

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, 24 FEBRUARY 2026

<i>List published 24 February 2026 Decisions will (unless called in) become effective at 5.00pm on 2 March 2026</i>		
<i>RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED</i>	<i>DECISIONS</i>	<i>ACTION</i>
1. Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jenny Hannaby.	DLG (A Newman)
2. Declarations of Interest	There were none.	
3. Minutes To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2026 (CA3) and to receive information arising from them.	The minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2026 were approved as a correct record.	DLG (C Reynolds)
4. Questions from County Councillors	See attached.	
5. Petitions and Public Address	There were none.	
6. Appointments	Cllr Ben Higgins had been appointed to the Music Service Hub Board. Cllr Gareth Epps had been appointed to the Children's Trust Board.	
7. Reports from Scrutiny Committees Cabinet will receive the following reports:- People Overview and Scrutiny Committee report on Oxfordshire Unpaid Carers	Cabinet received the reports and will respond in due course.	

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<i>RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED</i>	<i>DECISIONS</i>	<i>ACTION</i>
<p>Strategy</p> <p>Performance and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee report on Social Value Policy</p>		
<p>8. Social Value - New in-house approach</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member:</i> Finance, Property and Transformation <i>Forward Plan Ref:</i> 2025/252 <i>Contact:</i> Max Button, Sustainable Supply Chain Office Max.button@oxfordshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Report by Director of Finance and Commercial Services (CA8)</p> <p>This item updates the existing Social Value Policy and significantly changes the way the Council deals with social value, moving away from working with a third party to an entirely in house system. This allows the Council to better align its social value priorities with Council strategic objectives.</p> <p>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to</p> <p>a) Approve the Oxfordshire County Council Social Value Policy (Annex 1).</p> <p>b) Agree to move the council's social value approach in- house, transitioning away from third- party delivery and/or platforms, to enable a more streamlined approach hat better aligns to the council's Strategic Plan 2025–2028 priorities.</p>	<p>Recommendations approved.</p>	<p>DFCS (M Button)</p>
<p>9. Climate Action Framework 2026-2030</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member:</i> Place, Environment and</p>		

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<p>Climate Action <i>Forward Plan Ref: 2025/147</i> <i>Contact: Ariane Crampton, Climate Policy and Partnership Manager</i></p> <p>Report by Director of Economy and Place (CA9)</p> <p>Refresh of the Council's Climate Action Framework. The previous one was adopted 2020.</p> <p>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a) Approve the Oxfordshire Climate Action Framework 2026-2030.</p>	<p>Recommendations approved.</p>	<p>DEP (A Crampton)</p>
<p>10. HR & Cultural Change - Quarterly Employee Data Report- Quarter 3 2025-26</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member: Resources and Deputy Leader</i> <i>Forward Plan Ref: 2025/035</i> <i>Contact: Nathan Phillips, Data and Insight Team Manager</i> <i>Nathan.phillips@oxfordshire.gov.uk</i></p> <p>Report by Director of HR & Cultural Change (CA10)</p> <p>Quarterly staffing report providing details of key people numbers and analysis of main changes since the previous report.</p> <p>Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to note the report.</p>	<p>Recommendations approved.</p>	<p>DHRCC (N Phillips)</p>
<p>11. Forward Plan and Future Business</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member: All</i> <i>Contact Officer: Chris Reynolds, Senior Democratic Services Officer,</i></p>	<p>Noted.</p>	

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<i>RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED</i>	<i>DECISIONS</i>	<i>ACTION</i>
<p>chris.reynolds@oxfordshire.gov.uk</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 CA. This includes any updated information relating to the business for those meetings that has already been identified for 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>12. For information only - Cabinet response to Scrutiny items</p> <p>Infrastructure Funding Statement and s.106 Movement and Place Plans</p>	Noted.	

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ITEM 4 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Questions are listed in the order in which they were received. Should any questioner not have received an answer in that time, a written answer will be provided.

1. COUNCILLOR JAMES FRY	COUNCILLOR JUDY ROBERTS, CABINET MEMBER FOR PLACE, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION
<p>In the document it states:</p> <p><i>‘Central government has committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050, recognising much of this reduction must happen before 2030.</i></p> <p><i>The framework reiterates key commitments from the strategic plan: that the council aims to be carbon neutral in its direct operations by 2030 and that it is committed to enabling a net-zero Oxfordshire well ahead of 2050.’</i></p> <p>The excellent LTCP Annual Monitoring Report 2024-2025 in Annex B lists a depressingly long list of Oxfordshire’s performance that in key respects is going in the wrong direction. For example, comparing targets with outcomes:</p> <p>Target <u>Replace or remove 1 out of 4 current car trips by 2030.</u> Outcome Between 2019 and 2025 the number <u>actually rose 8.2%</u></p> <p>Target <u>Reduce car vehicle miles driven in Oxfordshire by 20%.</u> Outcome Between 2019 and 2024 it only <u>fell 5%</u></p> <p>Target <u>Increase the number of cycle trips in Oxfordshire from 600,000 to 1 million cycle trips per week: Outcome Between 2019 and</u></p>	<p>The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) sets out the legally binding nature of the UK’s target to reach net zero by 2050. Oxfordshire County Council’s (OCC) countywide emissions target is consistent with the UK government’s stated ambitions regarding climate action.</p> <p>The updated Climate Action Framework represents significant progress in the delivery of climate action compared to OCC’s first framework in 2020. It outlines programmes including support for the green economy, countywide domestic retrofit, climate adaptation and communication and engagement. It also has a strong focus on the wider benefits of delivering climate action, including health and wellbeing, energy security and economic resilience.</p> <p>The LTCP monitoring report for 24/25 shows a varied picture across the county with the city on the whole performing well and more challenge in the less densely urban centres such as market towns. The pandemic significantly impacted travel behaviour, which is still being analysed. Car ownership is down by 3% since 2019, and overall vehicle miles have decreased by 5%. Additionally, the city’s congestion charge has reduced car use, and the council’s active travel capability rating has improved, making it one of only 11 areas to make this grade nationally.</p>



<p>2023 it <u>fell</u> 21% to 490,000.</p> <p>I could list other shocking realities. My question is:</p> <p>How do the actions outlined in the Framework, with no real change from the earlier Frameworks, help to achieve the admittedly ambitious targets set out previously, or do they need to be scrapped and revised considerably in the light of the data in the Annual Monitoring Report?</p>	
<p>2. COUNCILLOR JAMES FRY</p> <p>How will the in-house team, focusing on social value inside the county, learn from other authorities in assessing the social value of work undertaken by entities whose activities extend far beyond the county, but which also employ staff inside the county? Too narrow a focus on the county risks overlooking the wider benefits from council activities.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAN LEVY, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, PROPERTY AND TRANSFORMATION</p> <p>We have consulted a number of councils, including but not limited to County Durham, Essex CC, and Cambridgeshire and learnt what works and what doesn't work for them. This enabled us to build a whole market picture of social value in local government and ensure Oxfordshire is on the best path. We will continue to learn over time and benchmark ourselves internally amongst our peers, and with the policy including a periodic review, this allows us to adapt to changing best practise, legislation and local need.</p> <p>The new policy is deliberately flexible, using a small set of local social value priorities as themes, rather than fixed or prescriptive measures. For each procurement, service areas select the priorities that best fit the contract and the market, and tailor the social value questions accordingly. This allows suppliers, particularly larger or multi-regional organisations, to propose relevant, achievable local actions, rather than being forced into a one-size-fits-all approach. Social value is therefore assessed on what is realistic and deliverable through that specific contract, while still aligning with Oxfordshire's priorities.</p>