

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 Democratic Services (E-Mail: [committeesdemocraticservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:committeesdemocraticservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk))

## **CABINET - TUESDAY, 14 JULY 2026**

| <p><i>List published 15 July 2026</i><br/> <i>Key Decisions will (unless called in) become effective at 5.00pm on 20 July 2026</i></p>           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |               |
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| <b>RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED</b>                                                                                                                | <b>DECISIONS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>ACTION</b> |
| <b>1. Apologies for Absence</b>                                                                                                                  | Apologies were received from Cllr Edwards.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | DLG (J Ahier) |
| <b>2. Declarations of Interest</b>                                                                                                               | None.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |               |
| <b>3. Minutes</b><br><br>To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2026 ( <b>CA3</b> ) and to receive information arising from them. | Approved.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | DLG (J Ahier) |
| <b>4. Questions from County Councillors</b>                                                                                                      | See attached.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |               |
| <b>5. Petitions and Public Address</b>                                                                                                           | Requests to speak were received on:<br><br><u>8 – Best Start Family Hubs</u><br><br>Cllr Jane Hanna OBE<br><br><u>12 – Cowley Branch Line – Enterprise Zone Funding</u><br><br>Rita Atkinson<br>Cllr Andrew Crawford<br>Cllr Bethia Thomas<br>Cllr Jane Hanna OBE<br><br><u>14 – Procurement of a Strategic Partner to Support Local Government Reorganisation across Oxfordshire</u> |               |

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| RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | DECISIONS                                                                                                                               | ACTION |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p><u>and West Berkshire</u></p> <p>Cllr Glynis Phillips</p> <p><u>18 – Capital Programme Monitoring Report</u></p> <p>Richard Drew</p> |        |
| <b>6. Appointments</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | None.                                                                                                                                   |        |
| <p><b>7. Reports from Scrutiny Committees</b></p> <p>Cabinet to receive the following reports from Scrutiny Committees:-</p> <p>Education and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee report on Best Start in Life Family Hubs</p> <p>Performance and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee reports on:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Commercial Strategy</li> <li>b) Shaping Oxfordshire's Future Economy</li> </ul> <p>Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee report on Protocol for Flag Flying</p> | Cabinet received the reports and will respond in due course.                                                                            |        |
| <p><b>8. Best Start Family Hubs</b></p> <p><i>Cabinet Member:</i> Children and Young People</p> <p><i>Forward Plan Ref:</i> 26/138</p> <p><i>Contact:</i> Shona Harris, Transformation Programme Manager<br/> <a href="mailto:Shona.Harris@oxfordshire.gov.uk">Shona.Harris@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a>)</p> <p>Report by Director of Children's Services<br/> <b>(CAB8)</b></p> <p>This report sets out the proposed strategic</p>                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                         |        |

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| RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | DECISIONS                 | ACTION          |
| <p>direction for the development and implementation of Best Start Family Hubs in Oxfordshire, as a core delivery mechanism for the council's Best Start in Life Plan.</p> <p><b>Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to</b></p> <p><b>a) Approve the strategic direction of travel for Best Start Family Hubs in Oxfordshire and delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services for the delivery of the proposal, including the expenditure of the Department for Education (DfE) Grant and budget.</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Recommendations approved. | DCS (S Harris)  |
| <p><b>9. Citizens' Assembly Update</b></p> <p><i>Cabinet Member: Leader</i><br/> <i>Forward Plan Ref: 2025/251</i><br/> <i>Contact: Joanne Fellows, Place Planning Manager – Central</i><br/> <a href="mailto:Joanne.Fellows@oxfordshire.gov.uk">Joanne.Fellows@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Report by Director of Environment and Highways &amp; Director of Public Affairs, Policy and Partnerships <b>(CAB9)</b></p> <p>To provide an update on the progress of the recommendations from the 2025 Oxfordshire Travel and Transport Citizens' Assembly, as approved at Cabinet in July 2025.</p> <p><b>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to</b></p> <p><b>a) Note the progress being made to deliver against recommendations from the Travel and Transport Citizens' Assembly since July 2025.</b></p> | Recommendations approved. | DEH (J Fellows) |

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| RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | DECISIONS                        | ACTION                |
| <p>b) Note the additional engagement that has taken place with assembly members over the past year, in support of deeper involvement of communities in transport policy development, and scheme design and delivery.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                  |                       |
| <p><b>10. Thames Valley Spatial Development Strategy (SDS) Development and Governance</b></p> <p><i>Cabinet Member:</i> Environment and Economy<br/> <i>Forward Plan Ref:</i> 2026/111<br/> <i>Key decision</i><br/> <i>Contact:</i> Hannah Battye, Head of Place Shaping<br/> <a href="mailto:Hannah.Battye@oxfordshire.gov.uk">Hannah.Battye@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Report by Director of Economy and Place<br/> <b>(CAB10)</b></p> <p>Seeking approval for Oxfordshire County Council to participate in, and help lead, a joint Thames Valley partnership (Oxfordshire, Berkshire unitary authorities and Swindon) to progress the pre-inception phase of work for a Thames Valley Spatial Development Strategy (SDS).</p> <p><b>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:</b></p> <p>a) Approve the establishment of a partnership with the councils covering Oxfordshire and Berkshire, including Swindon in the initial pre-inception period of the statutory Spatial Development Strategy (SDS) for the Thames Valley area and</p> | <p>Recommendations approved.</p> | <p>DEP (H Battye)</p> |

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| RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | DECISIONS | ACTION |
| <p>pending agreement by Government on geography.</p> <p>b) Note the funding and resource allocations for the pre-inception programme.</p> <p>c) Agree that Bracknell Forest Council will act as the accountable body for funds held on behalf of the partnership and will host any staff appointed for the Thames Valley SDS programme.</p> <p>d) Agree the high-level interim governance and oversight, monitoring and assurance arrangements set out in this paper, covering the arrangements for the period before a statutory Strategic Planning Board (SPB) is established through secondary legislation.</p> <p>e) To delegate the detail agreements and working arrangements for pre-inception development of the SDS to the Director of Economy and Place in consultation with the Head of Legal and Governance and Deputy Monitoring Officer.</p> |           |        |
| <p><b>11. The Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OXiS)</b></p> <p><i>Cabinet Member:</i> Environment and Economy<br/> <i>Forward Plan Ref:</i> 2026/113<br/> <i>Key decision</i><br/> <i>Contact:</i> Dawn Pettis, Strategic Planning &amp; Infrastructure Manager<br/> <a href="mailto:Dawn.Pettis@oxfordshire.go.uk">Dawn.Pettis@oxfordshire.go.uk</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |           |        |

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| RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | DECISIONS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | ACTION                |
| <p>Report by Director of Economy and Place<br/><b>(CAB11)</b></p> <p>The purpose of OxIS is to provide a comprehensive understanding of the strategic infrastructure that is necessary to support future development to 2050.</p> <p><b>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to</b></p> <p><b>a) Endorse the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy Stage 2 Prioritisation Report (provided at Annex 1)</b></p> | <p>Recommendations approved as amended.</p> <p>a) Endorse the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy Stage 2 Prioritisation Report (provided at Annex 1)</p> <p>b) <b>Note the need for flexibility in bringing forward projects for funding to ensure equitable distribution of funding around the County and take advantage of strategic funding opportunities as they arise.</b></p> <p>c) <b>Ensure that future iterations of this report or other infrastructure prioritisation exercises, such as the Spatial Development Strategy, place stronger emphasis on: job creation in priority locations; housing development in priority locations (notably Oxford City); climate mitigation and adaptation; and alignment with Oxfordshire County Council transport and other policies.</b></p> | <p>DEP (D Pettis)</p> |
| <p><b>12. Cowley Branch Line - Enterprise Zone Funding</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                       |

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| RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | DECISIONS                        | ACTION                |
| <p><i>Cabinet Member:</i> Environment and Economy<br/> <i>Forward Plan Ref:</i> 2026/104<br/> <i>Key decision</i><br/> <i>Contact:</i> Hannah Battye, Head of Place Shaping<br/> Hannah.battye@oxfordshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Report by Director of Economy and Place<br/> <b>(CAB12)</b></p> <p>The report provides an update on the Cowley Branch Line scheme and seeks authorisation of funding contributions towards the project.</p> <p><b>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Approve potential funding to meet up to £14.5m of local costs for the delivery of the Cowley Branch Line through the use of retained business rates funding from the two Oxfordshire Enterprise Zones as set out in paragraph 44 and subject to the provisions of paragraph 41.</li> <li>b) Note that the expectation is that this forward funding would be replaced by future S106 and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) contributions but neither the amounts nor timing are certain at this stage.</li> <li>c) Note that any future shortfall in funding or additional borrowing costs remaining after these amounts are received would need a further</li> </ul> | <p>Recommendations approved.</p> | <p>DEP (H Battye)</p> |

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| RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | DECISIONS                        | ACTION                    |
| <p><b>decision to agree how to manage this.</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                  |                           |
| <p><b>13. Oxfordshire County Council's Protocol for Flag Flying</b></p> <p><i>Cabinet Member:</i> Resources and Deputy Leader<br/> <i>Forward Plan Ref:</i> 2026/120<br/> <i>Non-key decision</i><br/> <i>Contact:</i> Lauren Bond, Senior Policy Officer<br/> <a href="mailto:Laurn.bond@oxfordshire.gov.uk">Laurn.bond@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Report by Director of Public Affairs, Policy and Partnerships <b>(CAB13)</b></p> <p>This document sets out the policy for flying flags on the buildings and land owned or managed by Oxfordshire County Council. The policy aims to comply with the planning regulations, respect the national and local significance of certain dates and events, and accommodate the requests of organisations that wish to fly their own flags. It states the responsibilities and decision-making process for the flying of flags, and which flags are excluded. It does not refer to flags flown by citizens on highways or assets, which are treated separately under enforcement powers.</p> <p><b>Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:</b></p> <p><b>a) Review and approve the Protocol for Flag Flying (Annex A). The Protocol incorporates recommendations made by the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</b></p> | <p>Recommendations approved.</p> | <p>DPAPP<br/>(L Bond)</p> |
| <p><b>14. Procurement of a Strategic Partner to Support Local Government Reorganisation across Oxfordshire and West</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                  |                           |

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| RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | DECISIONS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | ACTION                 |
| <p><b>Berkshire</b></p> <p><i>Cabinet Member:</i> Local Government Reorganisation and Human Resources<br/> <i>Forward Plan Ref:</i> 26/151<br/> <i>Key decision</i><br/> <i>Contact:</i> Lauren Diggett, Programme Manager – Local Government Reorganisation<br/> <a href="mailto:Lauren.Doggett@oxfordshire.gov.uk">Lauren.Doggett@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a>)</p> <p>Report by the Deputy Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer) <b>(CAB14)</b></p> <p>This report seeks Cabinet approval to procure a Strategic Partner to support the delivery of Local Government Reorganisation across Oxfordshire. The proposed procurement is intended not only to enable a safe and legally compliant transition to new unitary arrangements, but to support a transformation-led approach that redesigns services, operating models and system working. The Strategic Partner will operate at system level, working across councils and partners to translate ambition into deliverable plans, develop future operating models, and support implementation before and after vesting. Cabinet approval is required as this constitutes a key decision, committing the Council to a significant procurement and enabling delegated authority to progress and award the contract.</p> <p><b>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:</b></p> <p><b>a) Approve the commencement of a procurement exercise to appoint a Strategic Partner to support the delivery of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) across the Oxfordshire and West Berkshire councils involved in scope, supporting both the statutory transition to new unitary</b></p> | <p>Recommendations approved as amended.</p> <p><b>a) Approve the commencement of a procurement exercise to appoint a Strategic Partner to support the delivery of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) across the Oxfordshire (and West Berkshire) councils involved in scope, supporting</b></p> | <p>DCE (L Doggett)</p> |

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| <b>RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>DECISIONS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>ACTION</b> |
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| <p><b>arrangements and wider transformation objectives across the system;</b></p> <p><b>b) Approve the commencement of procurement on the basis of an estimated contract value in the region of £3.0 million, with the contract expected to commence in September 2026 and run until March 2029 or 12 months following vesting day, whichever is later. The proposed costs will be tested and refined through the procurement process, with final costs confirmed prior to contract award. Costs will be shared in accordance with the agreed 80/20 Memorandum of Understanding, which is the cost-sharing agreement between the councils involved in the scope of Local Government Reorganisation for relevant LGR-related work, with 80% funded by Oxfordshire County Council and 20% funded collectively by the partner councils;</b></p> <p><b>c) Delegate authority to the Chief Executive (in his capacity as LGR Oxfordshire and West Berkshire System Implementation Team Leader), following completion of the procurement process and subject to all required approvals, to take all necessary steps to award and enter into the contract, provided that the final arrangement remains within the contract value and duration parameters set out in this report. Any proposed arrangement outside those parameters would be reported back to Cabinet for approval.</b></p> | <p>both the statutory transition to new unitary arrangements and wider transformation objectives across the system;</p> <p><b>b) Approve the commencement of procurement on the basis of an estimated contract value in the region of £3.0 million, with the contract expected to commence in September 2026 and run until March 2029 or 12 months following vesting day, whichever is later. The proposed costs will be tested and refined through the procurement process, with final costs confirmed prior to contract award. Costs will be shared in accordance with the cost-sharing agreement between the councils involved in the scope of Local Government Reorganisation for relevant LGR-related work.</b></p> <p><b>c) Delegate authority to the Chief Executive (in his capacity as LGR Oxfordshire and West Berkshire System Implementation Team Leader), following completion of the procurement process and subject to all required approvals, to take all necessary steps to award and enter into the contract, provided that the final arrangement remains within the contract value and duration parameters set out in this report. Any proposed arrangement outside those parameters would be reported back to Cabinet for approval.</b></p> |               |

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| RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | DECISIONS                        | ACTION                 |
| <p><b>15. Treasury Management Annual Performance Report</b></p> <p><i>Cabinet Member:</i> Finance, Property and Transformation<br/> <i>Forward Plan Ref:</i> 2026/093<br/> <i>Non-key decision</i><br/> <i>Contact:</i> Tim Chapple, Treasury Manager<br/> Tim.chapple@oxfordshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Report by the Deputy Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer) <b>(CAB15)</b></p> <p>To note the Council's treasury management activity and outcomes in 2025/26</p> <p><b>Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:</b></p> <p><b>a) Note the council's treasury management activity and outcomes in 2025/26</b></p> | <p>Recommendations approved.</p> | <p>DCE (T Chapple)</p> |
| <p><b>16. Business Management and Monitoring Report</b></p> <p><i>Cabinet Member:</i> Finance, Property and Transformation<br/> <i>Forward Plan Ref:</i> 2026/033<br/> <i>Key decision</i><br/> <i>Contact:</i> Verity Royle, Planning and Reporting Manager<br/> <a href="mailto:Verity.Royle@oxfordshire.gov.uk">Verity.Royle@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Report by Deputy Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer) <b>(CAB16)</b></p> <p>To note the report and approve the recommendations. Update on Finance (August month end position), and Risk and Performance Quarter 1.</p>              |                                  |                        |

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| RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | DECISIONS                 | ACTION        |
| <p><b>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Note the report and appendixes.</li> <li>b) Note the increases to funding following the final settlement (paragraph 21)</li> <li>c) Approve the resulting contribution to general balances of £4m (para 36).</li> <li>d) Approve the creation of an earmarked reserve to manage fluctuations in commercial income (para 35).</li> <li>e) Approve the new Highways fees and charges commencing on 1 August 2026 (para 38 appendix 5)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Recommendations approved. | DCE (V Royle) |
| <p><b>17. Budget and Business Planning Report</b></p> <p><i>Cabinet Member:</i> Finance, Property and Transformation<br/> <i>Forward Plan Ref:</i> 2026/031<br/> <i>Key decision</i><br/> <i>Contact:</i> Verity Royle, Planning and Reporting Manager<br/> <a href="mailto:Verity.Royle@oxfordshire.gov.uk">Verity.Royle@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Report by the Deputy Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer) <b>(CAB17)</b></p> <p>To provide background and context to the budget and business planning process for 2027/28.</p> <p><b>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Note the report and the starting point for the 2027/28 budget;</li> <li>b) Approve a five-year period for the medium-term financial strategy to</li> </ul> | Recommendations approved. | DCE (V Royle) |

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| RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | DECISIONS                        | ACTION                  |
| <p><b>2031/32 and ten-year period for the capital programme to 2036/37;</b></p> <p><b>c) Note the high-level timetable for the budget process.</b></p> <p><b>d) Note the requirement for the Council to set a sustainable balanced budget for 2027/28 which shows how income will equal spending plans.</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                  |                         |
| <p><b>18. Capital Programme Monitoring Report</b></p> <p><i>Cabinet Member:</i> Finance, Property and Transformation<br/> <i>Forward Plan Ref:</i> 2026/031<br/> <i>Key decision</i><br/> <i>Contact:</i> Natalie Crawford, Capital Programme Manager<br/> <a href="mailto:Natalie.crawford@oxfordshire.gov.uk">Natalie.crawford@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Report by the Deputy Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer) <b>(CAB18)</b></p> <p>Financial Report on capital spending against budget allocations, including any necessary capital programme approvals</p> <p><b>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:</b></p> <p><b>Capital Programme</b></p> <p><b>a) Note the capital monitoring position for 2026/27 set out in this report and summarised in Annex 1.</b></p> <p><b>b) Approve the updated Capital Programme at Annex 2 incorporating</b></p> | <p>Recommendations approved.</p> | <p>DCE (N Crawford)</p> |

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| <b>RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>DECISIONS</b> | <b>ACTION</b> |
| <p><b>the changes set out in this report.</b></p> <p><b>Budget Changes / Budget Release</b></p> <p>c) Note the proposed release of £4.0m from corporate resources agreed by Council in February 2026 for drainage infrastructure improvements (para 69).</p> <p>d) Note the proposed inclusion of Didcot Valley Park SEND school into the capital programme with a development budget of £1.4m (para 70-71).</p> <p><b>Funding Updates</b></p> <p>e) Agree the inclusion in the capital programme of the following grant funding updates and allocations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revise of the previous forecasted value of the School Condition Allocation 2026/27 to £4.645m (para 73).</li> <li>• Include the SEN High Needs Capital Allocation 2026/27 of £11.299m to earmarked reserves to address SEN reform</li> </ul> |                  |               |

...Decisions... Decisions...

## CABINET - TUESDAY, 14 JULY 2026

| <p><i>List published 15 July 2026</i></p> <p><i>Decisions will (unless called in) become effective at 5.00pm on 20 July 2026</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                  |                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | DECISIONS                        | ACTION                |
| <p>requirements (para 74-77).</p> <p>f) Note the current over-programming of the capital programme is £10.365m as agreed by Council in February 2026. The impact on the review of corporate resources and the additional funding available through the DfT Transport consolidated funding settlement will be considered as part of the budget process for 2027/28.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                  |                       |
| <p><b>19. Governance Arrangements for Oxford Castle Apartments Limited (OCAL)</b></p> <p><i>Cabinet Member:</i> Finance, Property and Transformation<br/> <i>Forward Plan Ref:</i> 2026/127<br/> <i>Non-Key decision</i><br/> <i>Contact:</i> Ian Dyson, Director of Finance and Commercial Services<br/> <a href="mailto:Ian.Dyson@oxfordshire.gov.uk">Ian.Dyson@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Report by Director of Finance and Commercial Services (<b>CAB19</b>)</p> <p>This report seeks approval of the governance arrangements for Oxford Castle Apartments Limited (OCAL), that will become a wholly owned company of Oxfordshire County Council, as part of the Castle Quarter acquisition.</p> <p><b>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:</b></p> <p>a) Note that the acquisition of the Oxford Castle Quarter site has</p> | <p>Recommendations approved.</p> | <p>DFCS (I Dyson)</p> |

...Decisions... Decisions...

## CABINET - TUESDAY, 14 JULY 2026

| <p style="text-align: center;"><i>List published 15 July 2026</i><br/> <i>Decisions will (unless called in) become effective at 5.00pm on 20 July 2026</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                  |               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| <i>RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <i>DECISIONS</i> | <i>ACTION</i> |
| <p>now completed and that the related acquisition of Oxford Castle Apartments Limited (OCAL) for the nominal consideration of £1 will be concluded, subject to final due diligence, in August 2026.</p> <p>b) Agree that the Council will exercise its shareholder function through the Shareholder Committee, consistent with existing arrangements for council-owned companies.</p> <p>c) Delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer), in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer, and the Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Transformation, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• approve the Articles of Association; and</li> <li>• appoint the initial Company Directors,</li> </ul> <p>with these decisions to be ratified by the Shareholder Committee at its earliest available meeting.</p> |                  |               |
| <p><b>20. Forward Plan and Future Business</b></p> <p><i>Cabinet Member: All</i><br/> <i>Contact Officer: Chris Reynolds, Senior Democratic Services Officer,</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Noted.           |               |

...Decisions... Decisions...

## CABINET - TUESDAY, 14 JULY 2026

| <p><i>List published 15 July 2026</i><br/> <i>Decisions will (unless called in) become effective at 5.00pm on 20 July 2026</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |           |        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------|
| RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | DECISIONS | ACTION |
| <p><a href="mailto:chris.reynolds@oxfordshire.gov.uk">chris.reynolds@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a></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 <b>CA</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>21. For information only: Cabinet responses to Scrutiny items</b></p> <p>Minerals and Waste Planning<br/>           Protocol for Flag Flying<br/>           Road Safety<br/>           Unauthorised Waste Disposal Site near Kidlington</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Noted.    |        |
| <p><b>22. Acquisition of Solar Farm in Oxfordshire</b></p> <p><i>Cabinet Member:</i> Finance, Property and Transformation<br/> <i>Forward Plan Ref:</i> 2026/149<br/> <i>Key decision</i><br/> <i>Contact:</i> Ian Dyson, Director of Finance and Commercial Services<br/> <a href="mailto:Ian.Dyson@oxfordshire.gov.uk">(Ian.Dyson@oxfordshire.gov.uk)</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |           |        |

...Decisions... Decisions...

## CABINET - TUESDAY, 14 JULY 2026

| <p><i>List published 15 July 2026</i></p> <p><i>Decisions will (unless called in) become effective at 5.00pm on 20 July 2026</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                  |                       |
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| RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | DECISIONS                        | ACTION                |
| <p>Report by Director of Finance and Commercial Services (<b>CAB22</b>)</p> <p>The information contained in this report is exempt in that it falls within the following prescribed categories</p> <p>Paragraph 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>To consider proposals for a potential investment in renewable energy infrastructure, including approval to progress acquisition subject to undertaking further investigation and due diligence.</p> <p><b>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to</b></p> <p><b>a) Agree to the acquisition of the solar farm, on the terms set out in exempt Annex 1.</b></p> <p><b>b) Delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Economy and 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 Annex 1.</b></p> | <p>Recommendations approved.</p> | <p>DFCS (I Dyson)</p> |

*...Decisions... Decisions...*

## **CABINET - TUESDAY, 14 JULY 2026**

| <p><i>List published 15 July 2026</i><br/> <i>Decisions will (unless called in) become effective at 5.00pm on 20 July 2026</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                  |               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| <b>RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>DECISIONS</b> | <b>ACTION</b> |
| <p>c) 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.</p> <p>d) Note that the outcome of the due diligence and contract terms will be shared with Performance Scrutiny and Cabinet ahead of confirming the contract terms.</p> |                  |               |

**CABINET – 14 JULY 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 DAN LEVY, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, PROPERTY AND TRANSFORMATION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><u>Agenda Item 22</u></p> <p>The press release about the proposed purchase of a solar farm states: <i>Oxfordshire County Council is investigating the prospect of buying a solar farm at an undisclosed location in the county that would help meet its own energy needs, reduce carbon footprint and provide a financial return for the taxpayer.</i></p> <p>Purchasing an existing solar farm of itself does absolutely nothing to increase solar power generation or reduce the carbon footprint of the county as a whole. It merely pays the developer of the solar farm a good price and shifts the ownership of the project to the County Council without adding a single kWh to county-wide renewable electricity supply.</p> <p>This is little more than a bookkeeping transaction, appearing to lower the Council's carbon footprint while at the same time increasing the apparent carbon footprint of those who have taken on the Council's former energy contract.</p> <p>In terms of the Council's logic, if I own shares in a local solar</p> | <p>The Council is not exploring the purchase of an existing solar farm. The solar farm in question does not currently exist.</p> <p>Working with an experienced developer to build and operate a successful solar farm will add significant new green energy generation in Oxfordshire and align with the council's green ambitions.</p> |



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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>farm, as I do, I am somehow lowering my carbon footprint.</p> <p>What would be meaningful and good for Oxfordshire as an entity and for the planet would be for the council to take the lead in constructing brand new solar capacity. Why did the Council not propose that truly positive contribution to carbon reduction?</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <p><b>2. COUNCILLOR JAMES FRY</b></p> <p><u>Agenda Item 7</u></p> <p>The Council is buying out the leasehold interest in the Castle Quarter, presumably with borrowings, to increase its return from the tenants on the site.</p> <p>In the absence of the detailed data describing the financial attractions of this purchase, one must ask why the County would be expected to generate a better return from the Castle site than the previous owners, who were one of the country's largest property companies and whose interests include the Westgate shopping centre. The former owners had every incentive to build upon possible synergies between the two neighbouring sites by attracting Westgate shoppers to cross over Castle Street to the Castle Quarter.</p> <p>What property development expertise does the County bring to this site which a major company specialising in the sector lacked? Why should the County prove more successful than professionals with deep roots in the commercial property sector?</p> | <p><b>COUNCILLOR DAN LEVY, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, PROPERTY AND TRANSFORMATION</b></p> <p>The Council purchased the long leasehold interest in Castle Quarter primarily for regeneration and place shaping purposes and not to "increase its return from the tenants on site".</p> <p>Castle Quarter was acquired from Land Securities and has been unloved with very little investment from them and limited asset management occurring over the last decade. Land Securities ownership and redevelopment of Westgate has been actively detrimental to Castle Quarter drawing tenants from Castle Quarter to Westgate.</p> <p>The purchase of the site was made possible because of the net initial yield of 7.87%, which is significantly about the costs of servicing and repaying the borrowing associated with it.</p> <p>The council has appointed specialist advisors – both asset management and property management – with significant and long standing commercial expertise in managing similar sites, to help shape and deliver the strategy to transform what is an asset of significant strategic importance for Oxfordshire, into a thriving hub of economic activity with increased footfall, dwell time and spend in the heart of Oxford.</p> |

