bartholomew, David Christopher High Meadow Mill Lane Shiplake Henley-on-Thames RG9 3ND
St Clement's & Cowley Marsh	Azad, Jamila Begum 21 Reliance Way Oxford OX4 2FG
St Margaret's	Howson, John Orrell 2 Venneit Close Oxford OX1 1HZ
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Thame & Chinnor	Carter, Nick 66 Park Street Thame Oxon OX9 3HT
Thame & Chinnor	Matelot Green, Jeanette Ann 1 Hazelton House 15 High Street Thame Oxon OX9 2BZ

University Parks	Turnbull , Emma Christina 18 Cripsey Road Oxford OX2 0AH
Wallingford	Atkins , Lynda Susan 39 Station Road Wallingford OX10 0JX
Wheatley	Johnson , Kirsten Renee 18 Feilden Grove Oxford OX3 0DU
Witney North & East	Bartington , Suzanne Elizabeth 75 Cogges Hill Road Witney Oxfordshire OX28 3XU
Witney South & Central	Price , Laura Margaret 19 The Springs Witney Oxon OX28 4AJ
Witney West & Bampton	Fenton , Ted 10A Bridge Street Bampton Oxfordshire OX18 2HA
Wolvercote & Summertown	Buckley , Christopher Paul 27 Lakeside Oxford OX2 8JF
Woodstock	Hudspeth , Ian Donald Rannoch Lodge Bladon Oxon OX20 1RD

CC6

Wroxton & Hook Norton

Reynolds, George Anthony
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PETER CLARK
Returning Officer

May 2017

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Division(s): N/A

COUNCIL – 16 MAY 2017

OFFICER SCHEME OF DELEGATION

Report by the Director of Law and Governance

Introduction

1. At its Annual Meeting, Council is required to agree the officer scheme of delegation within the Council's Constitution.

Scheme of Delegation

2. The scheme of officer delegation is contained in Part 7.2 of the Council's Constitution. The Scheme of Delegation itself gives delegated authority to the Head of Paid Service, directors and other chief officers whose titles and/or areas of responsibility are set out in Part 2, Article 13 of the Constitution. Copies of the amended sections of the Constitution have been placed in the Members' Resource Room.
3. Since the Constitution was fully reviewed in 2014-15, the Council has undertaken a senior management review. The only changes are those arising from the previously agreed senior management review. The consequential changes to the Constitution were agreed by Audit and Governance Committee in January 2017 and by Full Council in March 2017. As such these relate to changes in post title and do not create additional or new delegations of powers.

Changes under Constitution Review

Part 2, Article 13 – Officers

4. The Articles to be amended to reflect the service areas and post titles of the the senior management team.

Part 7.2 – Scheme of Delegation

5. The Scheme of Delegation has not been amended other than to reflect the senior management structure arising from the senior management review.

RECOMMENDATION

- 6. Council is RECOMMENDED to note the proposed amendments to Article 13 and to Part 7.2 of the Constitution and to approve the Scheme of Officer Delegation (Part 7.3) as amended.**

NICK GRAHAM

Chief Legal Officer and Monitoring Officer

Background papers: Nil

Contact Officer: Glenn Watson, Principal Governance Officer: 07776 997946

May 2017

Article 13: Officers

1. Management Structure

- (a) The full Council may engage staff (referred to as officers) as it considers necessary to carry out its functions.
- (b) The Council will engage persons for the following chief officer posts

Post	Principal Areas of Service
Chief Executive (and Strategic Director for Resources)	<p>Head of the Council's paid service; overall corporate management and promotion of the Council's strategic objectives; information and communications technology; Oxfordshire Customer Services; cultural services; libraries; heritage services and museums; music service; the arts also</p> <p>Areas of service managed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistant Chief Executive • Director of Finance • Director of Human Resources • Director of Law and Governance
Assistant Chief Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic partnerships and the sustainable community strategy; media and communications; performance management
Director of Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate financial management and administration; internal audit; procurement
Director of Human Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human resources and organisational development.
Director of Law and Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal services and advice; coroner's and registration services; support for councillors and the democratic process; governance

Director for Public Health (and Strategic Director for People)¹	Public health; also Areas of service managed by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Director for Public Health • Director of Adult Services • Director of Children's Services
Deputy Director for Public Health	Promoting the health of the local population; commissioning public health services; health improvement; planning for public health incidents; monitoring uptake of screening/immunisations
Director for Adult Services ²	Adult social services; residential and nursing care; supported living; intermediate care; home support; assessment and re-ablement; occupational therapy; sensory impairment; mental health; carers services; translation and interpretation; adult learning; community safety; consumer protection and animal welfare; gypsy and traveller service; emergency planning
Director for Children's Services ³	Children's services; early years and childcare; family support; fostering and adoption; looked-after children; residential and leaving care; asylum seekers; child protection; school performance; resourcing and support for schools; school governor support; school admissions; school transport (policy); special educational needs; behaviour support; teenage pregnancy; drugs and alcohol; youth service; youth justice
Strategic Director for Communities	Areas of service managed by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director for Community Safety & Chief Fire Officer • Director for Infrastructure and Delivery • Director for Planning and Place • Director for Property, Access and Investment
Director for Community Safety and Chief Fire & Rescue Officer	Fire and rescue service; and trading standards.

Director for Infrastructure and Delivery	Highways; network management; road safety and travel planning; transport development control; mainstream school and special needs transport; bus services; countryside and rights of way services; archaeological service; economic development; environmental and climate change policies
Director for Planning and Place	Development plans and developer funding; strategic development schemes; spatial and minerals and waste planning; waste management
Director for Property, Access and Investment	Estates and valuation; property services; corporate security.

- 1 The Director of Public Health is also the designated Chief Medical Adviser for the provision of emergency medical advice to the Council for the purposes of the Mental Health Act 1983
- 2. Full title: Director for Social & Community Services and Director of Adult Social Services
- 3.. Full title: Director for Children, Education & Families and Director of Children's Services

- (c) **Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer**
The Council will designate officers to perform these statutorily prescribed roles as follows:

Designation	Officer
Head of the Council's Paid Service	Chief Executive
Monitoring Officer	Director of Law and Governance
Chief Finance Officer	Director of Finance

The duties associated with these designations are set out in paragraphs 2 - 4 below.

- (d) For the avoidance of doubt, the officers under (b) and (c) are also to be regarded as Directors for the purposes of this Constitution, in addition to any specific duties and delegations attaching to their posts.

2. Functions of the Chief Executive

- (a) **Discharge of functions by the Council.** The Chief Executive will report to full Council on the manner in which the discharge of the Council's functions is co-ordinated, the number and grade of officers required for the discharge of functions and the organisation of officers.
- (b) **Restrictions on functions.** The Chief Executive may not be the Monitoring Officer but may hold the post of Chief Finance Officer if a qualified accountant.

3. Functions of the Monitoring Officer

- (a) **Maintaining the Constitution.** The Monitoring Officer will maintain an up-to-date version of the Constitution and will ensure that it is available to councillors, staff and the public.
- (b) **Ensuring lawfulness and fairness of decision making.** After consulting with the Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer, the Monitoring Officer will report to the full Council or, in the case of an executive function, to the Cabinet, if he or she considers that any proposal, decision or omission would give rise to unlawfulness or if any decision or omission has given rise to maladministration. Such a report will have the effect of stopping the proposal or decision being implemented until the report has been considered.¹
- (c) **Supporting the Audit & Governance Committee.** The Monitoring Officer will contribute to the promotion and maintenance of high standards of conduct through provision of support and advice to the Audit & Governance Committee.
- (d) **Receiving complaints.** The Monitoring Officer will receive and act on complaints about Councillor conduct.
- (e) **Reviewing complaints.** The Monitoring Officer will review complaints in accordance with the Council's arrangements for dealing with member complaints.
- (f) **Proper officer for access to information.** The Monitoring Officer will ensure that decisions, together with the reasons for those decisions and relevant officer reports and background papers are made publicly available as soon as possible.
- (g) **Advising whether executive decisions are within the budget and policy framework.** The Monitoring Officer will advise whether decisions of the Cabinet are in accordance with the budget and policy framework.
- (h) **Providing advice.** The Monitoring Officer will provide advice on the scope of powers and authority to take decisions, maladministration, financial impropriety, probity and budget and policy framework issues to all councillors.
- (i) **Restrictions on posts.** The Monitoring Officer cannot be the Chief Finance Officer or the Chief Executive.
- (j) **Issue of Guidance.** The Monitoring Officer will issue guidance from time to time on the discharge of the above functions.

¹ Section 5 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989

4. Functions of the Chief Finance Officer

- (a) **Ensuring lawfulness and financial prudence of decision making.** After consulting with the Chief Executive and the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Finance Officer will report to the full Council or, in the case of an executive function, to the Cabinet, and to the Council's external auditor, if he or she considers that any proposal, decision or course of action will involve incurring unlawful expenditure, or is unlawful and is likely to cause a loss or deficiency or if the Council is about to enter an item of account unlawfully.
- (b) **Administration of financial affairs.** The Chief Finance Officer will have responsibility for the administration of the financial affairs of the Council.²
- (c) **Contributing to corporate management.** The Chief Finance Officer will contribute to the corporate management of the Council, in particular through the provision of professional financial advice.
- (d) **Providing advice.** The Chief Finance Officer will provide advice on the scope of powers and authority to take decisions, maladministration, financial impropriety, probity and budget and policy framework issues to all councillors and will support and advise councillors and officers in their respective roles.
- (e) **Giving financial information.** The Chief Finance Officer will provide financial information to the media, members of the public and the community.

5. Duty to Provide Sufficient Resources to the Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer

The Council will provide the Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer with such officers, accommodation and other resources as are in their opinion sufficient to allow their duties to be performed.

6. Deployment and Management of Staff in General

- (a) The recruitment, selection and dismissal of officers will comply with the Officer Employment Rules set out at Part 8.4 of this Constitution.
- (b) The Head of Paid Service will determine and publicise a description of the overall structure of the paid service of the Council showing the management structure and deployment of officers. This is set out at Part 7.1 of this Constitution.

² Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972

7. Powers Exercisable by Officers

Officers may exercise functions of the Council, the Cabinet and committees of the Council to the extent and subject to the conditions specified in the Officer Delegations set out in Part 7 of this Constitution.

8. Sub-Delegation to Designated Officers

The Chief Executive's, Directors' and other officers' powers conferred by this Section and its Appendices, including any proper officer functions, may be exercised by other officers designated in writing by the Chief Executive, relevant Director or other officer, either generally or in specific circumstances.

9. Conduct of Officers

Officers will comply with the Officers' Code of Conduct and the Protocol on Member/Officer Relations.

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Scheme of Delegation to Officers

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This scheme of delegation authorises the relevant officers to exercise the functions of the council as set out in this scheme and the Constitution. For the purpose of this scheme, 'officers' includes the Chief Executive, directors and other officers whose titles and/or areas of responsibility are set out in Part 2, Article 13 of the Constitution.
- 1.2. This scheme is without prejudice to the exercise of the council's functions by the council, the Cabinet, the council's committees and sub-committees and their own powers of delegation and by the officers mentioned within 1.1 above.
- 1.3. For the avoidance of doubt anything which is not covered by this scheme, including the appointment of a proper officer for the purpose of any statutory function, will be determined by the Chief Executive.
- 1.4. The council has given a general indemnity to any officer acting in the purported discharge of any authority delegated to him for any action, costs, claim or liability incurred by him or her.
- 1.5. For the avoidance of doubt:
 - (a) the Chief Executive has over all other officers the powers which they are entitled to exercise under this Scheme;
 - (b) an officer may refer any matter to the Council, the Cabinet, or a committee of the Council as appropriate either:
 - (i) in lieu of exercising his/her powers in relation to that matter; or
 - (ii) for consultative purposes before exercising those powers;
 - (c) the power to exercise any function includes the power to exercise that function in a positive or negative manner or to refuse to exercise the function;
 - (d) nothing in this Scheme prevents the Council, the Cabinet or a committee of the Council from exercising a function in place of an officer;
 - (e) in this Scheme references to the Cabinet shall be taken to include the relevant Cabinet Member, a committee of the Cabinet or an area committee insofar as the function concerned has for the time being been delegated to such member or committee;

- (f) any exercise of delegation making incorrect references to any part of the Constitution, relevant statute, legislation or bylaw shall not of itself invalidate the authorised delegation.

2. Principles of Delegation

2.1. The Chief Executive and other officers (as defined in paragraph 1.1 of this Scheme) – known as ‘directors’ for the purposes of this Scheme of Delegation - are empowered to make decisions on behalf of the council in accordance with the following general principles:

- (a) If a function, power or responsibility has not been specifically reserved to the council, a committee, or the Cabinet, the director within whose remit the matter falls is authorised to act.
- (b) The council, its committees and the Cabinet will make decisions on matters of significant policy. The Chief Executive and the directors have express authority to take all necessary actions to implement council, committee and Cabinet decisions that commit resources, within agreed budgets in the case of financial resources, as necessary and appropriate.
- (c) The Chief Executive and the directors are empowered to take all operational decisions, within agreed policies, in relation to the services for which they are responsible.
- (d) The Chief Executive and the directors are empowered to take all necessary decisions in cases of emergency¹.
- (e) In relation to all delegated authority conferred on the directors by this scheme, the Chief Executive may allocate or re-allocate responsibility for exercising particular powers to any officer of the council in the interests of effective corporate management as he or she thinks fit.
- (f) Where a director is absent from the workplace for a period of time that requires others to exercise delegated authority in the director’s absence, another officer should be nominated by the Chief Executive. This nomination should be formally recorded in writing.
- (g) Where there is doubt over the responsibility for the exercise of a delegated power, the Chief Executive or their nominee is authorised to act;

¹ For the purposes of this scheme, emergency shall mean any situation in which the relevant officer believes that failure to act would seriously prejudice the Council’s or the public’s interests. Such interests are to be interpreted widely and include (but are not limited to) the risk of damage to property or threat to the health or well being of an individual.

- (h) All directors are empowered to act as deputies of the Chief Executive in his/her absence, subject to the following:
 - (i) In the first instance, the person deputised to act will be the director named on the duty rota operated by the Council
 - (ii) In the absence of both the Chief Executive and the duty rota director, any other director may deputise for the Chief Executive in consultation with the County Solicitor and Chief Finance Officer.
 - (i) Anything delegated to a director is also delegated to the Chief Executive;
 - (j) These delegations should be interpreted widely to aid the smooth running of the organisation, the effective deployment of resources, the efficient delivery of services, and the achievement of the council's goals.
 - (k) The exercise of delegated functions shall be in accordance with the managerial requirements of the Chief Executive otherwise than in matters of professional expertise, and subject to the legal requirements of the Director of Law and Governance and the financial requirements of the Director of Finance.
- 2.2. In deciding whether or not to exercise such delegated powers, the Chief Executive and the directors should consider whether to consult the appropriate Cabinet member(s) or committee chairman and have regard to their views. Officers shall always be entitled to refer matters for decision to the appropriate member body where they consider it expedient to do so.
- 2.3. The Chief Executive and the officers may authorise officers in their service areas to exercise, on their behalf, powers delegated under this scheme.

3. Recording of Delegations and Decisions

- 3.1. All delegations conferred under this scheme must be recorded in writing by the Chief Executive and the directors in such a form as the Director of Law and Governance may prescribe (including for the avoidance of doubt any delegation under paragraph 2.1(e) above). Any decision taken under such authority shall remain their responsibility, and must be taken in their name.
- 3.2. Each director will maintain a separate record of sub-delegations pertaining to his/her directorate and will provide copies to the Director of Law and Governance for retention.

- 3.3. The Director of Law and Governance will maintain a central record of all delegations under this scheme and make this available for public inspection. The record shall be kept up to date according to any additions or other variations to the powers and functions which are delegated to officers.
- 3.4. Any decision of an officer having substantive effect shall be recorded in such a manner that all those who may have an interest in that decision have certain knowledge of its effect. Any key decision shall be recorded as required by the Access to Information Rules and notification given in accordance with the Scrutiny Procedure Rules at Part 6.2 of this Constitution.

4. Scope of Powers

- 4.1. In exercising these delegated powers the officers concerned shall have broad discretion, subject to complying with all relevant legislation, the council's constitution, including its contract and financial procedures and regulations, and overall council policy, to use the most efficient and effective means available, including the deployment of staffing and other resources within their control and the procurement of other resources necessary, whether within or outside the council.
- 4.2. Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing the Chief Executive and directors shall have the power:
- (a) to take all lawful action consistent with overall council policy to deliver agreed strategy, plans and policy within their area of responsibility and within approved budgets. This shall include, but not exhaustively:
 - (i) invitation and acceptance of tenders, subject to the Contract Procedure rules at Part 8.3 of this Constitution;
 - (ii) preparation and submission of bids for external funds or grants for purposes related to the provision of services and acceptance of such funds and grants on such terms and conditions as may be agreed, subject to consulting the Director of Law and Governance where contractual obligations are involved;
 - (iii) write-off of irrecoverable amounts (including bad debts) up to such limit as may for the time being be prescribed by the Financial Procedure Rules at Part 8.2 of this Constitution subject in each case to the written approval of the Director of Finance (or of a member of his/her staff nominated by him/her for that purpose) and to such approval being shown in the accounting records;
 - (iv) virement (within the budget framework);

- (v) disposal and acquisition of assets;
 - (vi) subject to the requirements of the Director of Law and Governance given either generally or in a particular case, the issue of formal notices, orders, instructions and instruments required under any legislation relating to his/her functions and areas of service or otherwise to give legal effect to the exercise of the powers set out above;
 - (vii) authorising the institution, defence or appearance in criminal or civil proceedings in relation to any legislation which they are responsible for monitoring, enforcing or otherwise implementing on behalf of the council, subject to authorisation by the Director of Law and Governance;
 - (viii) the negotiation of agreements or arrangements with other directorates of the Council or other companies or organisations relating to the provision of services for his/her directorate;
- (b) to put in place management arrangements, which define the area of responsibility of all officers under their area of responsibility;
- (c) in the case of any overspend to notify the Director of Finance in the role of Section 151 officer in accordance with the financial procedure rules and regulations;
- (d) subject to the Officer Employment Rules set out at Part 8.4 of this Constitution, to determine staffing arrangements within his or her directorate within approved budgets (except for staff employed in schools with delegated budgets), including:
- (i) appointments, unless the power to appoint to a particular post rests with the Council or a committee of the Council;
 - (ii) dismissal of any employee subject to the concurrence of the Chief Human Resources Officer (except where the power of dismissal is vested by law in the Director);
 - (iii) the transfer of posts within the total establishment of his/her directorate;
 - (iv) all disciplinary matters;
 - (v) granting ex-gratia payments up to a limit determined by the Director of Law and Governance to employees who have suffered loss of, or damage to, personal property in the course of their work;

- (vi) extending an employee's sick leave on half pay for a period not exceeding the equivalent period of half pay already received; and
 - (vii) granting up to 10 days' additional paid leave on compassionate grounds, or up to twelve months unpaid leave;
 - (viii) granting unpaid leave beyond twelve months, and any other exceptional request for leave, subject to the agreement of the Chief Human Resources Officer and the Director of Finance.
- (e) to take all action to recruit, appoint, develop, manage and reward employees, in accordance with legislation and within approved council policies and procedures (including operation of policies for voluntary severance, early retirement, redundancy and redeployment) and relevant conditions of service for staff.

5. Delegation in Practice

- 5.1. In taking any decision, the officer concerned must be satisfied that the following issues have been properly considered and completed where appropriate. All of these issues should be considered at the earliest possible stage:
- (a) a key decision should be taken in accordance with the relevant requirements (including the requirements for the recording of such decisions under Rule 18 of Part 8.1 of this Constitution);
 - (b) the views of the relevant Cabinet member(s) and committee chairman following the application of the consultation criteria set out in paragraph (c) below;
 - (c) the implication of any council policy, initiative, strategy or procedure. Officers need to be aware of any potential impact of a delegated decision in other services. In such cases, consultation with officers, relevant Cabinet member(s) or committee chairmen from any affected portfolio and local members, where the issue relates to a specific area, should take place;
 - (d) consultation in accordance with the council's consultation strategy and the views emanating from that process;
 - (e) the range of available options;
 - (f) the staffing, financial and legal implications;
 - (g) the assessment of any associated risks in accordance with the council's risk management strategy;

- (h) the involvement of appropriate statutory officers and/or other directors;
- (i) the relevance of any regional or national guidance from other bodies the council's constitution, including the Forward Plan, its contract and financial procedures and regulations, all relevant guidance, legislation, codes of practice and protocols.

5.2. Any member may request that executive decisions taken by officers under delegated powers are scrutinised by the appropriate scrutiny committee.

6. Specific Powers and Functions

6.1. Subject to the foregoing and without prejudice to the general effect of this scheme, the Chief Executive and directors designated for the purpose may exercise such specific powers and functions:

- (a) in the capacity of proper officer; or
- (b) otherwise on behalf of the Council, the Cabinet or a committee of the Council

as may be delegated to them from time to time. The powers and functions which are for the time being delegated to the Chief Executive, Director of Law and Governance and the Director of Finance are listed in this section.

6.2. The Director of Law and Governance shall keep this scheme of delegation up to date according to any additions or other variations to the powers and functions of the Chief Executive, Director of Law and Governance, the Director of Finance and directors.

6.3. The **Chief Executive** is authorised to undertake:

- (a) The functions under Section 4 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 as the Head of Paid Service of the Council, and in accordance with Article 13 of this Constitution.
- (b) Allocation of accommodation for the purposes of the Council, the Cabinet, committees, sub-committees and members.
- (c) Any function of the Cabinet or of a Council committee or sub-committee, after consultation with the appropriate Director and thereafter:
 - (i) in the case of an executive function, with the Leader of the Council or, in his/her absence, the Deputy Leader of the Council; or

- (ii) in any other case, with the Chairman of the relevant committee or sub-committee or, in his/her absence, the Deputy Chairman of the relevant committee or sub-committee.

Any exercise of these functions shall be reported to the Cabinet or other relevant committee or sub-committee and shall be published on the website as soon as possible.

- (d) Following consultation with employees' representatives and with the Cabinet Member having responsibility for human resources and any other member(s) of the Cabinet whose responsibilities include a service particularly affected, approval of amendments to the County Council's personnel policies and procedures, subject to reference being made to the Cabinet where either:
 - (i) they would have material budget implications; or
 - (ii) material concerns about them have been expressed by the employees' representatives.
- (e) The powers and duties of County Returning Officer for the purposes of Section 35 of the Representation of the People Act 1983.

6.4. The Director of Law and Governance is authorised to:

- (a) take any action to implement any decision taken by or on behalf of the council, including the signature and service of statutory and other notices and any document; and authority to apply the Common Seal of the County Council to deeds in order to execute them;
- (b) institute, defend, settle or participate in any legal proceedings or disputes in any case where such action is necessary to give effect to decisions of the council or in any case where the Director of Law and Governance considers that such action is necessary to protect the council's interests;
- (c) consult with and instruct counsel, solicitors and other experts for legal proceedings, public inquiries, and other matters involving the council, and the negotiation and settlement of legal disputes on behalf of the Council, the Cabinet, committees of the Council or officers and arrangements for their representation in any court, public inquiry or other forum where he/she considers formal representation to be proper, including the incurring of such fees in respect thereof as may be appropriate;
- (d) authorisations under Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1972 (appearance by persons other than solicitors in legal proceedings);

Part 7.2Scheme of Delegation to Officers

- (e) acting as trustee on behalf of the Council in respect of any matter whereon he/she considers such action to be appropriate;
- (f) enter objections to any proposal affecting the county, the council or the inhabitants of the county;
- (g) undertake the following proper officer functions of the Council under the Local Government Act 1972:
 - (i) Declaration of Acceptance of Office (Section 83);
 - (ii) Notice of Resignation of Office (Section 84);
 - (iii) Convening of and Summonses to Meetings (Section 88 & Schedule 12);
 - (iv) Filling of Casual Vacancies (Section 89);
 - (v) General Notices regarding Pecuniary Interest (Section 96);
 - (vi) Ordnance Survey (Section 191);
 - (vii) Charitable Trusts (Section 210);
 - (viii) Deposit of Documents (Section 225);
 - (ix) Certificate of Photographic Copies of Documents (Section 229);
 - (x) Authentication of Documents (Section 234);
 - (xi) Procedure etc. for Bye-Laws (Section 236);
 - (xii) Evidence of Bye-Laws (Section 238);
 - (xiii) Enactments relating to Town & Country Planning (Schedule 16)
 - (xiv) Adaptations, Modifications and Amendments of Enactments (Schedule 29);
- (h) the functions of Monitoring Officer within the meaning of Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and in accordance with Article 13 of this Constitution;
- (i) the proper officer functions of the Council for the purposes of giving public notice of the receipt of a report from the Local Commissioner, for the purposes of Part III of the Local Government Act 1974;
- (j) following consultation with the Director of Finance and with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, approval of new or amended operational policies and procedures for the governance of the Council, subject to reference being made to the Cabinet where either:
 - (i) they would have material budget or substantive policy implications; or
 - (ii) material concerns about them have been expressed by the employees' representatives;
- (k) such proper officer functions of the Council other than those specified in this section as are not specifically delegated to any other officer;

- (l) the functions under Section 16(1) and Section 16(2) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 to give effect to the wishes of the political groups as regards membership of scrutiny committees and committees of the Council;
- (m) the proper officer functions of the Council for the purposes of Part VA of the Local Government Act 1972 (Access to Information);
- (n) making of appointments to outside bodies in accordance with the Council's published arrangements relating to representation on outside bodies;
- (o) making of appointments to school admission and exclusion appeal panels;
- (p) to adjust the terms of reference of a scrutiny committee to reflect detailed changes in the remits of individuals or bodies which are specified in those terms of reference, subject to the concurrence of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Group in each case;
- (q) authorisation of the reproduction or display of the Council's armorial bearings or any part thereof;
- (r) as Monitoring Officer, the functions of the 'qualified person' under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (Section 36(5)(o)(iii)) for determining whether the exemptions under Section 36 are engaged.

6.5. The **Director of Finance** is authorised to undertake:

- (a) The proper officer functions of the Council for the purposes of Section 115 of the Local Government Act 1972 (Receipt of Money) and for the administration of the Council's financial affairs under Section 151 of the Act, and in accordance with Article 13 of this Constitution.
- (b) The proper officer functions of the Council for the purposes of Section 146 of the Local Government Act 1972 - Transfer of Securities.
- (c) The functions of 'responsible officer' for the purposes of financial administration under the Local Government Finance Act 1988.
- (d) Functions as the officer responsible for maintaining an adequate and effective system of internal audit.
- (e) Implementation of pay awards made nationally or locally under procedures recognised by the Council.
- (f) The making of investments of the County Pension Fund in accordance with the policies determined by the Pension Fund Committee.

- (g) Determination of cases of whether the education or training should be treated as continuous where an eligible child for the payment of a dependent's pension benefit under the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations is over 17 and has been engaged continuously in full-time education or in training for a trade, profession or vocation has taken a gap year, subject to a report to the Pension Fund Committee on such determinations.

6.6. Directors

Each director is authorised to act on behalf of the Council in relation to any operational matters within the service areas for which s/he is responsible as set out in Article 13, subject to the provisions of Part 7.2 of this Constitution. The director will maintain a separate record of sub-delegations pertaining to his/her directorate and will provide copies to the Director of Law and Governance for retention under this Schedule.

- 6.7. For the avoidance of doubt, the delegation to the Director for Environment & Economy includes the power, jointly with the Director of Law and Governance, to determine applications for certificates of lawfulness of existing or proposed use or development.

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COUNTY COUNCIL – 16 MAY 2017

REVISED COUNCIL, COMMITTEE DATES 2017/18

CC – County Council

2017

Tues 10.30 am 11 July
Tues 10.30 am 12 September
Tues 10.30 am 7 November
Tues 10.30 am 12 December

2018

Tues 10.30 am 13 February*

*Proposed new date from 20 February to avoid difficulties for the District Councils in setting their budgets.

CA - Cabinet

2017

Tues 2.00 pm 23 May - cancelled
Tues 2.00 pm 20 June
Tues 2.00 pm 18 July
Tues 2.00 pm 19 September
Tues 2.00 pm 17 October
Tues 2.00 pm 28 November
Tues 2.00 pm 19 December

2018

Tues 2.00 pm 23 January
Tues 2.00 pm 27 February
Tues 2.00 pm 20 March

CMD: ASC, ED:Cabinet Member Delegated Decisions: Adult Social Care, Education –

2017

Tues 9.00 pm 23 May - cancelled
Tues 9.00 pm 20 June
Tues 9.00 pm 18 July
Tues 9.00 pm 19 September
Tues 9.00 pm 17 October
Tues 9.00 pm 28 November
Tues 9.00 pm 19 December

2018

Tues 9.00 pm 23 January
Tues 9.00 pm 27 February
Tues 9.00 pm 20 March

CMD: LGB, L, F; Cabinet Member Delegated Decisions: Local Government Business, ICT & Customer Services Leader, Finance

2017

Tues 3.00 pm* 23 May - cancelled
Tues 3.00 pm * 20 June
Tues 3.00 pm* 18 July
Tues 3.00 pm* 19 September
Tues 3.00 pm* 17 October
Tues 3.00 pm* 28 November
Tues 3.00 pm* 19 December

2018

Tues 3.00 pm* 23 January
Tues 3.00 pm* 27 February
Tues 3.00 pm* 20 March
* or on the rising of Cabinet whichever is the later

Cabinet Member Decisions - (Deputy Leader)

2017

Mon 10.00 26 Jun
Mon 10.00 24 Jul
Mon 10.00 25 Sep
Mon 10.00 23 Oct

2018

Mon 10.00 15 Jan
Mon 10.00 19 Feb
Mon 10.00 26 Mar

CMD: CEF, CCS: Cabinet Member Delegated Decisions: Children, Education & Families, Property, Cultural & Community Services

2017

Mon 12.00 pm 22 May - cancelled
Mon 12.00 pm 19 June
Mon 12.00 pm 10 July
Mon 12.00 pm 4 September
Mon 12.00 pm 9 October
Mon 12.00 pm 13 November
Mon 12.00 pm 4 December

2018

Mon 12.00 pm 22 January
Mon 12.00 pm 26 February
Mon 12.00 pm 19 March

CMDPH - Cabinet Member Delegated Decisions: Public Health

2017

Wed 10.00 am 24 May - cancelled
Wed 10.00 am 14 June

Wed 10.00 am 12 July
Wed 10.00 am 30 August
Wed 10.00 am 11 October
Wed 10.00 am 22 November

2018

Wed 10.00 am 10 January
Wed 10.00 am 7 February
Wed 10.00 am 7 March

CMDE - Cabinet Member Delegated Decisions: Environment

2017

Thur 10.00 pm 18 May
Thur 10.00 pm 29 June
Thur 10.00 pm 20 July
Thur 10.00 am 7 September
Thur 10.00 am 12 October
Thur 10.00 am 23 November

2018

Thur 10.00 am 11 January
Thur 10.00 am 8 February
Thur 10.00 am 8 March

PSC- Performance Scrutiny Committee

2017

Thur 10.00 am 25 May - cancelled
Thur 10.00 am 15 June
Thur 10.00 am 21 September
Thur 10.00 14 December (budget scrutiny)

2017

Thur 10.00 am 4 January
Thur 10.00 am 15 March

ESC - Education Scrutiny Committee

2017

Wed 2.00 pm 24 May - cancelled
Wed 2.00 pm 19 July
Wed 2.00 pm 27 September
Wed 2.00 pm 13 December

2018

Wed 2.00 pm 14 March

HOSC - Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

2017

Thur 10.00 am 22 June
Thur 10.00 am 14 September

Thur 10.00 am 16 November
2018
Thur 10.00 am 1 February

AG - Audit & Governance Committee

2017
Weds, 2.00 pm 5 July
Weds, 2.00 pm 13 September
Weds, 2.00 pm 8 November
2018
Weds, 2.00 pm 10 January
Weds, 2.00 pm 7 March

PF - Pension Fund

2017
Fri 10.00 am 23 June – rearranged date
Fri 10.00 am 1 September
Fri 10.00 am 1 December
2018
Fri 10.00 am 9 March

PLAN - Planning & Regulation Committee

2017
Mon 2.00 pm 5 June
Mon 2.00 pm 17 July
Mon 2.00 pm 4 September
Mon 2.00 pm 16 October
Mon 2.00 pm 27 November
2018
Mon 2.00 pm 8 January
Mon 2.00 pm 19 Feb

HWB - Oxfordshire Health & Wellbeing Board

2016
Thur 2.00 pm 13 July
Thur 2.00 pm 9 November
2017
Thur 2.00 pm 22 March

TJC - OCC & Teachers Joint Consultative Committee

2017

Thur 2.00 pm 8 June - cancelled – new date tbc

Thur 2.00 pm 2 November

2018

Thur 2.00 pm 22 February

EMJCC - OCC & Employees Joint Consultative Committee

2017

Thur 2.00 pm 1 June - cancelled – new date tbc

Thur 2.00 pm 30 August

Thur 2.00 pm 7 December

2018

Thur 2.00 pm 8 March

FIRCC - OCC Joint Consultative Committee for Uniformed Members of the Fire Service

2017

Fri 10.00 am 16 June

Fri 10.00 am 8 September

Fri 10.00 am 8 December

2018

Fri 10.00 am 16 March

LPB - Local Pension Board

2017

Fri 10.30 am 21 July

Fri 10.30 am 20 October

2018

Fri 10.30 am 19 January

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Division(s): N/A

COUNTY COUNCIL – 16 MAY 2017

POLITICAL BALANCE ON COMMITTEES

Report by the Director of Law & Governance

1. The Council is required by the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 to review the political balance on its committees on an annual basis. A note is attached (**Annex 1**) which summarises how the rules operate. This note also outlines the co-opted members.
2. A schedule will be circulated separately (**Annex 2**) showing the initial arithmetical product of the rules for the Council's committees. The figures in brackets show the adjustments which are necessary to achieve the balance across and within committees to comply with the rules.
3. A further schedule (**Annex 3**) will be circulated separately showing the group nominations which have been received, together with the names of co-opted members where relevant. These nominations will be put forward on the basis of the adjusted memberships of the respective bodies as referred to in paragraph 2 above.

RECOMMENDATIONS

4. **The Council is RECOMMENDED:**
 - (a) **to confirm the political balance on committees shown in Annex 2 to the report;**
 - (b) **to appoint to committees the councillors and co-opted members shown in Annex 3, subject to any changes reported at the meeting.**

NICK GRAHAM

Director of Law & Governance

Background Papers: Nil

Contact Officers: Sue Whitehead, Committee Services Manger
Tel: 7393 001213

May 2017

Local Government & Housing Act 1989 - Political Balance

General Description of the Rules

1. For most local authority committees and sub-committees and for certain other appointments, the 1989 Act requires the Council to allocate seats to political groups in accordance with the groups' proportionate strength on the Council as a whole.
2. The political balance requirement applies only where political groups have been set up, but where it does apply the allocation to committees has to be reviewed annually. A review is also required on the formation of a new political group or if requested by a member newly joining a group.
3. A committee must review the allocation of seats on its sub-committees following any change in the committee's membership as a result of a 1989 Act review.

The Allocation

4. The allocation process depends on the proportionate strengths of the political groups and the nature of the committee, sub-committee or other body concerned. The following rules apply:
 - (i) Where a group has an overall majority on the Council, that group is entitled to a majority of the seats on each committee and sub-committee. For this purpose only, the calculation must include seats occupied by voting co-optees on a scrutiny committee or sub-committee concerned with education.
 - (ii) Each political group is entitled to its proportion of the total number of seats on all the committees added together, according to the ratio of the number of members of the group to the number of members of the Council.¹
 - (iii) Subject to (i) and (ii) above, each group is entitled to its proportion of the number of seats on each individual committee.
 - (iv) For sub-committees and some other bodies, a group is entitled to its proportion of the number of seats regardless of the total number of seats involved (but still subject to the majority rule in (i) above).
 - (v) The allocations of seats to political groups are rounded up or down to the nearest whole number. Where the allocations leave a seat or seats unfilled on a committee, sub-committee or other body those seats must be allocated to any independent members of the Council.
5. Except where a "no dissent" alternative (as described below) is adopted, application of these principles, "so far as reasonably practicable", is

¹ The Council has in the past sought so far as possible to apply this principle to the total seats on scrutiny committees and "other" committees also, but this is not a legal requirement

mandatory. Once the allocations have been agreed under this procedure, the appointment of individual members must then be made in accordance with the wishes of the respective groups.

Alternatives where “No Dissent”

6. The requirement to allocate seats according to political groups’ proportionate strengths can be overridden by some other arrangement, either in relation to all committees, sub-committees and other bodies or in relation to any individual committee, sub-committee or other body, provided that no councillor votes against the alternative arrangement when it is proposed.

Co-opted members on Committees

7. A number of Committees have co-opted members:

Audit & Governance Committee – One representative of the Business Community (nominee on Annex 3)

Pension Fund Committee – 2 voting co-opted members representing the District Councils – 2 District Councillors appointed by the District Councils.

Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Under Section 8(2)(a) of the Health and Social Care Act 2001 5 District Councillors are appointed by the District Councils. By agreement with all partners of the joint committee there are 3 non-voting co-opted members in order to assist it in its work.

Education Scrutiny Committee – Under the Localism Act 2000 there must be 4 voting co-optees who vote only on matters relating to education functions representing:

The Church of England – nominated by the relevant Diocesan Board of Education

The Roman Catholic Church – nominated by the Bishop of the relevant Diocese

Primary Schools Parent Governors – by advert and election process

Secondary and Special Schools Parent Governors – by advert and election process

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Division(s): N/A

COUNTY COUNCIL - 16 May 2017

SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17

Report by Assistant Chief Executive

1. Each year the Scrutiny Annual Report (attached at Annex 1) provides a summary of the work and impact of the council's three scrutiny committees; Performance Scrutiny, Education Scrutiny and Health Overview & Scrutiny, and any Cabinet Advisory Groups appointed by Cabinet during the year.
2. The report is structured by committee and highlights where the committees' influence has been greatest. It emphasises the areas where scrutiny has had a tangible impact on decision-making and held decision-makers to account.
3. In the face of budget pressures across the local authority and the NHS locally, the role of scrutiny has become increasingly important for ensuring the needs of Oxfordshire residents are at the forefront of decisions about local services.
4. To ensure that scrutiny continues to robustly challenge and influence the decisions of the new council and Health partners, officers are identifying a range of practical steps to improve the effectiveness of the council's existing scrutiny arrangements. This will focus on enabling more flexible, councillor-led scrutiny that centres on priority areas for Oxfordshire and balances this against areas of emerging concern.
5. The Audit and Governance Committee has reviewed this report and its layout has been amended to reflect their comments.

RECOMMENDATION

6. **The Council is RECOMMENDED to receive the report.**

MAGGIE SCOTT

Assistant Chief Executive

Background paper: Scrutiny Annual Report 2016-17

Contact Officer: Katie Read, Policy and Partnership Officer
07584 909530

May 2017

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**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

Scrutiny Annual Report

2016 – 2017

Foreword

As with previous years, the council has continued to face a challenging environment. The continued budget pressures the council faces have been compounded by uncertainty due to the shifting local and national political environment.

In the face of these challenges the council has endeavored to take proactive action to address current and future challenges, and deliver improved services for the residents of Oxfordshire. This has seen the council begin the implementation of its transformation programme, Fit for the Future, and advancing the case for a unitary council for Oxfordshire.

Oxfordshire County Council's scrutiny committees have focused on these priority issues for the council, and have provided challenge and insight to ensure that the council's proposals serve the residents of Oxfordshire as fully as possible. The focus on these proposals was complemented by addressing the regular business of the council, along with emerging issues for the council and county.

To ensure the council's scrutiny function is as effective and comprehensive as possible, we as Chairmen have committed to quarterly meetings to discuss issues affecting all scrutiny committees, the county council and the county as a whole. This has enabled the council's scrutiny function to be efficient, productive and focused.

We are proud of all that the scrutiny committees have achieved this year, and look forward to a challenging but effective 2017/18.



**Cllr Liz
Brighthouse OBE**

Chairman of the
Performance Scrutiny
Committee



**Cllr Yvonne
Constance OBE**

Chairman of the
Oxfordshire Joint Health
Overview and Scrutiny
Committee



**Cllr Mark
Gray**

Chairman of the
Education Scrutiny
Committee

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Scrutiny Annual Report provides a summary of the work of the council's overview and scrutiny function in 2016/17. This function includes the council's three Overview and Scrutiny Committees, and any Cabinet Advisory Groups which have been appointed by Cabinet in this time.
- 1.2. This report is structured by committee. It explores some of the areas of work each of the committees has undertaken over the last year and highlights where influence has been greatest. It emphasises areas where scrutiny has had a tangible impact on decision-making, and therefore on the lives of the people of Oxfordshire.
- 1.3. Membership details for the Scrutiny Committees and Cabinet Advisory Groups are provided in Annexes 1 and 2 respectively.

2. Performance Scrutiny Committee

- 2.1. The Performance Scrutiny Committee has a membership of 11 county councillors and is chaired by Cllr Liz Brighthouse OBE. The councillor membership is politically proportional to the membership of the Council. The committee met eight times in 2016/2017.
- 2.2. At the start of the year the committee's Deputy Chairman, Cllr Neil Fawcett, stood down and was replaced from within the committee's existing members by Cllr Steve Harrod. In November 2016 Cllr Harrod was appointed to a new Cabinet position for Education, and Cllr Janet Godden was duly appointed from within the committee's members as the new Deputy Chairman.
- 2.3. Some of the committee's key functions, as outlined in the constitution, include:
 - Scrutinising the performance of the council;
 - Providing a focused review of corporate performance, directorate performance;
 - Scrutinising financial reporting and budgets;
 - Raising queries or issues of concern that may occur over decisions being taken in relation to adult social care, to provide a specific committee for addressing such queries;
 - Discharging the Council's scrutiny responsibilities under the Police and Justice Act 2006, to review and scrutinise decisions made or actions taken by community safety partners.
- 2.4. This year the committee was addressed by 2 members of the public and 14 councillors who are not members of the committee. The committee also welcomed a high volume of attendance by members of the public, particularly when agenda items concerned children's services. It is to be hoped that strong public interest remains a feature of the committee's business in future.

Service and Resource Planning

- 2.5. The Performance Scrutiny Committee has overall responsibility for scrutinising budget proposals. In December and January the committee considered budget proposals for 2017/18 and the medium term, including pressures and savings for that year, the impact of key announcements in the Government's Autumn Statement, and the capital programme proposals for 2017/18 to 2020/21.
- 2.6. In this context, attention focused on the council's future development, particularly the "Fit for the Future" transformation programme. The programme will be the vehicle and enabler by which services and administrative arrangements would be transformed over the medium term, delivering savings and creating greater efficiency. The committee heard how some projected savings would be achieved via the "digital first" work-stream within the Fit for the Future programme.
- 2.7. In considering Service and Resource Planning the committee heard from the council's Chief Executive, Peter Clark, about the need to continue strengthening the relationship between officers and elected members. For example, this would include the benefits and value for money of drawing increasingly on members' local knowledge and experience of local and county-wide issues, both to properly help develop the council's business and to ensure that members are equipped to be accountable to local residents.
- 2.8. The committee warned of the risks of cutting staff resources too far in the name of financial savings, noting the potential for staff being overloaded or demoralised, and services being adversely affected. Similarly, concern was expressed that savings in some services – especially preventative services – could be counterproductive if cut too far. Emphasis was placed on the potential for the Transformation programme to make processes more efficient so that the council can be better run, even with lower staff resources.
- 2.9. The committee continued to ensure that there is effective challenge to Service and Resource Planning proposals through improved briefing and engagement of all members, not just committee members. To this end an all-member briefing was organised on the Cabinet's proposed budget (18 January) and in support of the approach to Service & Resource Planning this year, an all member briefing on the County Council's Senior Management Review (9 December), and the committee's 13 September meeting on proposals for the future of local government in Oxfordshire was widened to become an all-members session at which large numbers of non-committee members were able to speak.
- 2.10. A number of areas of investigation identified in last year's report by the committee during the 2015/16 Service and Resource Planning process had become high profile this year. These included community safety, safeguarding adults and children, the reshaping of early intervention services, and the review and reform of the council's performance management arrangements.

Performance Management

- 2.11. The committee has continued with the practice of examining the council's overall performance report on a quarterly basis, effectively holding the council to account for the pledges made at the start of the year in its Corporate Plan. In addition to examining overall performance the committee has played a vital role in the council's planning and delivery of some of its highest priority services, such as safeguarding children, adult social care and community safety, which have all featured strongly in the committee's scrutiny this year.
- 2.12. The committee remained committed to scrutinising both direct delivery by the council, and the performance of contracts, commissioned services and partnerships, as the council increasingly commissions services rather than directly providing them. For example, the council's major contract with Carillion for estates and facilities management services was given close consideration at the committee's September 2016 meeting. At the same meeting consideration was given to the council's contribution to, and benefit from, the Oxfordshire Local Economic Partnership (OxLEP), and a similar scrutiny of the council's strategic partnerships with other external bodies was undertaken in the October 2016 meeting.
- 2.13. With the committee's support, officers have engaged in reforming the council's performance management arrangements, with the ambition of creating a clearer and more keenly prioritised system of business management. At its February 2016 meeting, the committee had given unanimous support for a more streamlined, outcome-based approach to performance, with measures linked closely to the priorities in the Corporate Plan. The results of the emerging new system were considered in the form of the quarterly performance reports which featured on agendas throughout the year. Additionally, the developing proposals were considered in depth at a committee members' workshop in August 2016, which constructively steered the process and ensured that the presentation of performance data in this transitional period remains fit for purpose.
- 2.14. As well as regular scrutiny of individual service areas the committee undertook more detailed examinations of specific areas of performance when necessary. The "deep dive" into the council's activities around infrastructure funding for example (see paragraph 2.27 below) stands as an example of how the committee is employing new ways to dig into detail to understand the council's performance.

Crime and Community Safety

- 2.15. The committee gave considerable attention to crime and community safety during the year. In May 2016 the committee scrutinised the Community Safety Agreement Annual Business Plan, including an account of the work of Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership (2015-16) and the Safer Oxfordshire Partnership (2016-17), presented jointly by the previous and

current Chairmen. Progress with, and future direction of, the council's 365Alive strategy, led by Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service (OFRS), was also scrutinised, as was the OFRS draft Annual Report. OFRS's work beyond emergency response was particularly noted, for example their work on safeguarding vulnerable adults and mental health.

- 2.16. The October 2016 meeting considered the work of both the Thames Valley Police & Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police. This meeting asked challenging questions of the PCC and Chief Constable and sought to hold these two external officers to account. The meeting was designated as fulfilling the committee's responsibility to act as the council's "crime and disorder committee" in accordance with s.19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.

Safeguarding Children and Children's Services

- 2.17. The committee's scrutiny activities help to ensure the council is effectively safeguarding the most vulnerable people within our communities. The council's proposals to change the way some of our children's services are provided received considerable public and media attention during the year, and the committee ensured that its scrutiny function was also closely applied.
- 2.18. On 12 May the committee considered the findings of a recent inspection of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and work underway at that time to find a new service model. Subsequently at the 24 May meeting the committee considered the impact on children's services of financial changes resulting from the council's 2016/17 budget and Medium Term Financial Plan. The committee focused both on the immediate impacts and related performance matters such as MASH caseloads, supported transport and rural service provision. The committee's conclusion that the proposals and their implementation should remain under close scrutiny reflected the gravity of the subject, and indeed the matter was returned to at several future meetings, both specifically and in the context of other children's service agenda items.
- 2.19. The September 2016 and March 2017 meetings had a particularly strong focus on children's services. In September the committee scrutinised three related reports - the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report, the Performance Audit and Quality Assurance Annual Report, and the Case Review and Governance Subgroup Annual Report. Within this a wide range of topics was scrutinised, from caseload pressures to sexting, and from handling serious case reviews and the Prevent agenda to working with schools and community groups to support awareness of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) issues. In March 2017 the focus returned to the impact of new Children's Services structures on the council's outcomes for children, against a backdrop of rising demand for children's services. Members considered papers on the council's provisions for safeguarding, missing children and serious case reviews, and were able to understand and challenge the factors affecting performance in these areas.
- 2.20. Following discussion of the quarter 2 performance report members of the

committee agreed to attend November's meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel to gain a greater understanding of budget pressures on the performance of wellbeing services for children for whom the council acts as the responsible parent. The findings of that exercise were reported back to the full committee in the March 2017 meeting. This is an example of how the committee remains innovative in its approach to scrutinising performance using a wide range of sources of information.

Adult Social Care

- 2.21. Social care services for adults in Oxfordshire remained high among the committee's priorities during the year. Members scrutinised the annual report of the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board in September 2016. The committee then devoted time at two later meetings to consider the council's consultation on a range of adult care matters including respite for carers, carers' personal budgets and daytime support.
- 2.22. Within the routine quarterly performance reports, members frequently gave particular attention to areas of concern in adult services, including delayed transfers of care, access to reablement services and home care. Ultimately the committee recorded concerns over funding, sustainability of resources and recruitment and retention of a skilled workforce. As part of the December meeting on Service and Resource Planning the committee challenged the council's handling of new precept powers to raise funds for adult social care, ultimately being satisfied at January's meeting with the Chief Finance Officer's account of budget arrangements in this area.

Community Infrastructure Levy

- 2.23. During the year, three members of the committee worked on a "deep dive" scrutiny of the council's activities around s.106 infrastructure agreements and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Equipped with their own local knowledge of infrastructure provision, members worked constructively with relevant officers to examine in depth the structures and processes around s.106 and CIL, and to consider how these impact on outcomes and performance. The result was that a focused account of their findings was brought back to the full committee. This sort of "deep dive" will stand as a model for future committee work and should strengthen both the scrutiny function and the policy or service areas in question.

Future of Local Government in Oxfordshire

- 2.24. Proposals for the future of local government in Oxfordshire featured prominently throughout the county council's year, and the committee duly sought opportunity to scrutinise the emerging proposals and evidence for the various potential models.
- 2.25. In particular, the committee's 13 September meeting looked closely at the two reports produced by PwC (commissioned by the city and district councils) and Grant Thornton (commissioned by the county council) on future options for local government in Oxfordshire in order to make recommendations to

Cabinet regarding the Council's next steps. The session was held as an all-member session, reflecting the value of scrutinising the evidence with the contribution of a wider audience. Ultimately the committee was able to make recommendations to the Cabinet which reflected members' priority for (among other matters) residents' needs being met, the greatest opportunity for financial savings, and the need for local engagement, decision-making and powers.

- 2.26. Having considered December's Service and Resource Planning meeting in the context of potential local government reform, the committee again sought the opportunity for more focused scrutiny in the latter area. Its 9 March meeting was dedicated to consideration of a public and stakeholder engagement exercise that was undertaken on proposals for a single unitary authority. The committee, joined in attendance by a number of other non-committee county councillors, discussed the exercise and the revised 'One Oxfordshire' bid document. The discussion was open to all councillors present to make points for consideration by the committee. Members were able to question officers about details in the bid, and to consider matters affected by the bid including local democracy and finance. The committee also considered how the bid, if successful, would be implemented. As a result, the committee resolved a number of formal comments to Cabinet, to be considered by Cabinet in determining whether or not to submit the bid to the Secretary of State.

Other Issues

- 2.27. The committee undertook scrutiny on a range of other issues during the year, many of which had broader strategic relevance to the areas noted above. For example in September the committee considered a detailed presentation which provided a review of, and forward look for, the subject of the council's interests in property and facilities management. This included close scrutiny of both the council's own activities and those of one of the council's main contractors, Carillion

Call-In

- 2.28. The call-in procedure allows the Performance Scrutiny Committee to compel the Cabinet to reconsider a decision made by its members, but not yet implemented. There must be compelling grounds for review. The committee did not use its call-in powers during 2016-17.

Forward Planning

- 2.29. Forward planning for the year is an ongoing process. The council continues to face significant challenges around both funding and demand, giving rise to changes both in terms of how the council operates, and how services are delivered. Both of these will be themes for the Performance Scrutiny Committee in 2017-18, as well as the ongoing scrutiny of performance.
- 2.30. The setting of future committee agendas remains a matter of balance. Ensuring that meeting time is given to all the business which members wish to scrutinise meant on occasion that agendas were crowded, and at times during

the year members felt they would have liked longer to do particular items full justice. Suggested improvements such as longer meetings and improved co-ordination between timetables and agendas for all three committees will help in this respect in the coming year. Equally the extent to which scrutiny business can be handled outside busy meetings – for example by ‘deep dives’ by smaller sub-groups of members and officers – will be important.

- 2.31. The continuing importance of working in partnership and effective commissioning will mean that the committee is likely to wish to look at these activities in more detail in the coming year. This could include, for example, scrutiny of the council's commissioning framework as well as examination of the annual 'partnerships report'.
- 2.32. The occurrence of Council elections on the near horizon will be factored into the committee's forward plan, taking into account the potential for new members and the need to provide both continuity and new focus in the committee's agendas. For newly-elected councillors in particular, the induction process will include training on the scrutiny function and how this is exercised by the county council.

3. Education Scrutiny Committee

- 3.1. The Education Scrutiny Committee has a membership of 11 county councillors, 4 co-opted members and is chaired by Cllr Mark Gray. The county councillor membership is politically proportional to the membership of the Council. The Committee met 5 times in 2016/2017.
- 3.2. The Education Scrutiny Committee provides a county wide view of the provision of all the schools in Oxfordshire. As stated in the Terms of Reference of the Committee, the key functions of the Committee include:
- To assist the Council in its role of championing good educational outcomes for Oxfordshire's children and young people;
 - To provide a challenge to schools and academies and to hold them to account for their academic performance;
 - To promote joined up working across organisations in the education sector within Oxfordshire;
 - To review the bigger picture affecting academic achievement in the county so as to facilitate the achievement of good outcomes;
 - To represent the community of Oxfordshire in the development of academic achievement across the county, including responding to formal consultations and participating in inter-agency discussions;
 - To contribute to the development of educational policy in the county.
- 3.3. There was one visit to a school in this year.
- 3.4. The committee was successful in securing attendance at the July 2016 and March 2017 meetings of the Regional Schools Commissioner and the Ofsted Regional Director to ensure the committee can effectively focus upon the

continued improvement of schools in Oxfordshire.

Expansion of the Academisation Programme

- 3.5. Following the White Paper 'Educational Excellence Everywhere' the committee discussed and considered the implications for the expansion of the academisation of schools in Oxfordshire and raised concerns about the cost implications and the future viability of smaller rural schools of which there are a number in Oxfordshire. The committee was clear that it supports the encouragement of locally grown multi-academy trusts to meet the needs of both large and small schools in Oxfordshire and raised this with Martin Post, the Regional Schools Commissioner, at the July 2016 meeting.

School Funding Changes

- 3.6. The committee has continued to consider the changing responsibilities and resources in relation to school improvement and support over the last year. The committee has discussed concerns regarding the reduction of resources to the local authority whilst authorities continue to maintain responsibility for carrying out statutory duties.
- 3.7. A national consultation about the introduction of an Early Years national funding formula was undertaken with changes being implemented from April 2017. The committee is currently considering its response to the current national consultation of the Schools national funding formula and High needs funding reform which is due to be implemented in 2018/19. When the change in the way schools are funded is implemented Scrutiny committee members agreed that the committee will monitor the impact on schools and school improvement in Oxfordshire.

Responsibilities of the Regional Schools Commissioner

- 3.8. New government guidance issued in April 2016 has changed the responsibilities and role of the local authority. The Regional Schools Commissioner is now able to intervene in maintained schools in addition to academies. Martin Post, Regional Schools Commissioner for South-Central England and North-West London (RSC) attended the committee meeting in July 2016. The scrutiny committee raised with the Regional Schools Commissioner the concerns around schools that had been judged as inadequate and questioned about the action that had been taken in relation to the underperformance of academies in Oxfordshire. The RSC reported that he is closely monitoring 12 schools in Oxfordshire that were underperforming and was considering introducing further monitoring around the governance to ensure rapid improvement. However the RSC emphasised that it is the Academy Trust's responsibility to ensure school performance improves through the school improvement plan. The committee also expressed concern that not all academies were providing figures on attendance and the RSC would follow this up.
- 3.9. The committee asked about seeking appropriate sponsors for academies and the RSC gave an assurance that he would continue to seek the views of the

local authority to identify the most appropriate sponsor and also to name sponsors promptly to ensure rapid improvement of schools.

Oxfordshire Schools Strategic Partnership

- 3.10. The first Oxfordshire Schools Strategic Partnership Annual Report was presented to the committee at the September 2016 meeting. The Oxfordshire Strategic Schools Partnership Board (SSPB) brings partners together to promote the development of sustainable school to school support across the county. The committee heard that in the first year of working together the board has been successful in engaging schools and partners so that the work includes all key partners in the current educational landscape in Oxfordshire. A recruitment and retention project by Oxford University and Oxford Brookes University was commissioned and presented to the committee at the December 2016 meeting. An operational group had also been established which manages the school improvement function.
- 3.11. The Education Scrutiny Committee stressed the importance of the board's priority of improving attendance and the committee's future focus should be working in partnership on this priority.

Recruitment and Retention of Teachers

- 3.12. The recruitment and retention of teachers in Oxfordshire has been a key issue examined by the committee at a number of meetings this year. Several people over the year came to discuss recruitment and retention of teachers with the committee including primary and secondary schools, Oxfordshire Teaching Schools Alliance, SOHA housing association, Oxford Brookes and Oxford University. Schools reported that their biggest concern was finding and keeping good teachers. Factors that were raised to the committee from the different attendees at meetings were that there are national and local shortages of numbers being trained especially in some specialities and the high cost of housing in Oxfordshire was also a barrier. The committee was informed that the shortages of numbers of teachers being trained was a result of the national allocations policy which limited the number of training posts on offer and did not take account of local need.
- 3.13. The committee recommended that the Cabinet Member requested of the Secretary of State that there should be a revised allocations policy that allows Oxfordshire schools to recruit sufficient trainees to meet the future needs of local secondary, primary, nursery and special schools.
- 3.14. The committee also recommended in the meeting in April 2016 that the local authority explores possible options for the sale of local authority land for new housing for teachers. A meeting in December 2016 has taken place with the interim Oxfordshire County Council Director and the cabinet member to explore this option further and this will be explored further in the coming year.
- 3.15. A report had been commissioned by the Strategic Schools Partnership Board to look at recruitment and retention of newly qualified teachers in Oxfordshire

Schools. The report was presented to the committee in December 2016. One finding was the significance of teachers' existing connections to the locality and in some cases to individual schools as a key factor in attracting new teachers. There were specific recommendations about recruitment and retention and the committee accepted the report and made several recommendations that the report be shared widely with schools and that the local authority and schools work together on a programme of emphasising that Oxfordshire was a great place to live and work. The report has since been shared with schools and the local authority's Director of Human Resources.

Primary School Educational Attainment

- 3.16. The committee scrutinised educational attainment and noted that although Oxfordshire performed broadly in line with national averages, performance in writing tests was in the lowest 25% nationally. Also the committee noted that there was a significant amount of underperformance of schools in Oxford City and Banbury.

Secondary School Educational Attainment

- 3.17. The committee received a report in December 2016 on secondary school attainment. A new secondary school accountability system was implemented in 2016 with the measures for schools from 2016 are: Attainment 8, Progress 8, Attainment in English and Maths (A*-C), and English Baccalaureate (EBacc) entry and achievement. The committee scrutinised the provisional results published by the DfE and noted that Oxfordshire performs less well when compared against its statistical neighbour group. However there continues to be variation in performance between localities and types of school within the county. The Didcot and Oxford localities show higher progress between key stages 2 and 4 than pupils with similar prior attainment nationally. Three localities, Bicester, Abingdon and Witney show that on average pupils make slightly less progress in these areas than pupils with the same prior attainment nationally. All three of these localities have lower attainment scores as well. Oxford city also shows low attainment from the low prior attaining cohort although high prior attaining pupils in Oxfordshire continue to perform well. The committee invited the principal of The Oxford Academy to the March 2017 meeting to hear first-hand what the school had put in place to reach the highest progress 8 results in the county.

Educational Attainment of Vulnerable Learners

- 3.18. In the March 2017 meeting the focus will be on the progress of vulnerable learners with the case example of the Oxford Academy. Oxfordshire's performance compared with national levels is poor across all groups of vulnerable learners, including special educational needs, disadvantaged and looked after children. However, there are some success stories: the overall Progress 8 score for The Oxford Academy is considerably higher than other schools in Oxfordshire and the 14th highest of all secondary schools nationally.

Ofsted profile in Oxfordshire

- 3.19. In the meeting in July 2016 the committee noted that the proportion of primary schools and secondary schools judged as good/outstanding had increased for the 2015/16 academic year however the number of inadequate schools had increased by 1 to 7 and that in 2015 Ofsted decided that Oxfordshire was a local authority of concern regarding early years outcomes due to Ofsted ratings and children's outcomes. HMI had conducted a number of visits and the Early Years team had changed its practice which had resulted in early years settings improving their Ofsted ratings following support. Members expressed concern over the reduction in the school improvement function and possible effects on attainment, however the committee was assured that the schools strategic partnership board was tasked to ensure partners worked together so that statutory duties are met.

Exclusions

- 3.20. School exclusions were a focus in July and September 2016 meetings. The committee was concerned to note that permanent exclusions from primary schools and secondary schools had increased for the 2015/16 period although this is likely to be an underestimation as data from some secondary academies was not available due to technical problems in sharing details. The committee asked for a further analysis of data around year 10 as this has the highest number of permanent exclusions.
- 3.21. The subsequent report showed that the rate of permanent exclusion of pupils in year 10 had increased year on year for the last 3 years with a higher rate of girls than previously. The committee was also concerned about the high number of exclusions of looked after children. As a result of the committee scrutinising the data one particular school has been identified for further investigation with regard to their looked after children exclusions.

Elective Home Education

- 3.22. In December 2016 meeting the annual report for Elective Home Education was received and members have asked for more information to be gathered around the spike in home education that occurs in year 10 to ascertain the factors that might be contributing to the numbers increasing for this particular year group. The committee also expressed its concern about the unregulated nature of home education.

Pupil planning process

- 3.23. The pupil planning process was reported in December 2016. Oxfordshire is experiencing rapid growth due to changes in birth rates and new housing developments in the county and this is having a significant impact on the demand for, and supply of, school places.
- 3.24. The Education Scrutiny Committee considered a report that set out the pupil place planning process in Oxfordshire, summarising current pupil planning data, and commented on specific issues relating to pupil place planning. The committee considered that there is currently effective pupil place planning ensuring the needs of Oxfordshire families are met.

4. Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 4.1. The Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OJHOSC) is a joint committee comprising 12 non-executive voting members (seven county councillors and five district/city councillors) and three co-opted non-voting members. During 2016/17 the Committee has been chaired by Councillor Yvonne Constance OBE.
- 4.2. The primary role of the Committee is to:
- Review any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services in Oxfordshire.
 - Review and scrutinise services commissioned and provided by relevant NHS bodies and relevant health service providers.
- 4.3. The Committee met five times in 2016/17 and held two special meetings to discuss specific issues.
- 4.4. This report provides an overview of the Committee's activity since April 2016 and some of the key areas scrutinised by the Committee.

Transformation of Health and Care in Oxfordshire

- 4.5. The plans to transform Oxfordshire's health and care system have been discussed at every meeting of the Committee in 2016/17. With the introduction of 44 Sustainability and Transformation Plan 'footprints' across the country in early 2016, these regular updates have also included information on the developing Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Plan, and its relationship with the local Oxfordshire Health and Care Transformation Plan (OTP).
- 4.6. Stuart Bell, Chief Executive of Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust and Chairman of Oxfordshire's Transformation Board, and David Smith, Chief Executive of the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) attended meetings in June, September and November to describe the areas of emerging work in the OTP, expand on plans for public consultation and feedback messages from public engagement. Members emphasised the need for public consultation to be accessible and to describe what services were changing in each locality, so that communities would be able to understand the specific impacts on them.
- 4.7. In November 2016, the OCCG put forward its plans to consult on the OTP proposals in two phases. OJHOSC made clear its concerns about this decision and stressed that a single consultation would be more coherent. However, OJHOSC had required at its meeting in September 2016 that the OCCG consult on changes to obstetrics at the Horton and the acute bed reconfiguration programme (involving the permanent closure of 194 acute beds) in January 2017. Phase 1 of the OTP consultation includes a full consultation on these changes; therefore the Committee agreed that the two

phase consultation should go ahead, but with nothing in the first phase of consultation prejudicing the second phase.

- 4.8. Following the start of the OTP Consultation Phase 1, the Committee met on 2 February 2017 to consider the adequacy of the consultation. OJHOSC explored the sufficiency of engagement with neighbouring areas, the reach of consultation events and involvement of key stakeholders such as the Ambulance Service. The Committee urged the OCCG to ensure that whatever was implemented as a result of Phase 1 was sufficiently robust and rooted in reality, so as to successfully integrate with Phase 2 proposals.
- 4.9. On 7 March 2017, the OJHOSC held a special meeting to formally scrutinise the content of proposals in Phase 1 and provide its response to the OCCG. Key stakeholders and members of the public were invited to submit their views and evidence to the meeting to inform the Committee's discussion. The Committee made clear its concerns about the inherent interdependencies of the two-phase consultation process; parking and access problems across hospital sites; the lack of focus on health inequalities; and the limited engagement with neighbouring areas. The Committee has formally stated these concerns in a letter to the OCCG and made a number of recommendations, to which the OCCG will be responding at a future meeting with the Committee.

Maternity services at the Horton General Hospital

- 4.10. In September 2016 the Committee was informed that Oxford University Hospitals Trust (OUHT) was intending to temporarily close consultant-led maternity services at the Horton from 3rd October 2016, as they were unable to adequately staff the obstetrics unit in a safe and sustainable manner.
- 4.11. The Committee listened to a wealth of public opinion about the impact of the temporary closure and scrutinised the Trust's contingency plan for continuing Maternity and Neonatal services at the Horton during two meetings in September 2016. Members examined evidence of the Trust's recruitment efforts; records of engagement with patients and staff; the reasons for declining birth numbers at the Hospital; and the issue of travel times between the Horton and the JR in Oxford in relation to the safety of mothers being transported in labour.
- 4.12. On the strength of the Trust's action plan to recruit Trust-grade doctors to reopen the unit in March 2017, the Committee agreed in September not to refer the matter to the Secretary of State. This was on the basis that satisfactory reasons had been provided for invoking an urgent temporary closure of consultant-led maternity services at the Horton without consultation.
- 4.13. However, the Trust's December performance update on maternity services at the Horton stated that they would not have enough experienced and skilled medical staff in post to reopen the unit in March 2017 as planned. As such, the Committee felt that the material grounds for not referring the matter had changed and voted to refer the matter to the Secretary of State for review at its

meeting on 2 February 2017.

- 4.14. The outcome of the referral is yet to be confirmed.

Pressures on Primary Care

- 4.15. The sustainability of primary care services and OCCG's actions to support vulnerable GP practices has been an ongoing area of scrutiny for the OJHOSC. The capacity, availability and future development of general practice has been a particular area of concern for members, in light of a greater focus on the preventative role of primary care in the OTP and the OCCG's proposals to move more care from acute hospitals into the community. In November 2016, the OJHOSC discussed the pressures on primary care services and scrutinised the OCCG's approach to tackling rising demand and complexity of patient need, the difficulties of recruiting and retaining staff, and the sustainability of GP practices in light of rising costs.
- 4.16. The Committee's concerns were brought into sharp focus through its examination of the OCCG's decision not to re-procure general practice services at Deer Park Medical Centre, Witney. In this case the Committee's toolkit process was followed, which included an assessment of the impact of closing the surgery on patients and the local area, and the level of public engagement and consultation that had taken place.
- 4.17. The matter was formally considered by OJHOSC on 2 February 2017, but agreement with the OCCG could not be reached on whether the change in service was substantial and required consultation. Members resolved to refer the matter to the Secretary of State on the grounds that inadequate consultation had taken place with the public and patients at Deer Park Medical Centre and the decision was not in the interests of residents and patients in the Witney area.
- 4.18. The Committee has since been informed that the Secretary of State for Health has passed the matter to the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) for initial assessment and is urging patients to register with other practices in the meantime. No directions have been issued to the OCCG, but the Secretary of State has advised the OCCG not to take any action that would prevent the resumption or recommissioning of services at, on or near to the Medical Centre until the outcome of the IRP's review is known.

Forward Plan

- 4.19. To highlight areas for future scrutiny the Chairman and Committee members met with and visited a range of health and care providers and commissioners in Oxfordshire during 2016/17. This included two visits to OUHT's Discharge Liaison Hub based at the John Radcliffe Hospital. Member's saw how the discharge of patients with complex needs is coordinated and managed by a multi-disciplinary team, bringing together nurses, discharge planners, adult social care staff, therapy staff, consultant geriatricians and senior physicians. These meetings and visits provide a means to raise awareness of scrutiny processes and develop good relationships with key stakeholders.

- 4.20. Over the course of the next year the Committee will continue to scrutinise planned changes in the provision of healthcare in Oxfordshire, the performance and quality of services, and the patient experience. In particular, OJHOSC will look to robustly challenge the Health and Care Transformation Plans to ensure that patient and public views are taken into account and the proposals put forward are in the best interests of Oxfordshire residents.
- 4.21. Beyond this, the Committee also plans to discuss the system-wide response to recommendations from the Oxfordshire Health Inequalities Commission, examine joint work to support people with dementia, and scrutinise the quality of care provided in care homes.

5. Cabinet Advisory Groups

- 5.1. Cabinet Advisory Groups (CAGs) are informal member working groups designed to help Cabinet consider how to deal with specific issues, and to help in the development of key policies. Topics can be proposed by any member or scrutiny committee and must be agreed by Cabinet. They are not formal meetings of the council, and nor do they have the status of an advisory committee under the Local Government Act 1972. They are chaired by the relevant Cabinet portfolio holder and report directly to Cabinet.
- 5.2. There are currently no CAGs in operation. The Income Generation CAG was closed in December 2016 and the Minerals & Waste CAG reached its conclusion in January 2017, but the possibility of it being reinstated remains - if required in the future. Membership details are provided in Annex 2.

Income Generation CAG

- 5.3. The Income Generation CAG previously ran from July 2013-January 2014 under the chairmanship of Cllr Arash Fatemian, and reconvened in April 2015 under the chairmanship of Cllr Lawrie Stratford in response to the need for the council to cope with increasing budget pressures.
- 5.4. The CAG met approximately monthly and reviewed and assessed a number of options for income generation including
- Reviewing existing services that are currently charged for and opportunities for increasing these charges.
 - Investigating discretionary services that are not currently charged for where we may want to introduce charges.
 - Considering opportunities for generating income from property.
- 5.5. The CAG has explored the following matters related to income generation.

Property

- The CAG reviewed the council's database of property information via an interactive property dashboard, Tableau. The data is now available on the Intranet and was trialed by members of CAG before being made more widely available.
- The CAG examined the council's disposals programme; it reviewed sites released over the last three years, sites due for release, and sites identified for potential release over the next 3-5 years, including estimates as to how much capital/revenue could potentially be generated.
- The CAG reviewed the council's Strategic Property Asset Management Plan and sought assurance from officers that future updates would include the option to explore opportunities for income generation relating to surplus property rather than solely seeking a capital receipt on disposal.
- The CAG discussed potential for expanding the council's existing portfolio to include options such as an 'investment portfolio' approach and owning a property investment company.
- The CAG reviewed the Council's Office Strategy and the options for office use across the county. The Office Strategy will be kept under review alongside the emerging Transformation Programme to ensure it is aligned with our emerging workforce strategy.

Review of Fees and Charges

- The level of fees and charges for the services the Council provides are reviewed annually as part of the Service & Resource Planning process.
- The CAG undertook a comprehensive review and challenge of the proposed fees and charges for 2017/18 in order to maximise income potential. The expectation was that charges will increase by a minimum of 4% (or more where the market allows). This resulted in a number of fees and charges being increased to a higher rate than originally planned. The CAG's recommendations on the fees and charges were agreed by the Cabinet on 24 January 2017 as part of the Cabinet's proposed budget.

Workplace Charging and Congestion Charging

- The Oxfordshire Local Transport Plan (adopted in July 2016) includes proposals to manage car traffic levels in Oxford and the introduction of a workplace parking levy. The CAG discussed both workplace parking and congestion charging options in Oxfordshire and had presentations from officers on both options on a number of occasions. It was recognised that although this would generate income, the reasons for introducing any charge would be for transport and environmental reasons and both options need to be explored fully.
- The CAG considered a number of policy areas, provided challenge to officers developing policies and pushed for creative approaches to maximise income for the council. Its work reached a natural conclusion as the strategies it informed are being taken forward. The Cabinet endorsed the work of the Group and agreed to disband the group in December 2016.

Minerals and Waste CAG

- 5.6 The CAG has met twice this year, firstly in October 2016 and then again in January 2017. It had not met previously since October 2014 at which time it had considered a draft of the Local Aggregate Assessment and a revised draft of the draft Minerals & Waste Core Strategy (Part 1 of the Oxfordshire Minerals & Waste Local Plan).
- 5.7 The meeting in October 2016 was convened to consider the Interim report of the Inspector who had presided over the Examination Hearings for the submitted Core Strategy in the autumn of that year. The CAG was informed that the Inspector had been broadly supportive of the plan, including its proposed figures for minerals production, but had nonetheless identified the need for some modifications to be made and additional work on the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal. The meeting of the CAG in January 2017 duly considered the additional work which the Inspector had asked to be carried out, prior to consideration and agreement of the same material, for public consultation, at Cabinet later the same month.
- 5.8 No further meetings of the CAG are currently planned and the Core Strategy is expected to be adopted in the summer or early autumn of 2017.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1. Challenges and opportunities remain ahead for Oxfordshire County Council in 2017/18. Budget pressures will be an ongoing challenge, and it is possible the structure of local government in Oxfordshire could radically change if current proposals for a unitary council enter the initial stages of implementation.
- 6.2. Changes to the way local government is funded and reorganisation at both a local and national level are likely to significantly alter the way that Oxfordshire County Council functions. For these reasons, the role of scrutiny will be even more important in providing robust, challenging and effective scrutiny.
- 6.3. Oxfordshire County Council will contribute to, and learn from, a Parliamentary Select Committee inquiry into local authority scrutiny functions. The inquiry, launched by the Communities and Local Government Committee in January 2017, will “consider whether overview and scrutiny arrangements in England are working effectively and whether local communities are able to contribute to and monitor the work of their councils.”
- 6.4. Following last year's scrutiny annual report, the audit and governance committee requested the Leader, in consultation with the other political groups, consider whether a scrutiny committee should be established specifically either for adult social care, or social care in general.
- 6.5. The consensus following this discussion was that changes should not be made in advance of significant other changes, and the county council election - but that the appropriate form of scrutiny should be looked at in the new council, following implementation of the senior management review, and clarity on the

unitary process.

- 6.6. Oxfordshire County Council's scrutiny committees will continue to place emphasis on those areas where they can have the biggest influence, and will continue to look for opportunities to improve outcomes for the people of Oxfordshire.
- 6.7. The emphasis on close joint working will include working closely with partners to ensure the best possible services are delivered, whether we are directly responsible for the service or not. This also means being able to carefully and sensitively scrutinise the work of our partners where necessary, and this is an area of work that the chairmen are keen to focus on going forward.

Annex 1: Scrutiny Committee Membership**Performance Scrutiny Committee**

Councillor Liz Brighthouse OBE (Chairman)
Councillor Janet Godden (Deputy Chairman)
Councillor Sam Coates
Councillor Yvonne Constance OBE
Councillor Mark Gray
Councillor Patrick Greene
Councillor Jenny Hannaby
Councillor Steve Harrod (Stepped down on 13 December 2016)
Councillor Stewart Lilly
Councillor Sandy Lovatt (Appointed on 13 December 2016)
Councillor Charles Mathew
Councillor John Sanders

Education Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Mark Gray (Chairman)
Councillor Gill Sanders (Deputy Chairman)
Councillor Kevin Bulmer
Councillor John Christie
Councillor John Howson
Councillor Richard Langridge
Councillor Sandy Lovatt
Councillor Michael Waine

Education Scrutiny Co-Optees

Mrs Sue Matthew
Mr Richard Brown

Education Scrutiny Non-Voting Members

Ian Jones
Carole Thomson

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)

Councillor Yvonne Constance OBE (Chairman)
District Councillor Nigel Champken-Woods (Deputy Chairman)
Councillor Kevin Bulmer
Councillor Surinder Dhesi
Councillor Tim Hallchurch MBE
Councillor Laura Price
Councillor Alison Rooke
Councillor Les Sibley
District Councillor Jane Doughty
District Councillor Monica Lovatt
District Councillor Andrew McHugh
District Councillor Susanna Pressel

HOSC Co-Optees

Moria Logie
Dr Keith Ruddle
Anne Wilkinson

Annex 2: Cabinet Advisory Group Membership

Income Generation Cabinet Advisory Group

Councillor Lawrie Stratford (Chairman)
Councillor Nick Hards (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor David Bartholomew
Councillor Nick Carter (in his capacity as Cabinet Member for Property)
Councillor Charles Mathew
Councillor John Sanders
Councillor Les Sibley
Councillor Richard Webber

Minerals and Waste Cabinet Advisory Group

Councillor David Nimmo-Smith (Chairman)
Councillor Anne Purse (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Steve Curran
Councillor Lynda Atkins
Councillor Mark Gray
Councillor Patrick Greene
Councillor Nick Hards
Councillor Bob Johnston
Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale
Councillor Charles Mathew
Councillor George Reynolds
Councillor John Tanner