

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

The decisions take effect at the time and date specified, unless before that time written notice is given in accordance with the Council's Scrutiny Procedure Rules requiring the decision to be called in for review by the relevant Scrutiny Committee.

If you have a query please contact Chris Reynolds (Tel: 07542 029441; E-Mail: chris.reynolds@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

CABINET - TUESDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2024

<i>List published 28 February 2024 Decisions will (unless called in) become effective at 5.00pm on 6 March 2024</i>		
<i>RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED</i>	<i>DECISIONS</i>	<i>ACTION</i>
1. Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Neil Fawcett and Andrew Gant.	DLG (A Newman)
2. Declarations of Interest - guidance note below	There were none.	
3. Minutes To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 23 rd and 30 th January 2024 (CA3) and to receive information arising from them.	The minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2024 were amended as follows: “13/24 Freehold Disposal Chilterns End Former Care Home, Henley on Thames Councillor Levy moved and Councillor Fawcett seconded the recommendations, and they were approved” and approved and signed as a correct record. The minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2024 were approved and signed as a correct record.	DLG (C Reynolds)
4. Questions from County Councillors	See Annex.	

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<p>5. Petitions and Public Address</p>	There were no requests received.	
<p>6. Reports from Scrutiny Committees</p> <p>Cabinet will receive the following Scrutiny reports:-</p> <p>Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee on Support for People Leaving Hospital; the Oxfordshire Way</p> <p>Performance and Corporate Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee on Draft Customer Experience Strategy</p>	Cabinet received the Scrutiny reports and will respond in due course.	
<p>7. Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Functions: Transition Arrangements</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member:</i> Leader of the Council <i>Forward Plan Ref:</i> 2023/346 <i>Contact:</i> Chloe Taylor, Head of Economy chloe.taylor@oxfordshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Report by Corporate Director: Environment & Place (CA7)</p> <p>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to</p> <p>a) Note the government announcement on the transfer of Local Enterprise Partnership core functions;</p> <p>b) Approve the creation of a County Council controlling interest in the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP Ltd), subject to agreement by OxLEP Ltd's board</p>	Recommendations approved.	CDEP (C Taylor)

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<p>c) Consent to a change to OxLEP Ltd's governance to amend the Articles of Association and By-Laws to enable the County Council to take a controlling interest, if agreed by the OxLEP board;</p> <p>d) Delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Environment and Place in consultation with the Executive Director of Resources the Leader of the Council and the Executive Member for Infrastructure and Development Strategy to take such operational decisions as are required to conclude the integration process, including concluding the Articles of Association.</p>		
<p>8. Workforce Report and Staffing Data - Q3 October - December 2023</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member: Community & Corporate Services</i> <i>Forward Plan Ref: 2024/005</i> <i>Contact: Michael Fletcher, Head of HR Business Partnering</i> <i>Michael.fletcher@oxfordshire.gov.uk</i></p> <p>Report by the Executive Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer (CA8)</p> <p>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to note the report.</p>	<p>Recommendations approved.</p>	<p>EDR (M Fletcher)</p>

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RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED	DECISIONS	ACTION
<p>9. Capital Programme Approvals - February 2024</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member:</i> Finance <i>Forward Plan Ref:</i> 2023/266 <i>Contact:</i> Natalie Crawford, Capital Programme Manager, natalie.crawford@oxfordshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Report by the Executive Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer (CA9)</p> <p>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a) approve the inclusion of a 3 Form Entry Primary School, located in Didcot, into the Capital Programme with capital budget of £2.19m, to be fully funded from secured S106 contributions.</p>	<p>Recommendations approved.</p>	<p>EDR (N Crawford)</p>
<p>10. Forward Plan and Future Business</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member:</i> All <i>Contact Officer:</i> Colm Ó Caomhánaigh, Committee Officer Tel: 07393 001096</p> <p>The Cabinet Procedure Rules provide that the business of each meeting at the Cabinet is to include “updating of the Forward Plan and proposals for business to be conducted at the following meeting”. Items from the Forward Plan for the immediately forthcoming meetings of the Cabinet appear in the Schedule at CA10. This includes any updated information relating to the business for those meetings that has already been identified for</p>	<p>Noted.</p>	

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<p>inclusion in the next Forward Plan update.</p> <p>The Schedule is for noting, but Cabinet Members may also wish to take this opportunity to identify any further changes they would wish to be incorporated in the next Forward Plan update.</p> <p><i>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to note the items currently identified for forthcoming meetings.</i></p>		
<p>11. For information only: Cabinet responses to Scrutiny items</p> <p>Vision Zero</p>	Noted.	

CABINET – 27 FEBRUARY 2024

ITEM 4 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

1. COUNCILLOR MARK CHERRY

As the Member for Banbury Ruscote, schools (William Morris, North Oxfordshire Academy & Saint Joseph's) absence figures are of grave concern and I wanted to know what plans Oxfordshire County Council and the Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Young People's Services have to tackle the problem.

**COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON, CABINET MEMBER FOR
CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES**

Oxfordshire County Council is keen to support all children and young people to attend school. With that in mind, we are working with the Department for Education on a range of actions including:

- Increasing our internal capacity to support parents, schools and children
- Rolling out the DfE toolkit
- Working across Childrens, Education and Families service to ensure a joined-up approach to supporting families who may be experiencing challenges in their children attending schools.
- Analysing the locality element of attendance data, so that we focus on communities most in need.

Each of the schools raised have been offered and accepted a Whole School Attendance audit, they are scheduled as follows:

St Joseph's: Monday 26th February 2024

William Morris: 4th March 2024

North Oxfordshire Academy: 4th March 2024.

The whole school audit will identify good practice and areas for improvement which will then be fed back to each school as part of an action plan with a view of improving attendance for children



and young people, whilst ensuring appropriate support has been identified and implemented as part of targeted attendance plans.

William Morris and North Oxfordshire Academy are in contact with the County Attendance team on a regular basis.

Oxfordshire schools have had some improvement with school attendance, however, data shows that children under CP/CIN and those with EHCP's are doing less well than their peers. The senior leadership in Children, Education and Families are aware of this and are working together to support attendance.

We are also working with partners such as the Violence Reduction Unit and Oxford Brookes to develop schemes to support those young people at risk of non-attendance so that they are able to benefit from the outstanding learning opportunities available in Oxfordshire schools.

Attendance figures from Terms 1 and 2 show absence rates in Oxfordshire schools running at 7% as compared with the national average of 6.6%. Absence rates are highest in our special schools (12.8% compared to the national average for special schools of 12.6%), our secondary schools absence rate is higher than the national average for secondary schools (9.3% compared with 8.3%) and the rate in our primary schools mirrors the national average for primaries of 5.1%.