QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Questions are listed in the order in which they were received. The time allowed for this agenda item will not exceed 30 minutes. Should any questioner not have received an answer in that time, a written answer will be provided.

Questions	Answers
1. COUNCILLOR STEWART LILLY	COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
As Science Vale UK is one of the most important economic opportunities to benefit the entire County, can the Leader please confirm that this County Council will support and ensure that appropriate priority will be given to ensure the success of this Enterprise Zone. This will create many jobs for residents of our County. Will the County Council be seeking to take the "Lead Role" in liaison with the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to ensure the right promotions, resources and dialogue with Government officials are made to ensure the success of this opportunity for all in Oxfordshire?	 The County Council is supporting and prioritising the Enterprise Zone and will continue to do so. The Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is responsible for the delivery of the Enterprise Zone (EZ) project and there is an agreed governance structure in place to ensure the progression of the project is appropriately managed and monitored. The County Council and LEP have three interrelated priority areas (Science Vale, Oxford, Bicester) to ensure the success of Oxfordshire as a whole. Our commitment and support of the Enterprise Zone is demonstrated by the fact we now have a Locality Manager for Science Vale and that to date the County Council, in partnership with the LEP and Science Vale UK delivery partnership, has: Secured over £6m of growing places fund to support and drive growth in the EZ. Projects include schemes to improve access to both sites and a project to provide the EZ with global quality broadband. Supported, a small, but growing forensic science company in securing a small Growing Places Fund loan to support its expansion to the EZ. Through 'Invest in Oxfordshire': (Part of the County Councils Economy & Skills) Secured Element 6 - a South African company - currently fitting out their new premises in the EZ that will bring over 120 jobs. Supported Element 6 through this process by providing a 'soft landing' - a holistic support service for new investors that offers end to end support from assistance in finding premises, providing detailed socio-economic data and supporting recruitment, through to information on the local

Questions	Answers
	 housing markets, schooling and leisure. Supported Element 6 with a recent regional growth fund bid to further accelerate growth. Been working with the European Space Agency in a similar vein to secure over 70 jobs at the EZ. Attended conventions to support the area. We are attending the US Bio Convention in April and Space Symposium in May where the EZ will be heavily promoted, along with meeting senior overseas UKTI personnel to promote our offer. Supported the development of an EZ skills pathway, led by David Martin of Culham resulting in a recent £2m employer ownership of skills bid to govt. Worked closely with Milton Park and The Vale of White horse to secure a Local Development Order for the Enterprise Zone and wider Business Park. Working closely with the Highways Agency to improve access for Harwell-Oxford Campus at Chilton Interchange Submitted of a funding bid to the Department for Transport for improvements at Milton Interchange.
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION The Enterprise Zone in and around Harwell and those villages is exciting in many respects, however, I would seek this Council's support that with modifications proposed at the A34 Chilton junction/ A417 which is going to be come an extremely important link road across the southern part of the County, is kept under constant review and that LEP funding is going to be persuaded to assist in that particular highway difficulty. The question is can we keep pressure for A417 and the undoubted heavy traffic it is going to be facing?	SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER I can assure Councillor Lilly that we will take into consideration what impact any modification to the A34 junction would have on the surrounding roads. Yes, we are promoting the Enterprise Zone, but we are not promoting it at the detriment to everywhere else across the County. We are making sure that any improvement there is beneficial not just to the Enterprise Zone but to the people who live and work in the area and also as well to make sure that the knock on effect isn't felt in Oxford or Bicester.

Questions	Answers
2. COUNCILLOR CAROLINE NEWTON	COUNCILLOR MELINDA TILLEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION
Is the Cabinet Member pleased with the progress our children are making in schools?	In short, yes I am, overall, although, there are, of course, inevitably areas of relative strength and weakness and there is always more that can be done and more we shall do, in partnership with schools, through, for example, our Education Strategy.
	Progress from KS1-KS2 is very good. In 2012, 91% of pupils in Oxfordshire made the expected two levels of progress in English and 88% in Mathematics. This is a sharp increase from the results in 2011 and Oxfordshire currently performs above the national and statistical average for this measure.
	When compared with its statistical neighbours, Oxfordshire has the greatest proportion of pupils making at least the expected progress in English and Mathematics.
	I am pleased to report that our countywide reading campaign, delivered by the National Literacy Trust on behalf of the County Council, with a focus on approximately 80 schools, is making its mark and is valued by staff and children alike. The project is expected to deliver substantially improved reading standards as measured at level 2b+ in KS1 tests; contribute to wider improvements in education outcomes; raise the aspirations of children and families; foster a culture of reading and a love of books; and engage the whole community in the pursuit of high standards of literacy. As one of the members of staff involved with the scheme has said: "I must say I have never worked with a programme that has accelerated a child's learning and confidence in reading in such a short time."
	At secondary level, the proportion of pupils making the expected three levels of progress in Mathematics from KS2 to KS4 increased by 3.5% in 2012, placing the County above the national average and in the second quartile nationally.
	In English, however, the proportion of pupils making the expected level of

Questions	Answers
	progress from KS2 to KS4 fell by 4.6%, but this did follow the national pattern of a significant drop for 2012.
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION	SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER
Would Councillor Tilley like to join me in congratulating Ickneild Community College in my own division in Watlington for its very much improved results in GCSE's last year, which included a 9% increase in pupils achieving 5 or more GCSE's A*-C and some outstanding results in Maths with 78% of students achieving A*-C which places the Maths Department among some of the highest performing in Oxfordshire and could she reflect on whether other secondary schools in Oxfordshire are achieving similarly high standards and what the Council is doing to help improve them?	I am not very pleased with the progress in our secondary schools. Except for exceptional schools like lcknield and a few others, we are not making the progress that I would like to see. I think the work that we are undertaking and the granting of a teaching school status in Oxfordshire (so that we can grow our teachers and jointly with Oxfordshire County Council) will help to improve outcomes in our secondary schools. Also while I am on my feet, there is a consultation at the moment on the DfE website about the new curriculum it is on the website until 16 April when the consultation closes, so if any Councillor wishes to comment on the new curriculum they can do so there or they contact us here. Our department here will also inform all members of our response before the deadline.
3. COUNCILLOR CHARLES MATHEW	COUNCILLOR HIBBERT-BILES, CABINET MEMBER FOR GROWTH & INFRASTRUCTURE
Local residents have made clear their need for continuing a recycling facility at Stanford- in-the Vale. Would Councillor Hibbert-Biles please comment on the Council's plans to keep open this facility, which delivers an important local service?	We know the residents value this centre and we are looking at ways to make sure it stays open.

Questions	Answers
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION	SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER
May I offer gratitude on behalf of local residents for your confirmation that Stanford recycling facility will stay open for the foreseeable future?	Thank you.
 4. COUNCILLOR LARRY SANDERS The Children's Society recently did a study of the number of children who are defined as living in poverty who do not receive Free School Meals. They observed that many of these children come to school without lunch of the means to pay for it. How many children in Oxfordshire live in poverty and do not receive Free School Meals; what has the Council done in the last year to reduce this number and what plans does it have for the coming year?	 COUNCILLOR MELINDA TILLEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION It is important to distinguish between the number of Children in Poverty and the number eligible for Free School Meals, the former being much higher than the latter, which is one of the points made by the Children's Society report referred to by CIIr Sanders. The criteria for eligibility are those set by the DfE. In Oxfordshire we estimate that, using the Children's Society definitions, there are c. 19,511 children from families in poverty. The number of children taking Free School Meals in Oxfordshire is 8,680. Rather than comparing take up of Free School Meals with the number of children from families living in poverty, a more meaningful comparison would be with the number of children <i>eligible</i> for Free School Meals. Unfortunately these data are not available (we don't know how many families choose not to claim) but we can estimate that number (extrapolating from Children's Society data). On that basis, we estimate that there are very approximately, 13,020 families eligible for Free School Meals. Food With Thought (FWT) actively encourages parents of primary school children to claim FSM if they are eligible. This is done, for example, by :
	 reminding parents on the flier which is distributed to all parents when the menu changes (twice a year)

Questions	Answers			
	alerting parents at thevia the FWT website	point of starting p	primary as part of	an information pack
	Of course these reminder primary schools which are			of pupils who attend
	Schools have also been encouraged in the recent past to maximise the tak of Free School Meals in their schools because the Pupil Premium which receive is directly related to it.			
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION	SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER			
Thank you Councillor Tilley for a full response to my question, which has some worrying elements, including that there at 10,800 children in Oxfordshire in poverty who are not getting free school meals. I wonder if Councillor Tilley would agree with me that perhaps a more assertive approach rather than relying completely on the provider would be helpful?	Yes I do agree with you and yes I do think it is important. I think the pupil premium will go some way to alleviating this problem. But it is difficult to know apart from getting into schools and pushing schools that all children eligible are getting frère schools. The thought of any child turning up to school with no breakfast and no lunch terrifies me, so yes I do agree with you Councillor Sanders.			
5. COUNCILLOR LARRY SANDERS	COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL			
How many people in Oxfordshire are living in fuel poverty (they would need to spend at				
least 10% of their income on fuel in order to provide themselves with adequate warmth)? How many of these are children; how many	Area	All Households (estimated)	Fuel Poor Households	Fuel Poor (%)
are older people?	Cherwell	56,306	5,447	9.7%
	Oxford	56,204	7,086	12.6%
What has the Council done in the last year to	South Oxfordshire	52,955	5,701	10.8%
reduce these numbers and what success has		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	

Questions	Answers			
it had? What plans are in place for the coming year?	Vale of White Horse	48,300	5,056	10.5%
	West Oxfordshire	42,705	4,714	11.0%
	Oxfordshire	256,470	28,004	10.9%
	South East Data relates to 2010 and is tak	3,473,397	401,054	11.5%
	The data sets available d number of children and of provide estimates of vulne A vulnerable household is someone with a long-tern estimates in Oxfordshire	lder people currently erable households cu s defined as one con	in fuel poverty; he urrently in fuel pov taining children, tl	owever they do verty. ne elderly, and/or
	Area	Fuel Poor (%)	vulnerable ho	ercentage of useholds who Poor (%)
	Cherwell	9.7%	10.	7%
	Oxford	12.6%		9%
	South Oxfordshire	10.8%		9%
	Vale of White Horse	10.5%		6%
	West Oxfordshire	11.0%	12.	1%
	Oxfordshire	10.9%		0%
	The calculation of estimate based on the national rate	ted percentage of fue	el poor vulnerable	households is

Questions	Answers
	Oxfordshire has received funding of £152,754 to deliver programmes and initiatives addressing fuel poverty and to prevent vulnerable people across the county suffering from excess cold.
	 The grant received from the Department of Health has provided the following practical help for people in need: Practical refurbishments for households vulnerable to the cold (over 60's and other provided to any set of the provided to any set of t
	 other vulnerable groups) Delivery of additional benefit entitlement checks Free membership to an oil bulk-buying scheme for up to 250 households Provision of 'Fuel Vouchers' & Food Boxes
	 Specialist energy advice training Talks and events for relevant groups (WI's, over 60's social groups, young parents, community groups, etc.) The project has a dedicated telephone support line: 0800 107 0044
	 By March 2013 we will have: Completed at least 300 benefit checks for vulnerable clients and 200 vulnerable people have increased their income Distributed £25,000 of extra fuel or food vouchers to a minimum of 80 people who are identified as vulnerable and in fuel poverty
	 Distributed £45,000 of practical refurbishments to assist 140 vulnerable households to improve the energy efficiency of their homes Delivered energy efficiency training to at least 20 volunteers 10 community action schemes will have identified a minimum of 150 vulnerable isolated older people in their local communities
	 Piloted the use of 'smart meters' in 35 households to test the effectiveness of smart meters in better managing fuel use. To be used as a model to engage other registered social landlords Recruited 75 more households to the Oxfordshire bulk oil buying scheme and fund their membership for one year

Questions	Answers
	PartnersThe following partners are involved in the Warm Homes Healthy People Fund• NHS Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire• Citizens Advice Oxfordshire• Age UK Oxfordshire• Oxfordshire Rural Community Council• Oxfordshire Community Foundation• Oxfordshire County Council• Oxford City Council• Oxford City Council• West Oxfordshire District Council• Cherwell District Council• Vale of Whitehorse District Council• South Oxfordshire District Council• Oxfordshire Supporting People• United Sustainable Energy Agency• Home Improvement Agencies throughout Oxfordshire
	 Promotion The Warm Homes Healthy People fund has been promoted widely across the county. OCC's has been actively taking the message and information to vulnerable people via its social workers, occupational therapists and other key staff that come in to contact with our vulnerable residents. We have also promoted the fund through our online resource, libraries and via OVCS. Priority 10 of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy is <i>'Tackling the broader determinants of health through better housing'</i>. As part of this priority the Health Improvement Board is working to improve the co-ordination, sustainability and
	The following possible roles and recommendation were put to Health Improvement Board on the 20 March 2013:

Questions	Answers
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION Again, thank you Councillor Hudspeth for a full response. There are some very worrying elements which show 28,000 household are in poverty in Oxfordshire of which at least half are vulnerable households, that is with children and elderly or with some one with a long-term illness of a disability. I note that there is £150,000 to help. It comes to less that £10 per vulnerable household and wonder if there are other things that could be done that could be more effective?	 To promote sustainability and wider participation in the work of the Affordable Warmth Network to ensure the work can continue beyond the period currently funded. This may include future bids for Warm Homes Healthy People grants. Monitoring progress on current work and giving it a higher profile through the H&WB. This can be achieved by including relevant indicators in the "basket of indictors for housing and health" but also by setting outcomes for 2013-14 for reduction in fuel poverty in the County. Assisting with surveillance and interpretation of data to ensure efficient and effective targeting of limited resource to the areas / sectors with worst fuel poverty outcomes. SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER I think that the main thing is the County Council is actually being proactive in this. It is actually about the insulation being there. The County Council continue to work to make sure that people do have decent homes, but of course you have got to remember that a lot of the housing is down to the local district councils and the City Council and it is important that they do their bit to provide good warm homes for their residents.
6. COUNCILLOR ZOE PATRICK	COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
Will the Leader of the Council be taking up the recent launch of Norman Baker's door-to- door strategy, the coalition government's vision for a flourishing, joined-up, sustainable	I'm sure that Councillor Patrick can remember that in the budget I set aside £50,000 to investigate the possibility of a fully integrated ticket, not just for buses but one that can be used across all forms of transport, including car parks. I have always had the desire to have a modern 21st century fully integrated system for

Questions	Answers
transport system which is encouraging councils to take up multi-operator ticketing systems?	Oxfordshire and I am therefore delighted that Norman Baker is following my example.
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION	SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER
Thank you Leader for your answer, I look forward to seeing this in the new Council. I would like reassurance that this will also include some of the more rural areas of the County not just the City?	Quite simply my aim has always been Oxfordshire wide and I think that the proposal that came forward a few years ago was only about Oxford City. What happened with the joint ticketing in Oxford was due to the proposal that came forward because that was the only system available under the old outdated wayfarer technology that was used at the time. However, I can give a reassurance that things have moved on and they have got a City Centre deal working and my aim is to have an Oxfordshire wide scheme including such things as car parking and anything else relating to transport to make it at easy as possible for people to move around the County.
7. COUNCILLOR JANET GODDEN	COUNCILLOR RODNEY ROSE, DEPUTY LEADER
In the light of the Prime Minister's recent much publicised praise for the campaign for a community path from Eynsham to Botley, is the Cabinet now prepared to back the efforts of Bike Safe and support them in seeking additional funding to make the community path a reality?	I congratulate all at Bike Safe for their continued campaign for a community path from Eynsham to Botley. I do support this initiative, while regretting that the County Council has no financial or officer support at this time.
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION	SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER
My question was what advice can you offer the Prime Minister about the best way to further the cause of a community path	I would hate to offer advice to my local PM because obviously he knows what's best for the Country, but until we get rid of the deficit that was left behind by the previous Labour Government there is very little we can do.

Questions	Answers
between Eynsham and Botley which he has supported?	
8. COUNCILLOR ROZ SMITH	COUNCILLOR RODNEY ROSE, DEPUTY LEADER
The London Road from Sandhills to Headington Centre and the Slade Road are reported as in the top ten of the country's most congested roads. Drivers experiencing such congested roads will inevitably find other routes, often through residential side roads, to shorten their journey times. What are the council's plans to mitigate these congested roads and to stop 'rat-running' through residential roads?"	It's no secret that Oxford's road network experiences significant congestion problems during peak hours, and that the City was never designed to cope with the volume of traffic passing through it today. Much work has been done and continues to be done to address these issues, not least the highly successful Park & Ride sites which have been instrumental in reducing the number of cars coming into the City Centre. We are in the process of creating an extra 500 spaces at Thornhill Park & Ride, provide more capacity for Headington commuters. "Oxford is also very well served by bus services and cycle routes and we always encourage people, where possible, to consider these extremely viable alternatives to the car. The County Council recently brokered a Smartcard deal with the City's two major bus companies which has made bus travel easier than ever before. "We have also launched the Oxfordshire Car Share scheme, a project aimed at helping the environment, cutting congestion and saving money for motorists at a time when the cost of running a car is more expensive than ever. This scheme continues to grow and we now have thousands of registered members making many hundreds of shared journeys between Oxford and the wider County.
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION	SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER
Thank you Chairman, while I am on my feet can we wish Councillor Rose a speedy recovery and thank him for his response. His response however, does not mention the	In relation to that I can't say why he omitted the green travel plan. They are important when planning permission goes forward, because obviously if there are buildings being proposed there are knock on effects with more people coming to the area. We work closely with the hospitals. I do think that we have to have a

Questions	Answers
green travel plans imposed on institutions like hospitals, universities and indeed schools in the area (Headington area). We have got some vast building going on including the possibility of an extra 1,500 staff going on the Churchill site going onto Old Road. I wonder if he hadn't included these green travel plans because you share with some of the residents concern that they are not worth the paper on which they are inscribed.	more strategic review of that whole area because there is an awful lot of development going on. I think we have got to look to see what can be done to encourage more people to use public transport and to actually reduce the burden of the people in that area, but I don't know the reason why it wasn't in there in the first place, I will get an answer for that.
9. COUNCILLOR JENNY HANNABY	COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
I thank the Chairman of the Health & Wellbeing Board for answering my question to Cabinet regarding delayed transfers of care. I am aware of the implementation of discharge to assess and fully support the initiative, to the extent the Liberal Democrat alternative budget rejected by the ruling group had funded a further five occupational therapists.	The Council and the NHS are building on good relationships established over many years to get us all through a period of change. There is strong commitment to working together for the benefit of the people of Oxfordshire. This commitment is demonstrated by a Joint Commissioning Strategy for older people, active discussions about integrated health and social care teams working on the front line and a proposed larger pooled budget. Furthermore the Director of Social Services has based himself at the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group's HQ in recent months to help build new relationships with GPs. We all recognise that despite some tricky negotiations from time to time, we have to work together to get the best outcomes for local people.
The success of this system depends entirely on partnership co-operation, comments made at the Health & Wellbeing Board gave the impression that this is not happening. Is it not the duty of the Health and Wellbeing board to monitor working practices and if found lacking sends out strong warnings further delays due to non-co-operation will not be tolerated.	

Questions	Answers
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION I note that the Director of Social Services based himself two years to working with the Joint Commission and I also know that he had put himself on the Health & Wellbeing Board. So at the last Wellbeing Board were you not as dismayed as I was to hear that there seemed to be a happy acceptance that delayed transfers of care will be going up rather than going down in the future and though they are putting in good working practices together it is obvious that the NHS and essential services just are not working to bring down these delaying transfers of care.	SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER I am Chairman of the Health & Wellbeing Board and I was actually present at that meeting, I am sorry but I cannot recall anybody present being happy about the increase in delayed transfers. I think that remark is absolutely out of order because everyone is acknowledging the fact. We have to work harder together to reduce that. We are putting in a process to make sure that there is joint working, if fact if you remember there was reference to a meeting earlier in the day where we were working with the Clinical Commissioning Group and the NHS because we have got to get down this delayed transfer, so I am sorry I just can't understand where your remark has come from.
10. COUNCILLOR JANET GODDEN	COUNCILLOR RODNEY ROSE, DEPUTY LEADER
Recent NICE advice on active travel, <u>http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?act</u> <u>ion=byID&o=13975</u> addressed specifically to directors of Highways and of Public Health requires them	We recognise the vital role that walking and cycling play in keeping people of all ages active and healthy. Walking and cycling is a low-cost option for individuals, and can be built into the daily travel routine, unlike other forms of physical activity. In particular, we recognise that our transport policy needs to support efforts to tackle obesity, and help people to maintain health in old age through

Questions	Answers
 Questions <i>Ensure</i> that local, high-level strategic policies and plans support and encourage both walking and cycling. This includes a commitment to invest sufficient resources to ensure more walking and cycling – and recognition that this will benefit individuals and the wider community. <i>Ensure</i> that the walking and cycling aspects of these plans are developed in conjunction with relevant voluntary and community organisations. Assess the impact of relevant policies and decisions on people's ability to walk 	remaining active. Encouraging greater use of public transport is also important, because journeys by bus or train usually involve some walking or cycling, whereas journeys by car usually involve very little. Our Local Transport Plan 3, which is the overarching transport policy document for transport in Oxfordshire, contains strong policies supporting walking and cycling (see attached). When we update LTP3 this year we will be looking to further strengthen these policies, and the document will make clearer links than before to public health, referencing the Oxfordshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The updated LTP3 will be drafted for members' consideration after the county council elections, through the proposed Transport Advisory Panel (if adopted by the new Council), and is expected to be published for consultation in the autumn.
and cycle. Where necessary, amend them to ensure support for walking and cycling. What action will the Cabinet be taking with regard to this advice? Does the Cabinet plan to apply for additional monies from the Department of Transport that will enable it to put this guidance into practice for the benefits of Oxfordshire?	 When we develop walking and cycling infrastructure schemes, we will involve local users and potential users to ensure we get the detail right. We have a successful track record of carrying out community walking and cycling audits, which are extremely useful in finding out exactly what is needed. We also build in consideration of the needs of pedestrians and cyclists in the development of, and decision making on all highway improvement schemes. We remain committed to seeking external funding to support the implementation of our ambitions to improve walking and cycling infrastructure, in particular to support housing and employment growth. We will take up opportunities to bid for government funding for schemes and programmes, focussing on those where there is a match between the criteria and our strategic priorities, and where we have schemes developed to a sufficient level, including options appraisal and
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION	preliminary design. SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER
Is there a date for the completion of LTP3 and its associated policies (very happy to have a	LTP3 is a 20 year document lasting up to 2030 which is about aspirations rather than a particular list of programmes. LTP1 and 2 which was a list of programmes

Questions	Answers
written answer).	were then actually bid for where as LTP3 is a more strategic look with aspirations and not actually specific about when they will be delivered but the period of LTP3 is well known and Council agreed it two years ago when it was put forward.