

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
<p>1. COUNCILLOR STEWART LILLY</p> <p>At our September meeting a motion was unanimously passed to instruct officers to examine the merits or otherwise, of installing forms of solar/ environmentally friendly energy systems for OCC premises – where appropriate. May I enquire as to the progress to date?”</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO-SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Previous work</p> <p>From 2003, the Council has worked to promote renewable energy and heat on its own estate and in schools with some 30, mainly small, installations to date. In late 2012, with the introduction of the Feed In Tariff for solar PV, the conditions were right to make a major investment in solar PV</p> <p>We engaged Thames Valley energy to identify roofs suitable for solar PV and invited tenders for a framework PV installation contract. As we did this, the Government lowered the FIT rate and by the time the tenders were returned, the balance of cost and FIT made the schemes unviable. The pay-backs were longer than the design life of the units. Since then the balance has shifted so that pay-backs are better but this project has now been superseded by the Properties and Facilities with Carillion.</p> <p>Current approach</p> <p>The contract with Carillion started in July 2012. The energy component of the contract is predicated on a ‘whole building’ approach. Carillion will identify the buildings with the greatest energy saving potential; survey them and propose a full set of energy measures – both energy efficiency and renewable energy.</p> <p>In this way, Carillion will visit each building once in the course of the contract and carry out the full set of measures necessary to reduce energy consumption by 25% - the contractual target for the corporate estate. We consider this to be more</p>

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	<p>cost effective than installing a single measure across the whole estate with repeat visits to anyone building.</p> <p>Carillion have already used our historical energy performance data to benchmark the whole estate and have carried out feasibility studies on buildings with the greatest energy saving potential. Out of 8 buildings proposed for the 2013/14 programme, 7 included solar PV and 3 included biomass boilers.</p> <p>However, there are two main constraints on our investment in energy measures: One is uncertainty over the future shape of the estate and the other is the availability of funding.</p> <p>Stranded assets</p> <p>'Whole building' energy projects tend to have a payback period of between 10 – 15 years. Individually, the solar PV schemes currently proposed by Carillion have a minimum payback of 12 years.</p> <p>To make an investment of this length requires some confidence that we will be using the building for at least the pay-back period and preferably for the life of the asset in order to maximise the return. (Solar panels have a guaranteed life of about 20 years.)</p> <p>At the moment, the Council is planning to rationalise its estate. Until we know the final shape of these plans, we will not have the confidence needed to make these medium term investments across the whole estate.</p> <p>Capital funding</p> <p>The Council requires schemes funded from capital to pay-back within ten years. For this year's projects, the pay-back periods for the solar PV schemes proposed by Carillion ranged from 12 to 16 years. Therefore none of them can be approved for funding from the Council's own capital.</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p data-bbox="880 221 1496 252">Loan funding from prudential borrowing</p> <p data-bbox="880 296 2029 400">The Council is prepared to fund schemes from prudential borrowing provided they are self-financing. We have therefore asked Carillion to revisit its proposals to test their viability with prudential loan funding.</p> <p data-bbox="880 443 1182 474">Community funding</p> <p data-bbox="880 517 1854 547">We are also exploring the benefits of a community funding approach.</p> <p data-bbox="880 590 2029 694">The County Council has partnered with the City Council to promote a community funding project called OxFutures. The project is being delivered by the Low Carbon Hub.</p> <p data-bbox="880 737 2029 991">The Low Carbon Hub has already demonstrated its ability to raise funds through community share offers. It raised over £500k to fund the construction of the Osney Lock hydropower scheme and has just installed the largest solar PV scheme in the county on the roof of the Oxford Bus Company garage, worth £150k. The company receives free electricity and the carbon benefit. The Hub receives the FIT to pay off the loan and generate a surplus which is reinvested in local energy projects.</p> <p data-bbox="880 1034 2029 1102">The OxFutures project will strengthen the Hub's offer with revolving funds to develop projects and to fund construction before the public share offer.</p> <p data-bbox="880 1145 2029 1326">Such an approach fits well with the Coalition policy on community energy: to "encourage community-owned renewable energy schemes where local people benefit from the power produced¹." In fact, the Government completed a consultation on a community energy strategy earlier this year and expect to publish the strategy next year.</p>

¹ *The Coalition: our programme for government*, Cabinet Office, May 2010.

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	<p>As part of OxFutures, the Low Carbon Hub is offering funded solar PV schemes to schools. We are now considering this approach for our own buildings and comparing it with prudential loan funding.</p> <p>Conclusions</p> <p>The Council already installs renewable energy schemes alongside its energy efficiency projects where they are cost effective.</p> <p>Carillion has benchmarked the whole estate to identify buildings with the greatest potential for cost effective energy measures and developed a first year investment programme.</p> <p>The rate of investment is constrained by access to appropriate funds and the current uncertainty over the future shape of the corporate estate.</p>
<p>2. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>Now we are living in the 21st Century would the Leader of the County Council consider recommending to his Cabinet colleagues that Oxfordshire County Council follows the majority of local governments in the UK in their quest to be more open and accountable and have the full Council proceeding video recorded and made available to view on the Council's website?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>This issue was raised at the last Council meeting and has been discussed by Political Group Leaders, who are all supportive of improved transparency. The Deputy Leader is coordinating a cross party group to consider this issue further and will report back in due course.</p>
<p>3. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>Would the Chair and the Cabinet join me in congratulating the Oxfordshire County Music Service, together with massed choirs from a</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR MELINDA TILLEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES</p> <p>The Music Service is indeed a jewel in our crown. What is most important is that it continues to provide those remarkable opportunities for the children and young people of Oxfordshire. I am committed to supporting the service in a way in</p>

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<p>dozen Oxfordshire schools, on yet another amazing and joyful concert, this time celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Britten -- and would you all agree that it is vital for the County Council to remain involved in any new governance arrangements, so that it can remain a truly <i>county</i> service, that we can continue to be proud of?</p>	<p>which it remains both viable and sustainable. To do this in the present climate requires us to recognise that old models of organisation and delivery may not be sustainable.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>My original question states very clearly “it is vital for the County Council to remain involved in any new governance arrangements” so what I would like to know is – to what extent does the Cabinet Member guarantee that the County Council will remain involved in any new governance arrangements?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Thank you Chairman, I refer Councillor Pressel to my previous answer.</p>
<p>4. COUNCILLOR NICK HARDS</p> <p>Please will the Cabinet Member explain what steps can be taken to enforce the parking restrictions on roads such as Lydalls Road, Lydalls Close and Manor Road in my Division, and also the restriction on the section of Station Road which is supposed to be used for access only. The problem is largely down to commuters who park all day, walk to the station, flout the rules and subject my constituents to foul mouthed tirades when</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO-SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>At present the County Council have no powers to enforce parking restrictions in South Oxfordshire and as such the restrictions you refer to can only be enforced by Thames Valley Police. I will ask that County Council officers contact TVP to see whether PCSO’s can make regular visits to the streets to issue Fixed Penalty Notices to any offending vehicles.</p> <p>The County is working closely with SODC and Didcot Town Council to determine whether an application to adopt parking enforcement powers in the District could be considered.</p>

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they are challenged.	
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>What more can you (as Cabinet Member for Oxfordshire County Council) do to support District Town Council and Henley Town Council, which are also trying to achieve this in securing parking enforcement powers to South Oxfordshire District Council.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>This is a difficult one for the County. As my role as a Henley Town Councillor, I am supporting the Town Council in their pursuit with the District Council in trying to get similar parking done in the area, but it is down to the District Council in the end. All we can do is lobby them and encourage them to do it.</p>
<p>5. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>I asked last year if the Leader and the CEO could please ask Scottish and Southern Electric (SSE) to prevent the quite regular power outages that people in my division are suffering. Unfortunately, they seem to be getting more rather than less frequent. As well as inconveniencing residents, on one or two occasions recently they have forced restaurants and the cinema in Walton Street to close. Please make it clear that this is NOT acceptable!</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO-SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>In October the Emergency Planning Team contacted Councillor Pressel to advise that contact had been made with SSE to raise our concerns about power outages in Oxford. The Council has asked for written notification of the action SSE proposes to take to rectify the outages with expected timescales for such action. This, along with any changes received, will be shared with Councillor Pressel as they are made available to officers. The Councils Street Lighting Team has similarly raised concerns about the number of outages through SSE's contracting arm. Should Councillor Pressel wish to reinforce the Councils views SSE's Director of Distribution for the South is Bev Keogh and can be contacted at bev.keogh@sse.com</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Would the Cabinet Member agree that it is very disappointing that I/we seem to have had no reply yet? Or is it that we haven't been asking the right people or the right question?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>As you will see in my initial answer, I have given the email address of the SSE Director of Distribution for the South and hopefully, Councillor Pressel and I in our separate lobbying will be able to get something out of them.</p>

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<p>6. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>I was horrified to learn that there is now apparently NO money in the highways budget to renew any lines on the roads for the rest of the financial year. In some parts of my division they are so faint that road users are in danger. This is not good enough and I'd like to know what the Cabinet member is going to do about it.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO-SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The Council's budget for maintaining roads is under considerable pressure due to the deterioration of the carriageways arising from particularly bad winters in the last few years. Nevertheless, the Council has continued to invest in improving road markings at around £50 per mile for all the County roads. Road markings are far more likely to last longer when laid in the warmer months as they do not adhere well to cold or damp surfaces. As a result the cost of works is cheaper in summer as cost increases in winter as it is necessary to dry the road surface prior to laying the lines although the life expectancy of lines laid in winter would still not be as long as those laid in summer months. In order to make the most of the limited resources therefore the team have sought, as far as possible to have all planned lining works done during the summer period, which is why the bulk of this budget has now been spent. A small amount of the budget is retained however in order that the Council can react to areas where there is a demonstrable safety issue that needs to be resolved more quickly.</p> <p>Officers are not aware of any outstanding requests for lining works raised by Cllr Presell, but if there are specific locations of concern on principal roads could she please make David Tole aware and if they are considered safety-critical we will endeavour to respond in the current financial year or if not then they will be programmed into future works programmes as per the relative need compared to other locations. Any concerns on non-principal roads, will fall under the remit of Oxford City Council.</p> <p>This year the Area Stewardship fund is available for maintenance activity, including line refresh should Cllr Pressel wish to use her fund in this way.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>It says here that officers are not aware of any outstanding requests. There are four major</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I am not prepared to make any guarantees about how the Council funding is allocated. Yours is not the only division in the County there are another 62 and</p>

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<p>outstanding requests by me, where the work has yet been done, so please make sure you have the right facts in future. But my question is that I have already used a big chunk of my area stewardship money and I can't possible cover all the work that needs to be done with the rest of my area stewardship money, so please can you guarantee that money will be found for the urgent work to be done.</p>	<p>money has got to be wisely spread across the whole of the County. In respect of the outstanding issues in your division, Huw Jones and Sue Scane who are the Directors for that area are sitting at the back and hopefully they will take note of the outstanding items and push it down the line.</p>
<p>7. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>Would the Cabinet member say what steps the County Council has taken to prevent dumping of asbestos, old fridges, builders' rubble and other rubbish in the fields adjacent to the travellers' site at Redbridge Hollow just outside Oxford?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO-SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The fields adjacent to the Redbridge Hollow traveller's site are owned by Oxford City Council. They fall within the Vale of the White Horse District Council administrative area. Fly tipping of the type referred to is a criminal offence under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. District Councils have responsibility for enforcement of this legislation where the tipping occurs within their district.</p> <p>The County Council owns and manages the Redbridge Hollow traveller site. We have been working closely with the Vale of the White Horse District Council and Oxford City Council to address the continuing problem of illegal waste disposal around the site. As landlord for the traveller site we will take legal action if a resident is proven to be illegally disposing of waste in the area. We are also jointly reviewing options to secure the land to reduce the opportunity for illegal waste disposal to take place.</p>
<p>8. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>Would the cabinet member say when facilities at the Redbridge Recycling Centre in Oxford will again allow pedestrians and cyclists,</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO-SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The County Council strive to ensure the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) are managed to protect the wellbeing of all visitors. We operate reasonable and proportionate measures to prevent accidents from occurring</p>

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<p>particularly from my Isis division, to take in items for recycling?</p>	<p>when a hazard is identified. None of Oxfordshire's HWRCs are able to allow pedestrian access because they do not have pavements that provide access nor dedicated walkways around the site. As such, we are unable to guarantee the wellbeing of visitors arriving on foot. Currently Oxfordshire's residents can bring their recycling to the Redbridge HWRC by bicycle as they are considered to be road users and form part of the flow of traffic and are able to enter and exit the site without undue risk.</p> <p>The Household Waste Recycling Centre strategy will be under review soon and as part of this review a public consultation is planned next year. Pedestrian access will be considered as part of any future works or redevelopment of the sites.</p>
<p>9. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>Does the Cabinet member appreciate the distress and heart-ache caused to parents and staff by the threat of closure and loss of funding to both the Grandpont Children's Centre and the independent Donnington Doorstep centre in my Isis division?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR MELINDA TILLEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES</p> <p>I am of course aware of and sympathetic to the concerns of parents and others about the potential loss of any local service that is valued. However, I am now clear that any changes to the work of the Directorate involving early years, social care and early intervention will be subject to detailed review. This review will involve senior Councillors and is likely to take significant time to complete. It is not envisaged that this work will be completed before 16/17 or implemented before 17/18. The Council does not envisage closures for any children's centres or early intervention facilities. The aim is to find innovative ways to save money while at the same time maintaining frontline services.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Would Councillor Tilley agree with me that the reality is that in four years' time, there will be some closures of children's centres and how does she anticipate that she is going to make 10% savings without effecting front line</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>We are doing an in-depth review of all children's centres at Hobson's satellites as I am sure everyone knows and we will be reporting back to Cabinet sometime in the spring 2016 about what we find and Cabinet will make a decision then. I have no intention in pre-empting anything.</p>

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services.	
<p>10. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>Many private cars are used only once or twice a week, if that. The rest of the time they clutter up our streets and cost a fortune in depreciation. One answer that more and more people are considering is to join a car club. How can the County Council do more to enable and encourage car clubs?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO-SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The potential of car clubs to meet transport and other Council policy objectives is recognized and we have supported the provision of these clubs, particularly in Oxford City. We are currently investigating a scheme to link the Council's pool car fleet pool to a car club, this has been done in other areas and has resulted in a saving to the council in the running costs of the pool cars and has also increased the availability of car club vehicles for use outside of office hours.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>My question said "can the County Council do more to enable and encourage car clubs" the reply stated that we have supported the provision of these clubs, but it has been very half-hearted support, trying to get spaces for a car club car is like getting blood out of a stone in some instances that I am aware of. So please can you try and make sure that much more is done to enable and encourage.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I will certainly make sure that much more effort is put into the enabling and encouraging, but at the end of the day people do have choice.</p>
<p>11. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>My division must be the most beautiful in the County, but it does have one glaring problem -- the congestion in Botley Road. The City Council is hoping to succeed in its latest</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO-SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The County Council is currently assessing future Park & Ride demand across Oxford. As part of this we are looking at existing and future pressures on Seacourt and the western approach to Oxford. However, the western approach cannot be looked at in isolation: we are therefore looking at the future strategy for</p>

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<p>attempt to extend the Seacourt park-and-ride car park, but this won't be enough. Please can you tell us when you will be setting up a park-and-ride car park further west, perhaps in Witney, to help reduce the pollution and congestion that is so damaging to our health, our quality of life and our economy?</p>	<p>Park & Ride sites as part of the wider approach to transport networks supporting Oxford and its environs.</p> <p>Technical work is currently underway that will consider the impact of growth in Oxford and across the county on our transport networks. This will form part of the evidence base that will in turn help shape future investment proposals that will come forward as part of the update of the Local Transport Plan.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Thank you, yes it's a detailed answer but it doesn't give me the answer to my main question which is "when will we see a new park & ride car park?" The answer is really vague and I would like to have an assurance that we won't just wait another two decades suffering horrendous congestion on the Botley Road while people just twiddle their thumbs, so please can I have a bit more reassurance.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>There is a possibility of a northern gateway development in the City as part of the S106 monies. If that does materialise, this sort of thing could be considered and included.</p>
<p>12. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>We are told that Oxfordshire's public health budget is 5% below what it should be, if it were allocated on a fair basis. Please can the Leader tell us what he has done to fight for a fair share of the money for Oxfordshire?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>The Public Health Grant for Oxfordshire in 2014-15 is 5% below what would be expected on a fair shares basis. There is no published timetable for when local authorities should reach a fair shares target. Across the country there is a wide range in the "distance from target" from 43% below target to 529% above target. Within the Thames Valley Local Authorities the range is -43% in Slough to -5% in Oxfordshire. Oxfordshire is one of the 44 councils in the country who are within 5% of their target allocation.</p> <p>The grant allocation for Oxfordshire is sufficient to cover the costs of public health services currently commissioned. For this reason no specific</p>

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	representation was made with regard to the public health grant. However at every opportunity I have when meeting senior Politian's I make the case for a fairer funding formula for the residents of Oxfordshire.
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>There is one sentence in this reply that I think is incredible factious. It is the sentence at the beginning of the second paragraph, the grant allocation for Oxfordshire is sufficient to cover the costs of public health services currently commissioned. Well of course it is, you are not going to commission services if you haven't got the money to do it. Are you trying to say please Leader that we have got all the money we need, that Oxfordshire's health is so perfect that we don't need any more money, because that is how it reads.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>As I said in my answer, I am always prepared to ask for more money for the residents of Oxfordshire and I do make representations in line with that, but currently, allocation for public health is quite sufficient for the areas we have commissioned.</p>
<p>13. COUNCILLOR GILL SANDERS</p> <p>Could the Cabinet member please promise to re-examine the parking needs of residents of Littlemore, Blackbird Leys and Northfield Brook? When the Kassam Stadium was being built it was agreed that parking restrictions in these areas should be introduced to alleviate any potential problems for residents. This scheme has worked well and we would all wish that it continues.</p> <p>It was then decided to extend the parking</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO-SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>I note the Councillor's positive comments regarding the operation of the residents parking scheme around the Kassam Stadium and I will ensure that the Parking Team are made aware of them – the nature of their job means that they are normally recipients of criticism rather than praise</p> <p>I'm told that the extension of the scheme to cover Sunday mornings was brought in during 2007 at the request of the local councillors representing the area around the stadium at that time as part of the feedback to the consultation to introduce charges for parking permits throughout Oxford.</p> <p>Councillor Sanders will no doubt be aware that the rules governing the signs and</p>

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<p>restrictions to cover the car boot sales that take place at the Kassam Stadium on Sunday mornings. This scheme only serves to inconvenience local residents, their visitors, local church goers and other visitors to the areas who all frequently get fined for parking on these days. They are not aware that parking restrictions are in place and are not looking for parking restriction signs - which are few and far between - on Sunday mornings.</p> <p>Local councillors have been told that to change the regulations would be too expensive but, despite requesting costs from officers, we have not been told what 'expensive' means. Could the cabinet member please tell me how much the changes would cost and let me know when we can expect the changes to the existing parking regulations to be introduced?</p>	<p>markings for parking restrictions are particularly bureaucratic and for the Kassam CPZs special authorisation was required from the DfT. Any changes to the scheme signing would also require their approval, otherwise none of the restrictions could be enforced. However there is currently a national moratorium on such changes whilst the rules are re-written– as a result our hands are tied. We believe these changes might not be introduced by DfT before spring 2015.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Can you assure me, that when these new regulations (that you say are due to come in before Spring 2015) come into effect that you will actually ask officers to look at the parking restrictions timing in the areas which I have listed in my question? It is actually causing quite a lot of distress for residents who have to have parking restrictions unnecessarily on a Sunday. Could you also tell me, why the</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>In respect of the second part of that, I will have to give you a written answer about that. In respect of the Kassam Stadium, I went there on Sunday just to see if there was an issue and if there was a situation. I did see that there are signs up there that from 8.30 – 1.30 on Sundays no parking in the streets around the Kassam, I will take that up with the officers and try and sort something out. I do recognise the situation there.</p>

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amendments to proposed residents parking scheme in Cutteslowe area can go ahead prior to the introduction of these new regulations and the scheme in Littlemore and Blackbird Leys cannot be looked at before 2015.	