

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](http://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](mailto:chris.reynolds@oxfordshire.gov.uk))

### **CABINET - TUESDAY, 17 MARCH 2026**

<i>List published 17 March 2026 Key Decisions will (unless called in) become effective at 5.00pm on 23 March 2026</i>		
<i>RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED</i>	<i>DECISIONS</i>	<i>ACTION</i>
<b>1. Apologies for Absence</b>	Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Neil Fawcett and Ben Higgins.	DLG (A Newman)
<b>2. Declarations of Interest</b>	There were none.	
<b>3. Minutes</b>  To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2026 ( <b>CA3</b> ) and to receive information arising from them.	The minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2026 were approved as a correct record.	DLG (C Reynolds)
<b>4. Questions from County Councillors</b>	See attached.	
<b>5. Petitions and Public Address</b>	<u>7 - Reports from Scrutiny Committees – Road safety</u>  Peter Barnett  <u>9 - Local Transport Consolidated Funding Settlement - Local Transport Delivery Plan</u>  Robin Tucker Cllr James Fry	

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	<p><u>10 – Movement and Place Plans</u></p> <p>Paul Finnemore Robin Tucker Richard Allen Cllr Gareth Epps Cllr James Fry</p> <p><u>11 – Treasury Management Q3 Performance Report</u></p> <p>Cllr Brad Baines</p> <p><u>12 – Business Management and Monitoring Report – Performance and Risk - Q3 2025-26</u></p> <p>Cllr Brad Baines</p> <p><u>13 – Update on High Needs Dedicated Schools Grant</u></p> <p>Cllr Brad Baines</p> <p><u>14 - Capital Programme Update and Monitoring Report</u></p> <p>Robin Tucker Cllr Brad Baines</p> <p><u>16 – Urgent decision regarding acquisition of property/lease in Oxfordshire</u></p> <p>Cllr Liz Brighthouse</p>	
<b>6. Appointments</b>	Councillor Dan Levy has been appointed to the Thames Valley Fire Control Services Joint Committee.	DLG (A Newman)

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<p><b>7. Reports from Scrutiny Committees</b></p> <p>Cabinet will receive the following Scrutiny reports: -</p> <p>Education and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee reports on:</p> <p>Local Area Partnership Monitoring and Priority Action Plan</p> <p>Education Otherwise Than At School (EOTAS) Guidance</p> <p>Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee reports on:</p> <p>Road Safety initiatives in Oxfordshire</p> <p>Repairing of defects and Superusers</p>	<p>Cabinet received the reports and will respond in due course.</p>	
<p><b>8. Local Government Reorganisation in Oxfordshire: Statutory consultation response (TO FOLLOW)</b></p> <p><i>Cabinet Member: Leader</i>  <i>Forward Plan Ref: 2026/063</i>  <i>Non-key decision</i>  <i>Contact: Lauren Rushen, Senior Policy Officer</i>  <i>Lauren.rushen@oxfordshire.gov.uk</i></p> <p>Report by the Deputy Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer) <b>(CA8)</b></p> <p>To consider the Council's draft response to the Ministry for Housing, Communities, and Local Government (MHCLG) consultation on local government reorganisation in Oxfordshire.</p>		

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<i>RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED</i>	<i>DECISIONS</i>	<i>ACTION</i>
<p><b>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:</b></p> <p>(a) <b>approve the submission of three consultation responses (Annex 1, 2 and 3) to the Ministry for Housing Communities, and Local Government (MHCLG)'s consultation on local government reorganisation (LGR) in Oxfordshire as requested by the Minister of State for Local Government's letter on 5 February 2026.</b></p> <p>(b) <b>Delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive and S151 Officer in consultation with the Leader to make any changes to the text/and or formatting of the submissions prior to submission to government whilst not materially affecting the overall content of the responses</b></p>	<p>Recommendations approved.</p>	<p>DCEO (L Rushen)</p>
<p><b>9. Local Transport Consolidated Funding Settlement - Local Transport Delivery Plan</b></p> <p><i>Cabinet Member: Transport Management</i>  <i>Forward Plan Ref: 2026/006</i>  <i>Key decision</i>  <i>Contact: Hannah Battye, Head of Place Shaping</i>  <a href="mailto:Hannah.battye@oxfordshire.gov.uk">Hannah.battye@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Report by Director of Environment and Highways <b>(CA9)</b></p> <p>The DfT Local Transport Delivery Plan.</p>		

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<p>This item outlines the proposed programme over the next 4 years.</p> <p><b>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a) <b>approve the Local Transport Delivery Plan and its submission to the Department for Transport; and</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">b) <b>delegate authority to the Director of Environment &amp; Highways, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport Management, to make changes to specific schemes and projects within the agreed programmes outlined in the Local Transport Delivery Plan.</b></p>	<p>Recommendations approved.</p>	<p>DEH (H Battye)</p>
<p><b>10. Movement and Place Plans</b></p> <p><i>Cabinet Member:</i> Place, Environment and Climate Action <i>Forward Plan Ref:</i> 2025/262 <i>Key decision</i> <i>Contact:</i> Ashley Hayden, Team Leader (Area Travel Plans) Ashley.hayden@oxfordshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Report by Director of Environment and Highways <b>(CA10)</b></p> <p>The Movement and Place (MAP) plans form part 2s of the Local Transport Connectivity Plan. This MAP Plan reflects the Bicester area in the North of the County (Cherwell) with further plans to come forward over the following months.</p> <p><b>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to: -</b></p> <p><b>Approve the adoption and publication of the Bicester and Surrounding</b></p>	<p>Recommendations approved.</p>	<p>DEH (A Hayden)</p>

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RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED	DECISIONS	ACTION
<p><b>Villages Movement and Place Plan (Annex A), and its subsequent supporting documents at A1-A4 (Delivery Plan, proposals map, people postcards, summary of plan).</b></p>		
<p><b>11. Treasury Management Q3 Performance Report 2025-26</b></p> <p><i>Cabinet Member:</i> Finance, Property and Transformation  <i>Forward Plan Ref:</i> 2026/060  <i>Non-key decision</i>  <i>Contact:</i> Tim Chapple, Treasury Manager            Tim.chapple@oxfordshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Report by the Deputy Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer) <b>(CA12)</b></p> <p>Quarterly report on the Council's treasury management activity.</p> <p><b>Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to note the council's treasury management activity for the first three quarters of 2025/26.</b></p>	<p>Recommendations approved.</p>	<p>DCEO (T Chapple)</p>
<p><b>12. Business Management &amp; Monitoring Report - Performance and Risk - Quarter 3 2025-26</b></p> <p><i>Cabinet Member:</i> Finance, Property and Transformation  <i>Forward Plan Ref:</i> 2025/102  <i>Non-key decision</i>  <i>Contact:</i> Kathy Wilcox, Head of Corporate Finance            Kathy.wilcox@oxfordshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Report by Deputy Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer) <b>(CA13)</b></p> <p>To note the report and approve the recommendations</p>		

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<i>RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED</i>	<i>DECISIONS</i>	<i>ACTION</i>
<p><b>THE CABINET IS RECOMMENDED TO:</b></p> <p>a) <b>Note the report and annexes.</b></p> <p>b) <b>Approve a supplementary estimate request of £0.9m relating to additional election costs and supplementary estimates of £0.5m for Bicester Motion and £2.2m relating to Woodeaton Manor Special School (Annex D paragraph 23).</b></p> <p>c) <b>Approve the write off of 2 corporate debts totalling £50k (Annex D paragraph 26)</b></p> <p>d) <b>Approve the write off of 12 Adult Social Care contribution debts totalling £270k (Annex D paragraph 29).</b></p> <p>e) <b>Note the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) High Needs Block 2025/26 forecast and accumulated deficit position ((Annex D paragraphs 36 - 40).</b></p> <p>f) <b>Approve the updates to Fees &amp; Charges for Environment &amp; Highways (Annex D – Appendix 5)</b></p>	<p>Recommendations approved.</p>	<p>DCEO (K Wilcox)</p>
<p><b>13. Update on High Needs Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Funding and Deficits</b></p> <p><i>Cabinet Member:</i> Finance, Property and Transformation  <i>Forward Plan Ref:</i> 2026/052  <i>Key decision</i>  <i>Contact:</i> Jane Billington, Strategic Finance Business Partner  Jane.billington@oxfordshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Report by Deputy Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer) <b>(CA14)</b></p> <p>Explains the arrangements for funding High Needs Dedicated Schools Grant deficits up to the end of 2025/26 as set out</p>		

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<p>by the Government as part of the Final Local Government Finance Settlement for 2026/27.</p> <p>Provides an update on the estimated share of the 2025/26 deficit that will need to be funded by the relevant council(s) when the statutory over-ride ends on 1 April 2028.</p> <p><b>Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>Note the update on the treatment of High Needs DSG Deficits up to 31 March 2026 set out in the Final Local Government Finance Settlement for 2026/27.</b></li> <li>b) <b>Note the changes to High Needs Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding and approve the mid and worst case forecast deficits for 2026/27 (paragraph 26 and Table 1).</b></li> <li>c) <b>Note the funding that is planned to be available to meet the residual element that the council will need to fund following the end of the statutory override.</b></li> </ul>	<p>Recommendations approved.</p>	<p>DCEO (J Billington)</p>
<p><b>14. Capital Programme Update and Monitoring Report</b></p> <p><i>Cabinet Member:</i> Finance, Property and Transformation  <i>Forward Plan Ref:</i> 2026/028  <i>Key decision</i>  <i>Contact:</i> Natalie Crawford, Capital Programme Manager            Natalie.crawford@oxfordshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Report by Deputy Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer) <b>(CA15)</b></p>		

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<i>RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED</i>	<i>DECISIONS</i>	<i>ACTION</i>
<p>Financial Report on capital spending against budget allocations, including any necessary capital programme approvals</p> <p><b>Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a. Note the capital monitoring position for 2025/26 set out in this report and summarised in Annex 1.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">b. Approve the updated Capital Programme at Annex 2 incorporating the changes set out in this report.</p> <p><b>Additions to the Capital Programme</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">c. Approve the inclusion of Milton Heights Bridge into the capital programme, with a budget of £8.608m, to be funded from a variety of funding sources. (see paragraph 65-66)</p>	<p>Recommendations approved.</p>	<p>DCEO (N Crawford)</p>
<p><b>15. Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) - Management Reprovision</b></p> <p><i>Cabinet Member:</i> Place, Environment and Climate Action  <i>Forward Plan Ref:</i> 2025/057  <i>Non-key decision</i>  <i>Contact:</i> Caroline Coyne, Project Manager (BPSI Team)            Caroline.coyne@oxfordshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Report by Director of Environment and Highways <b>(CA11)</b></p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council's current household waste recycling centres</p>		

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<p>management contract is in its final extension period and comes to an end on 30th September 2027. A future model for the service delivery is required to be in place and mobilised prior to the expiry of the existing contract. The paper is to approve the preferred model.</p> <p><b>Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Approve the preferred approach to the reprovision of the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) management as set out in paragraphs 5 and 31.</li> <li>b) Authorise Officers to prepare and commence the procurement of a new 8-year HWRC management contract to start on 1 October 2027 (following a mobilisation period) with options to support flexibility in Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).</li> <li>c) Endorse exploration and feasibility of the capital purchase of HWRC plant and equipment during the tender bidding, with a view to having an agreed final revenue and capital cost of the contract at the final tender stage.</li> <li>d) Delegate the decision to award the contract, and any extension to the Director of Environment and Highways in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Place, Environment and Climate Action.</li> </ul>	<p>Recommendations approved.</p>	<p>DEH (C Coyne)</p>

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<p><b>16. Urgent decision relating to the acquisition of a property/lease in Oxfordshire. (TO FOLLOW)</b></p> <p><i>Cabinet Member:</i> Finance, Property and Transformation  <i>Forward Plan Ref:</i> 2026/054  <i>Key decision</i>  <i>Contact:</i> Henry White, Operational Manager, Estates and Investment  <a href="mailto:Henry.white@oxfordshire.gov.uk">Henry.white@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Report by Director of Property and Assets <b>(CA16)</b></p> <p>The information in the annexes to this report in that it falls within the following prescribed category:</p> <p>3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)</p> <p>And since it is considered that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.</p>	<p><b>RESOLVED to:-</b></p> <p>a. <b>Agree to the acquisition of three leases, on the terms set out in exempt Annex 1 and 2.</b></p> <p>b. <b>Delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Transformation to negotiate and agree the final acquisition terms which will be substantially in accordance with the details set out in exempt Annexes 1,2,3,4 and 5.</b></p> <p>c. <b>Delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Director of Property &amp; Assets and the Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer, to conclude negotiations and complete all necessary legal documentation (subject to the completion of all due diligence exercises) to implement the acquisition.</b></p>	<p>DPA (V Kurzeja)</p>
<p><b>17. Forward Plan and Future Business</b></p> <p><i>Cabinet Member:</i> All  <i>Contact Officer:</i> Chris Reynolds, Senior Democratic Services Officer,  <a href="mailto:chris.reynolds@oxfordshire.gov.uk">chris.reynolds@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>The Cabinet Procedure Rules provide that</p>	<p>Noted.</p>	

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<p>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 <b>CA17</b>. 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><b><i>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to note the items currently identified for forthcoming meetings.</i></b></p>		
<p><b>18. For information only: Cabinet response to Scrutiny item</b></p> <p>The Virtual School</p>	Noted.	

**CABINET – 17 MARCH 2026**

**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><u>Agenda Item 15</u>: Anecdotal evidence from people who have used the new system for booking deliveries to HWRC serving the City and Banbury is that when trying to book online, some people are given dates up to three weeks ahead.</p> <p>Yet, at the centres, staff apparently say that fewer people are turning up to bring their household waste. Staff at the centres apparently advise people to turn up, as before, without an appointment, and book on their phones when they arrive at the site.</p> <p>What do the January and February data reveal about deliveries under the new system vs. 2025 data? Are data available for the same months about fly tipping?</p>	<p>The booking system allows for bookings to be made from half an hour, up to two weeks in advance. Looking at sites serving the Banbury and City areas, at the time of drafting this response (Thursday 12 March) there are plenty of slots available today, Friday, and for the weekend ahead, with no timeslots being fully booked to capacity. This is despite there being thousands of bookings being made each week.</p> <p>Site staff should not be advising people to turn up and make on the spot bookings, and not pre-book their visits in future. This will be investigated with our site contractor to ensure this is not the case.</p> <p>As part of the changes, a reduction in visitor numbers was anticipated through improved measures to prevent illegal trader abuse of the service, as well as fewer non-Oxfordshire residents using the services, both of which come at a cost to the service. Intelligence from other authorities suggests booking systems lead to customers planning their visits better, delivering more on each trip to the HWRC, but making fewer overall visits. It is also worth noting there have been spells of bad weather since the service changes were introduced which often impacts service usage.</p> <p>We do not hold data on flytipping as this is gathered and held by the district councils. Specific data on flytipping would need to be requested from the relevant district authority. The OCC Waste Management team have been liaising with district council colleagues through the Oxfordshire Resources and Waste Partnership (ORWP) operational and enforcement groups. To date, no increases in fly tipping have been brought to the attention of the team, nor any new trends emerging since changes were introduced within the HWRCs.</p> <p>Please see table below for HWRC traffic data. Please note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic data has to be treated as indicative, as this will include other traffic movements beyond pure HWRC visitor vehicle movements (e.g. operational traffic)</li> <li>• Traffic count data for Stanford and Dix Pit HWRCs is not included as these systems had periods of faultiness across several months in this period. We believe that visitor trends on these sites should be similar to those at other HWRCs.</li> <li>• This is a very narrow data set drawn from what is</li> </ul>



typically a quiet time of year, and longer-term trends and other data sets need to be analysed to fully understand the impacts on the service.

	Jan	Feb
2025	53088	49587
2026	44447	32128
Percentage change	-16%	-35%

**2. COUNCILLOR JAMES FRY**

Agenda Item 9: The CDEL (Capital Departmental Expenditure Limit) on the Local Transport Grant grows very rapidly from £4.0 million in 2026/27 to £9.12 million in 2029/30, without any explanatory narrative.

Please provide some detail to explain this unusually strong growth. Where is the grant spent?

**COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT**

Government has announced a 4-year consolidated funding allocation bringing together a variety of highway and transport grants received. The grants support the various highway and transport projects within the council's capital and revenue programmes. As part of the grant conditions, we are required to produce a 4-year Local Transport Delivery Plan to identify our priorities to utilise the funding over this timeframe.