

Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Public Health, Inequalities & Community Safety

***Tuesday, 4 February 2025 at 1.00 pm
Room 3 - County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND***

If you wish to view proceedings, please click on this [Live Stream Link](#).
However, that will not allow you to participate in the meeting.

Items for Decision

The items for decision under individual Cabinet Members' delegated powers are listed overleaf, with indicative timings, and the related reports are attached. Decisions taken will become effective at the end of the working day on 11 February 2025 unless called in by that date for review by the appropriate Scrutiny Committee.

Copies of the reports are circulated (by e-mail) to all members of the County Council.

These proceedings are open to the public



Martin Reeves
Chief Executive

January 2025

Committee Officer: **Democratic Services Team**
committeesdemocraticservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Note: *Date of next meeting: 4 March 2025*

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.

Items for Decision

1. Declarations of Interest

See guidance below.

2. Questions from County Councillors

Any county councillor may, by giving notice to the Proper Officer by 9 am two working days before the meeting, ask a question on any matter in respect of the Cabinet Member's delegated powers.

The number of questions which may be asked by any councillor at any one meeting is limited to two (or one question with notice and a supplementary question at the meeting) and the time for questions will be limited to 30 minutes in total. As with questions at Council, any questions which remain unanswered at the end of this item will receive a written response.

Questions submitted prior to the agenda being despatched are shown below and will be the subject of a response from the appropriate Cabinet Member or such other councillor or officer as is determined by the Cabinet Member, and shall not be the subject of further debate at this meeting. Questions received after the despatch of the agenda, but before the deadline, will be shown on the Schedule of Addenda circulated at the meeting, together with any written response which is available at that time.

3. Petitions and Public Address

Members of the public who wish to speak at this meeting can attend the meeting in person or 'virtually' through an online connection.

Requests to speak must be submitted by no later than 9am four working days before the meeting. Requests to speak should be sent to committeesdemocraticservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk .

If you are speaking 'virtually', you may submit a written statement of your presentation to ensure that if the technology fails, then your views can still be taken into account. A written copy of your statement can be provided no later than 9 am 2 working days before the meeting. Written submissions should be no longer than 1 A4 sheet.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 1 - 4)

5. Approval of Changes to Oxfordshire County Council Air Quality Strategy Route Map Actions (Pages 5 - 12)

Cabinet Member: Public Health, Inequalities and Community Safety

Forward Plan Ref: 2024/347

Contact: Kate Eveleigh, Public Health Principal (Kate.Eveleigh@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Report by Director of Public Health and Communities (**CMDPHICS**).

Councillors declaring interests

General duty

You must declare any disclosable pecuniary interests when the meeting reaches the item on the agenda headed 'Declarations of Interest' or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.

What is a disclosable pecuniary interest?

Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to your employment; sponsorship (i.e. payment for expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties as a councillor or towards your election expenses); contracts; land in the Council's area; licenses for land in the Council's area; corporate tenancies; and securities. These declarations must be recorded in each councillor's Register of Interests which is publicly available on the Council's website.

Disclosable pecuniary interests that must be declared are not only those of the member her or himself but also those member's spouse, civil partner or person they are living with as husband or wife or as if they were civil partners.

Declaring an interest

Where any matter disclosed in your Register of Interests is being considered at a meeting, you must declare that you have an interest. You should also disclose the nature as well as the existence of the interest. If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest, after having declared it at the meeting you must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

Members' Code of Conduct and public perception

Even if you do not have a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter, the Members' Code of Conduct says that a member 'must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself' and that 'you must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned'.

Members Code – Other registrable interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to the financial interest or wellbeing of one of your other registerable interests then you must declare an interest. You must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and you must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

Wellbeing can be described as a condition of contentedness, healthiness and happiness; anything that could be said to affect a person's quality of life, either positively or negatively, is likely to affect their wellbeing.

Other registrable interests include:

- a) Any unpaid directorships

- b) Any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority.
- c) Any body (i) exercising functions of a public nature (ii) directed to charitable purposes or (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management.

Members Code – Non-registrable interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to your financial interest or wellbeing (and does not fall under disclosable pecuniary interests), or the financial interest or wellbeing of a relative or close associate, you must declare the interest.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which affects your own financial interest or wellbeing, a financial interest or wellbeing of a relative or close associate or a financial interest or wellbeing of a body included under other registrable interests, then you must declare the interest.

In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied:

Where a matter affects the financial interest or well-being:

- a) to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
- b) a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest.

You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

Agenda Item 4

DELEGATED DECISIONS BY CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, INEQUALITIES & COMMUNITY SAFETY

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 12 November 2024 commencing at 1.00 pm.

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Nathan Ley – in the Chair

Officers: Mohamed Cassimjee (Democratic Services Officer), Matt Schanck (Station Manager- Fire Officer and Community Safety)

The Cabinet Member considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting and agreed as set out below.

17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
(Agenda No. 1)

None

18 QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS
(Agenda No. 2)

None

19 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS
(Agenda No. 3)

None

20 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
(Agenda No. 4)

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2024, were approved by the Chair and signed as a correct record

**21 OXFORDSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE ; INDUSTRIAL ACTION
CONTINGENCY ARRANGEMENTS**
(Agenda No. 5)

The Cabinet Member considered a report regarding the Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue, industrial action contingency arrangements. In this regard during preparations for industrial action in 2022/23, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue services worked together to maximise the effectiveness of the limited resilience arrangements available.

Whilst the risk of industrial action remained significant but stable, there was now an opportunity to explore seeking assistance from a 3rd party resilience arrangement. As a result, it was identified that all three services wished to benefit from lessons identified during previous preparations and saw this as a strong commercial opportunity for the three services to tender for a provider.

As part of the Thames Valley alignment approach, Oxfordshire had been offered the chance to enter into an “IA contingency arrangements project” currently being run by Royal Berkshire, with Buckinghamshire already as a partner.

The tender process itself had been agreed by the OCC Commercial Board. However, as a partner Oxfordshire needed to agree to the funding for an agreed level of IA cover required which included the need to identify the financial resources to secure the services of 20 firefighters to provide a minimum fire cover level of 4 fire appliances across the county in the event of strike action or event triggers as listed in the project implementation document. In order to enter into a competitive tender process, additional funding was currently being estimated at £150,000 per year for a 4-year contract.

RESOLVED to:

- a) approve the financial allocation to progress with the joint-tender process which needs authorisation (due to cost) before the award process can be concluded and, the Contract signed in January 2025.**
- b) delegate authority to finalise the terms and condition to the Chief Fire Officer and Director of Community Safety in consultation with the Head of Legal and Deputy Monitoring Officer and Head of Procurement.**

..... in the Chair

Date of signing 2024

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Delegated Decision by the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care 3 February 2025

Approval of Changes to Oxfordshire County Council Air Quality Report by the Director of Public Health and Communities

RECOMMENDATION

1. **The Cabinet Member is RECOMMENDED to:**
 - a) **agree the updated actions for 2025 in the Air Quality Route Map developed under the Oxfordshire County Council Air Quality Strategy 2023-2027; and**
 - b) **agree that annual updates to the actions in the Route Map is delegated to the Director of Public Health and Communities in consultation with the Director of Environment and Highways in the future.**

Executive Summary

2. This report provides an overview of [the update to Oxfordshire County Council's Air Quality Strategy 2023–27](#). It summarises the changes between version 1 (previously published and approved Air Quality Route Map in June 2023) and version 2 (the updated version of the Air Quality Route Map in June 2024).
3. It is proposed that the proposed updated Air Quality Route Map is agreed by the relevant cabinet members for publication on the OCC website and that future updates to the Route Map are agreed by the relevant SLT members.
4. The Air Quality Strategy and Route Map, adopted by the council in June 2023, outline the long-term vision to improve air quality in Oxfordshire. The Air Quality Strategy was a first step towards improving county council work on air quality and raising awareness of air quality. The strategy is supported by an action plan, the Air Quality Route Map, which sets out what work is being done and the actions to be taken in the short term to improve air quality.
5. To demonstrate the county council's progress with delivering actions, the Air Quality Route Map required updating. Completed actions were removed from the Air Quality Route Map, and new actions were added. Moreover, previous actions were updated and amended to better align with areas of concern in the county with regards to air quality.
6. The aim is to ensure the Air Quality Route Map is a live document, thus requiring updates on an annual basis. Following review of the document it is proposed that a number of minor changes are made this year to reflect developments since adoption. The proposed changes are identified in the following section.

7. As the Air Quality Strategy and Route Map was approved by Full Cabinet it is recommended that the updates to the Route Map be approved by cabinet members Delegated Decision process and that future annual updates are delegated to officers as this will provide a more proportionate and appropriate approach. However, the public will be kept informed of progress through publication of the updated Route Map online at Oxonair (<https://www.oxonair.uk>.)

Key Issues

8. The actions within the Route Map support the Council's vision and the following priorities
 - Prioritise the health and wellbeing of residents.
 - Tackle inequalities in Oxfordshire.
9. Many of the actions to improve air quality have positive impacts on the following priorities
 - Invest in an inclusive, integrated and sustainable transport network.
 - Put action to address the climate emergency at the heart of our work.

Progress to Date

10. Between June 2023 and June 2024 the Oxfordshire County Council, in partnership with other Oxfordshire local authorities have made progress on its air quality Route Map actions, focusing on staff engagement, monitoring, behaviour campaigns, modelling impacts on air quality and communication.
11. To secure wider officer engagement, a variety of OCC officers attended the Oxfordshire Air Quality Officers Meeting by Winter 2023. This engagement is crucial for the development, updating, and implementation of air quality action plans
12. In terms of monitoring, the council supported launched the Oxonair website and collaborated with the University of Birmingham to provide a comprehensive map of all institutionally owned air quality monitors. This initiative aims to develop an integrated approach to local air quality monitoring.
13. Trading Standards completed a review into Ready to Burn compliance of businesses, and the Public Health directorate submitted a response to Oxford City Council's Smoke Control Area expansion. Additionally, indoor air quality monitors were purchased to loan to interested residents, with outcomes to be reviewed in the new year.
14. To model the impact of improvements in air quality on health, the council developed and tested a tool from the University of Birmingham, completing phase one and commissioned additional air quality modelling. Furthermore, an

air quality communication plan was created and shared with district and city councils, with ongoing updates from their communication teams to ensure the plan remains current.

15. The key proposed changes to the Air Quality Route Map are listed below.

Action from Air Quality Route Map Version	Revised wording for Route Map Action 2024-2025
Secure wider Oxfordshire County Council staff engagement with the Air Quality partnership group by Winter 2023 to actively support the development, updating and implementation of the district and city councils' air quality action plans and other appropriate projects (as per our legal responsibilities set out under the Environment Act 2021).	Continue to support air quality research projects with academic partners and seek to secure funding for future projects, particularly in rural areas.
Support joint behaviour campaigns about domestic wood burning with the district and city councils and other air quality partners.	Test the use of real time data to promote behaviour change with a specific focus on use of wood burners, in homes.
Develop and test the use of a local air quality impact assessment tool as part of health impact assessments.	Deploy the use of a local air quality impact assessment tool as part of health impact assessments.
Create an air quality communication plan, linking it with the work of the district and city councils and other air quality partners.	Maintain and support delivery of a joint air quality communication plan.
Work with our Air Quality Partners to understand current monitoring in Oxfordshire and develop a joined up, integrated approach to local air quality monitoring.	Work with air quality partners to carry out population exposure modelling and develop local population exposure targets for PM2.5 and NOx.
Engage with the local NHS system to assess the feasibility of conducting joint work about impacts, costs, health burden and solutions related to poor air quality.	Support the local NHS system to raise awareness of ambient and indoor air quality and its link to health to patients and staff.
Engage with the CAG network and raise awareness of air quality.	Support citizen science and public engagement to raise awareness of air quality and its links to climate change, through working in partnership.
Expand the use of zero tailpipe emission and hybrid vehicles within the Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service fleet and continue to deliver fire prevention and protection work.	Expand the use of zero tailpipe emission and hybrid vehicles for services provided by the County Council, such as commissioned transport services and County Council

	owned fleet, such as the Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service fleet.
Test the use of real time data to promote behaviour change with a specific focus on school gates.	Test the use of real time data to promote behaviour change with a specific focus on the use of wood burners, in homes.
Work with bus operators to introduce measures to reduce exposure to dangerous air pollution concentrations in bus stations.	Work with bus operators to determine people's exposure to air pollution at bus stations and introduce measures to reduce exposure.
Deliver projects to encourage the uptake of zero tailpipe emission vehicles and work in association with our district and city councils to deliver the OEVIS.	Continue to deliver projects to encourage the uptake of zero tailpipe emission vehicles and work in association with our district and city councils to deliver the OEVIS."
Undertake Network management as part of an integrated approach to promote traffic flow and reduce idling traffic particularly in locations where there are groups vulnerable to poor air quality.	Scope the options for Network management as part of an integrated approach to promote traffic flow and reduce idling traffic particularly in locations where there are groups vulnerable to poor air quality.
Develop and test the use of a local air quality impact assessment tool as part of health impact assessments.	Deploy the use of a local air quality impact assessment tool as part of health impact assessments.
Use health and social care data to identify vulnerable communities that need to be prioritised.	Carry out a Health Needs Assessment on air quality..
Continue to make the link between the benefits of carbon reduction and air pollution and raise awareness of carbon reduction interventions which may worsen air quality, including during development and delivery of PaZCO action plans.	"Promote the use of the Climate Action Impact Assessment tool, providing supporting evidence of links to benefits to air quality.
Secure funding to allow the continuation of existing air quality monitoring projects.	Maintain and develop relationships to secure funding for new air quality improvement projects, which include measurement.
Deliver parking controls, traffic reduction schemes and congestion management measures to reduce private car use and improve local air quality.	Removed as embedded in other actions.
Utilise evidence to investigate the relationships between congestion, air quality and noise to identify what measures and innovative transport solutions could be introduced to minimise the impact of congestion on the environment and quality of life.	Removed after prioritisation exercise which assessed that it was not critical to delivering air quality improvements at this time.

Consider and where possible enhance references to air quality in the new Minerals and Waste Local Plan.	Removed after prioritisation exercise which assessed that it was not critical to delivering air quality improvements at this time.
Work to reduce air pollution from waste disposal including development of the circular economy strategy.	Removed as complete
Support joint behaviour campaigns about domestic wood burning with the district and city councils and other air quality partners.	Removed as embedded in other actions.
Work in partnership and use an intelligence led approach to enforcement in relation to improving air quality.	Removed after prioritisation exercise which assessed that it was not critical to delivering air quality improvements at this time.
Support projects that seek to drive the mass adoption of heat pumps.	Removed after prioritisation exercise which assessed that it was not critical to delivering air quality improvements at this time.
Work with local partners to deliver the Oxfordshire Energy Strategy and supporting projects.	Removed as complete
Work with a range of data sources to understand the air quality impacts of LTNs and take action to mitigate any negative impacts identified.	Removed as LTN report completed in October 2023.
Ensure air quality impacts are included as a consideration in county council planning consultation responses including in Health Impact Assessments of strategic developments and major infrastructure schemes, particularly where this is related to county council functions such as transport.	Removed as complete
Ensure air quality is included as a potential health impact when conducting HIAs on major transport schemes or plans and any adverse impacts on local air quality are effectively mitigated.	Removed as complete
Secure funding for new air quality monitoring projects and the utilisation of data and insights from existing research	Removed after prioritisation exercise which assessed that it was not critical to delivering air quality improvements at this time.
Work with our Air Quality Partners to understand current monitoring in Oxfordshire and develop a joined up, integrated approach to local air quality monitoring.	Removed as complete

16. The following actions were added to the air quality route map version 2.

Action Number Air Quality Route Map V2 (Update)	Action
11	Promote the uptake of the County Councils staff Salary Sacrifice Scheme to purchase electric vehicles and Cycle to Work scheme.
24	Deploy the use of a local air quality impact assessment tool as part of health impact assessments.
30	Further strengthen the links between tree canopy cover (increase species good for air quality) and improved air quality, under the Councils Tree Policy and community work.

Financial implications

17. The amendments to the Air Quality Route Map do not have any direct budgetary implications and the new actions do not require budget to deliver. Public Health and Environment and Highways have already contributed budget towards the delivery of the Route Map and most actions will be delivered through business-as-usual work or existing funding.
18. The Air Quality Route Map update has been produced by staff from across the Environment and Highways and Public Health directorates, and hence covered by the staffing budget in these areas and will not require any additional resources.

Comments checked by:

Emma Percival, 16.01.2025, Ass Finance Business Partner,
emma.percival@oxfordshire.gov.uk (Finance)

Equalities implications

19. The Air Quality Route Map update introduces new and amended actions however these are in line with the overall approach set out in the Air Quality Strategy and there are no amendments to the overall strategy. The actions do not have any potential impacts on equalities and have been reviewed against the Air Quality Strategy Equalities Impact Assessment.

20. For information about possible impacts of the Air Quality Strategy and Route Map on equality and inclusion, please see the Air Quality Strategy Equalities Impact Assessment.

Legal implications

21. The report does not raise specific legal implications. The report sets out a wide ranging approach that utilises the general power of competence in Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 in relation to the Environment Act 1995 (as amended) which sets provisions for protecting air quality in the UK and for local air quality management. As and when the council proceeds with the actions set out in paragraph 10 above, the council will utilise the relevant statutory powers and responsibilities including those under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, Traffic Management Act 2004, the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and the Environment Act 2021.
22. Where the actions require the exercise of a statutory power, that will be carried out in compliance with the relevant law including related regulations. This may require further reports to cabinet, cabinet members or be carried out in accordance with the scheme of delegations.

Comments checked by:

Jennifer Crouch, Head of Law (Environmental)
Jennifer.crouch@oxfordshire.gov.uk (Legal)

Sustainability implications

23. The Air Quality Route Map update introduces new and amended actions however these are in line with the overall approach set out in the Air Quality Strategy and there are no amendments to the overall strategy.
24. The Air Quality Route map has links to the County Council's Climate Action Framework as air pollutants and greenhouse gases are closely linked due to the relationship between fossil fuels and air pollution. For further information about possible impacts of the Air Quality Strategy on sustainability please see the Air Quality Strategy Climate Impact Assessment.

Risk Management

25. A risk register has been kept as part of the Air Quality Strategy programme. Key risks associated with the update of the Air Quality Route Map moving forward have been summarised below.
26. *Risk:* Ensuring stakeholders are aware of updates
- Mitigation:* Briefing portfolio holders and updating districts via the air quality officer group meeting.

27. *Risk:* Public may enquire about changes to air quality measures

Mitigation: An email will be drafted to explain changes to the measures, and documentation is kept on why measures have changed.

Communications

28. The OCC Air Quality Strategy and Route Map were developed with input and feedback from OCC teams and key external stakeholders. They were developed in a two-stage process with stakeholder engagement at both stages to help inform and refine the strategy's content.

29. The update to the Air Quality Route Map has not been subject to public consultation and consultation is not required. The proposed changes are minor factual corrections to ensure the Route Map remains up to date and do not alter the content of the Air Quality Strategy.

NAME:

Ansaf Azhar, Director of Public Health and Communities

Contact Officer: Kate Eveleigh, Public Health Principal
Kate.Eveleigh@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

January 2025