

QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

ANNEX 2

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 CHARLES MATHEW</p> <p>Carillion told councillors at the Open Day on 21st July that £5.46 million of capital receipts had been achieved in the last year. Would the Cabinet Member for Finance please let us know where these funds have been applied?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LAWRIE STRATFORD, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE</p> <p>All capital receipts generated are treated as a corporate flexible resource and are used against schemes within the capital programme that do not have other specific funding sources, such as developer contributions or specific grants. Capital receipts are held in the capital receipts unapplied reserve until they are needed to finance schemes. The balance on the reserve as at 1 April 2015 was £16.078m and this is forecast to be used in the current capital programme by the end of 2016/17. The schemes that require funding from flexible corporate resources include the Fire Review programme (includes provision for a new fire station), the Extra Care Housing programme, the Broadband programme and schemes within the Asset Utilisation Programme.</p>
<p>2. COUNCILLOR CHARLES MATHEW</p> <p>Would the Cabinet Member for Business and Customer Services inform the Council what the total fees charged by Carillion were on the recently in completed £2 million contract for new portable buildings at Bartholomew School, Eynsham please?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR NICK CARTER, CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS & CUSTOMER SERVICES</p> <p>£0.216m from a total cost of £2.112m.</p>

<p>3. COUNCILLOR SAM COATES</p> <p>Now that it has been revealed that Oxford City Council has consistently failed to meet even the basic EU standards of air quality of 40 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m3) of nitrogen dioxide and is now ranked as one of the worst cities in the country for air pollution in the City centre what measures will the County be offering to assist in seeking to improve the situation?</p> <p>As the County is responsible for planning our major roads, public transport contracting and highways policy, all of which are the seen as the critical elements in reducing the local concentration of nitrogen dioxide emissions from vehicles is it now time to suggest to the City that as they have patently failed to achieve any progress over recent years it may be best for the County to take up full responsibility.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The County Council is actively involved in measures to improve Air Quality. For example, it has recently submitted a bid for ultra-low city funding, to support major uptake of electric vehicles in Oxford city, and is also supporting the Oxford Bus Company bid for OLEV funding for electric buses in the city. Our ambitions for a Zero emission zone, policy for enhanced cycle access, and other measures set out in the Oxford Transport Strategy are other examples of our further commitment to support reduction in pollution in the city and we continue to work closely with the City Council to reduce air pollution - as the City Council remains the statutory body responsible for Air Quality. Central Government has launched a consultation on Air Quality, covering this and other issues, which we will be responding to in due course.</p>
<p>4. COUNCILLOR SAM COATES</p> <p>The Office of National Statistics suggests that the level of fatal and serious accidents of cyclists over the last ten years has generally been going down with the exception of Oxfordshire where it seems to be rising. The 2014 Fire Service record suggest that there have been 4 deaths recorded last year, 75 serious accidents and nearly 300 minor</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The tables below summarise the trend in reported pedal cycle casualties in Great Britain and Oxfordshire.</p> <p>Reported pedal cyclist injuries -Great Britain and Oxfordshire 2005-2014</p>

crashes with recorded injuries, an 87% increase in one year .Could you as the responsible portfolio holder explain why these deaths and serious injuries are on the increase and whether they may stem from poor maintenance of the road surface?

Great Britain	2005/09 average	2011	2012	2013	2014	2014 - change from 2005-09 average	2014 - change from 2013
Killed / Seriously injured (KSI)	2528	3192	3340	3252	3514	39%	8%
Slight injury	13934	16023	15751	16168	17773	28%	10%

Oxfordshire	2005/09 average	2011	2012	2013	2014	2014 - change from 2005-09 average	2014 - change from 2013
Killed / Seriously injured (KSI)	46	62	72	61	75	63%	23%
Slight injury	227	224	233	234	287	26%	23%

As can be seen there have been appreciable increases in the number of reported pedal cyclist injuries over the past ten years both nationally and locally (which at least in part appear to be associated with an increase in cycling). While the increase in KSI totals in 2014 in Oxfordshire was appreciably higher than reported nationally, there is typically a higher level of year to year variability when looking at comparatively small sets of data as is the case here; the increase in the number of slight injuries in Oxfordshire was in fact rather lower than reported nationally when comparing the 2014 total with the 2005-09 average.

Provisional statistics for pedal cyclist injuries in Oxfordshire in 2015 (January to August) shows a fall in KSI and slight totals of around 10% as compared to the same period in 2014 (national data is not yet available for this period).

	<p>The significant rise in the totals in Oxfordshire in 2014 is nevertheless clearly of concern and a detailed review of the accident data is being carried out to gain a fuller understanding of the reasons. This work has included examining the following:</p> <p>accident causation factors the characteristics of the road users involved (including age and gender) the location of the accidents (both at a detailed level, looking at specific accident problem sites, and also looking at larger geographic areas)</p> <p>To date this work has not identified any obvious changes in 2014 as compared to previous years, but further work is planned, including liaising with other authorities to compare their detailed statistics.</p> <p>Specifically on the question of road maintenance, in only 1% of pedal cyclist accidents in Oxfordshire was a poor or defective road surface identified as a possible causation factor in the police report; this proportion is identical to that reported in the pedal cyclist accident data for Great Britain as a whole. All reports of road accidents (of any severity) received from the police are carefully reviewed, and locations of accidents where a specific road surface defect has been identified are referred for inspection, to complement the normal inspection regime.</p>
<p>5. COUNCILLOR SAM COATES</p> <p>Will the Deputy Leader of the Council with his role as head of Human Resources be following the lead of numerous other local councils such as the Scottish Convention of Local Authorities who have stated openly that they will not be taking up the suggested paths in the Trade Union Bill before Parliament of cancelling the union check off system of membership payments and restricting the</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR RODNEY ROSE, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>The Council would comply with any legal change to trade union legislation, including deducting subscriptions from payroll but we do not anticipate that this will affect any other aspects of the relationship between the Council and its trade unions, which we expect to, continue to be positive and productive.</p>

<p>rights of union officials to represent their members. Would he confirm that this County Council will continue to negotiate with the relevant trade unions respecting that trade union officials need time and facilities to act on behalf of their members and will the Council ignore the negative consequences of this proposed legislation designed as it is to cynically undermine the trade unions ability to represent their members?</p>	
<p>6. COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS</p> <p>Now that the consultation on the proposed cuts to rural bus services and all subsidised routes has concluded could you give an account of which routes will be cuts or the service reduced? Could you give a clear indication of the cuts to Dial a Ride services and routes that carry passengers from Witney on the A40?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>We are not yet in a position to state exactly which, if any, subsidised bus services will cease as a consequence of changes to the subsidised bus budget or what the impact will be on Dial-a-Ride.</p> <p>Proposals around reducing the subsidised buses and Dial-a-Ride budget were put to public consultation between 19th June and 15th September 2015. The findings from this consultation and a decision on how best to proceed will be debated by Cabinet on 10th November 2015.</p> <p>The Cabinet papers will include an annex detailing which subsidies (including Witney A40 routes) are likely to be kept or withdrawn, if a decision is made to reduce the budget by £2.3m. It is however possible that cabinet will make a decision to withdraw all subsidies. The papers will be made public on Monday 2nd November.</p>

<p>7. COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS</p> <p>Pesticide Free Cities is a local authority focused campaign designed to free local government from the use of pesticides (See internet link: Capital Bee) could the portfolio holder list the pesticides being used by contractors on land that we as a County Council manage and indicate a date when these potentially dangerous and seemingly useless chemicals will be phased out to match the Councils commitment to Wildlife generally and bees in particular.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Over recent years the council has sought to reduce its use of pesticides which it uses to kill noxious weeds and those in areas which are difficult to access but could cause structural damage to assets such as bridges. Currently contractors working on behalf of the County Council use Roundup Pro Bioactive 450 for these limited applications. This product is regarded as one of the safest on the market.</p> <p>In 2014 a total of 2.9 litres of weed killer was used by the council's contractors including at bridge sites. So far this year 300ml (millilitres) of weed killer has been used. The next round of Japanese knotweed treatments will take place before the end of October and our estimate is that we are unlikely to use more than 500ml of weed killer for this treatment. Therefore we predict a total use of 800ml of weed killer for 2015.</p> <p>This shows that use within the County is very closely contained and in fact minimal. We currently have no plans to phase out use completely, however we continue to monitor the market and look for other suitable alternatives as they are developed”</p>
<p>8. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>Does the Cabinet member share my concern that cuts in spending on painting lines in my Isis division are allowing white and yellow road markings to wear away, which is making parking enforcement more difficult, cyclists less protected and road accidents more likely?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>I certainly share your concern that, as we have to adjust the Council's budgets to match the funding we receive, then there will inevitably be a reduction in the level of maintenance of carriageway markings including those for parking restrictions and cycle lanes within your Division, however I do not believe that this will have any direct impact on road accidents.</p>

<p>9. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>Would the Cabinet member say what savings in both money and carbon-dioxide emissions are expected in my division from the very commendable introduction of Light Emitting Diode street lights?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>I can confirm that for Isis division the savings resulting from the introduction of Light Emitting Diode street lights in 2015-16 will be as follows: an energy saving of 27099kWh at £3,024.28 and a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions of 11,652 kg.</p>
<p>10. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>Does the Cabinet member agree that the closure of Grandpont children’s centre and a loss of funding for Donnington Doorstep, both in my division, would be a huge loss to the local community and would be a false economy because future problems would be more likely?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR MELINDA TILLEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES</p> <p>Some very difficult decisions need to be taken in relation to reducing the budget in the Children Education and Families directorate.</p> <p>As you will be aware a public consultation is underway to gather view and opinions from all stakeholders on the proposed changes to children's services.</p> <p>Prior to the consultation, a series of listening events were held to help shape the proposals. These events highlighted the concerns about the potential long term impact of closing Children's Centres and Early Intervention Hubs.</p> <p>The consultation closes on the 10th January 2016. As part of the work to analyse the consultation responses the impact of any closures will be carefully considered. We would very much welcome your contribution through the formal consultation process.</p>
<p>11. COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS</p> <p>Could the Portfolio holder confirm that the Oxfordshire County Council is compliant with the “Care and Support for Deafblind Children</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR MELINDA TILLEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES</p> <p>I can confirm that Oxfordshire County Council keeps a register of children who are deafblind and that this is reviewed annually.</p> <p>The local authority recognises the varied and complex needs of this group of</p>

and Adults Policy Guidance” issued by the Department of Health in December 2014 [<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/deafblind-people-guidance-for-local-authorities>) In particular to confirm: Whether the authority keeps a register of deafblind children. What arrangements are in place to ensure all identified deafblind children are assessed by someone who is specifically trained and experienced in deaf blindness? What kind of specifically trained one-to one support is available for deafblind children from the local authority children’s services?

children and has established highly specialist support for children and young people with multi-sensory impairment (MSI) within its Special Educational Needs Support Services (SENSS), Children, Education and Families directorate. There is a qualified teacher of the deaf who is MSI qualified as well as a trained Intervenor. The Visual Impairment assistant within SENSS is also currently training as an Intervenor.

Specialist assessment, advice and support is provided to both mainstream and special schools and MSI qualified staff also run a weekly family support session for parents and carers of babies and pre-school children with multi-sensory impairment. Feedback has been highly complementary both from the paediatricians involved with the children and the parents who attend. The low vision and paediatric audiology clinics are aware of the support available and referrals and early intervention from the specialist team is part of the Local Offer for children, young people and their families in Oxfordshire. Where children and young people are assessed as needing 1:1 support from an Intervenor in an educational setting this is provided. Social Intervenor 1:1 support is provided by the social and health care team for children to access after school activities, such as Brownies. There is a member of the social services Sensory Impairment Team who has the deafblind qualification and in addition all team members working with those who are deafblind have had deafblind training from SENSE or Deafblind UK (national voluntary organisations working with and supporting people of all ages who are deafblind or have associated disabilities). The Sensory Impairment Team provides specially trained 1:1 support workers when required and refer for Communicator Guide support from SENSE, Deaf Direct and any other providers identified as necessary.

Oxfordshire is also involved in a range of national initiatives:

The experienced Intervenor within SENSS has contributed to national training programmes for the Intervenor role as well as the on-line training course for MSI.

The MSI teacher is currently contributing to a working group with the National Sensory Impairment Partnership chaired by a member of SENSE, looking at how wider outcomes can be captured to measure the impact of support to this

	<p>group of children.</p> <p>The specialist manager of the Sensory, Physical and Complex Needs service within SENSS sits on the reference group of the National Sensory Impairment Partnership and works closely with SENSE through this group to ensure that the needs of the very low incident group of children with deafblindness are effectively met.</p>
<p>12. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</p> <p>Can the Cabinet member confirm that the teething problems experienced with the Hampshire contract have now been resolved and that schools were able to operate the system successfully throughout October including the payroll for all staff and supply teachers?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR MELINDA TILLEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES</p> <p>All schools have been able to use the new IBC system in October and whilst schools have been away over half-term and payroll has just been run, we know that any issues are being dealt with effectively and school staff are growing in confidence using the new system. In September, there were particular problems over access in some schools for some bursars employed externally. These have been resolved and we have also arranged extra briefings for bursars who are employed directly by schools under external contracts.</p> <p>.</p> <p>From the start of the September term, there has been an extensive programme to support schools by means of training sessions and on-line shadowing by Hampshire IBC staff. This programme will continue to run through until December 2015 covering topics such as payroll and pay policy, invoicing and building confidence on the system. There have also been sessions for new Head teachers. To date 97% of schools have taken the opportunity to send at least one member of staff on a training event. During October, all schools have had direct support from Hampshire Finance staff in producing their first financial reports for Governors using the new system.</p>

<p>13. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</p> <p>How many secondary schools that are academies are part of the county-wide agreement to accept pupils permanently excluded by other schools?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR MELINDA TILLEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES</p> <p>All schools and academies are part of the Fair Access Protocol. All schools automatically become members if the majority of schools in the county are signed up to the protocol; which in Oxfordshire’s case they are.</p> <p>The protocol requires secondary schools to take up to three vulnerable children above their Planned Admission number into each year group if requested. The vulnerable criteria includes permanently excluded pupils.</p>
<p>14. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</p> <p>How many teachers trained by schools in Oxfordshire during 2014-15 through the School Direct Scheme joined the staff of state-funded schools in Oxfordshire this September following the completion of their programs?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR MELINDA TILLEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES</p> <p>A number of Oxfordshire schools involved in the School Direct Scheme in different guises and combinations last year and details for all of those are not immediately available.</p> <p>I can however say that the Cherwell School was a lead school for the OTSA Salaried School Direct programme and 25 of the 30 people trained by them are now NQTs in state funded schools in Oxfordshire. Of these 19 are in their main placement school.</p> <p>The Cherwell was also the lead school for two non-salaried School Direct programmes. They had 15 places with Reading University of whom 8 are currently NQTs in state schools in Oxfordshire.</p>
<p>15. COUNCILLOR SUSSANA PRESSEL</p> <p>Please can someone explain the difference between the so-called new “national living wage” and the existing national minimum wage? How will these fit in with the Oxford</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR RODNEY ROSE, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>The National Minimum Wage was set by the Government and has been in operation since 1998. It is illegal for an employer to pay any employee less than the stipulated amount. It is currently £6.70 per hour.</p>

<p>Living wage?</p>	<p>The National Minimum Wage does not equate to the Living Wage. This is an optional rate of pay set by a 'think tank' at the Centre for Research for Social Policy at Loughborough University. From 3 November 2014 the Living Wage is £7.85 per hour, £9.15 per hour in London.</p> <p>The Oxford Living Wage is a rate of pay adopted by Oxford City Council since September 2009. It is set at 95% of the London Living Wage in recognition of the high cost of housing within the City. From October 2015 this is £9.12 per hour.</p> <p>In his budget speech on 8 July 2015, the Chancellor announced that a new compulsory National Living Wage of £7.20 per hour will be introduced in April 2016 and that this will increase to £9.00 per hour by 2020. This rate will replace the National Minimum Wage for workers aged 25 and above and will be obligatory for all employers.</p>
<p>16. COUNCILLOR SUSSANA PRESSEL</p> <p>If David Cameron persists in refusing to heed the advice of the vast majority of experts on the necessity of a sugar tax, please can we look at following the example of Brighton and Hove Council, which is introducing a voluntary sugar tax? They are calling on food and drinks shops to impose a 10p levy on all sugary soft drinks. This money would pay for public health measures aimed at combatting the growing scourge of obesity, which is already costing the NHS more than £5 billion a year.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR HILARY HIBBERT-BILES, CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH & THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR</p> <p>We feel that national policy is best dealt with and evaluated at national level. This is the tried and tested route for initiatives from seat belt legislation to bans on tobacco advertising and this is the method we should adhere to.</p> <p>We have focused instead on educating people to make their own choices. This is carried out through a range of initiatives which have been completed or are planned for the future which help raise awareness of the impact of sugar in diets and encourage sugar swops.</p>

<p>17. COUNCILLOR ROZ SMITH</p> <p>What is the current estimate for the total of savings on the home to school transport budget in 2015-16 and how does this breakdown between SEN transport and transport to the nearest school under the new policy; are the saving likely to be sufficient to meet those announced for the medium term plan when the current policy for home to school transport was announced?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LAWRIE STRATFORD, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE</p> <p>The 2015/16 budgeted saving target for home to school transport is £1.125m, with SEN taking £0.759m and mainstream plus other services streams taking the balance of £0.366m. This split is based on a costed route efficiency programme (REP) being implemented by E&E this year and planned to be delivered over the medium term in line with the agreed savings target in the MTFP. The demographic pressures relating to SEN have not been built into the MTFP and will have a net adverse impact on the overall cost of the service which is recharged to CEF.</p>
<p>18. COUNCILLOR BOB JOHNSTON</p> <p>Can the cabinet member provide the details of how the figure for reinstating the rail link between Witney and Oxford used in the consultation exercise was made up in view of the disparity with the cost per track mile between the Oxfordshire costs and those for the new railway in Scotland even though that project required 45 new bridges and two tunnels compared with only two new bridges and no tunnels in the Witney to Oxford project?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The re-instatement of the railway would require more structures than is suggested in the question – the initial alignment design suggests there would need to be at least 5 road bridges (2 in Eynsham, at least 1 near South Leigh and 2 more across minor roads on the approach to Ducklington) as well as a number of farm and other access crossings, four crossings of watercourses including the Rivers Windrush and Evenlode and a crossing of Ducklington Lake.</p> <p>Consulting Engineers URS/AECOM was commissioned in November 2014 to carry out a review of public transport options along the Witney – Oxford corridor. This included a review of the 2001 Witney/Carterton to Oxford Rail Link Pre-Feasibility Study carried out by Mott MacDonald and producing a high level “Order of Magnitude” cost estimate for the re-instatement of the line.</p> <p>The study looked at a number of recent rail schemes which had either been recently constructed or subject to detailed assessment, including the Borders Railway, in order to derive unit costs for the works. These costs specifically explicitly excluded costs of land and mitigation works.</p>

The costs derived by URS/AECOM for the Witney to Oxford rail line re-instatement were as follows:

<i>ITEM</i>	Unit	Rate	Cost
Re-instatement of railway on previous route	18.8 km	£6.2m/km	£116.6m
Enhancement works to existing railway	6.1 km	£3.0m/km	£18.3m
New Stations and car parking	3 No	£3m each	£9.0m
Minor road works etc.			£10m
TOTAL			£150.9m

To this Order of Magnitude cost estimate an allowance of 10% (£15m) was added to allow for land costs and an allowance of 20% (£30m) for mitigation works and other contingencies. In line with Department for Transport advice for preparing cost estimates at an early stage of scheme development an “Optimism Bias” allowance of 45% (£88m) was then added to the assessed total cost bringing the total to the quoted figure of £285m. This is to allow for unknown or unforeseen factors which could increase the cost as the scheme progresses through design and construction.

The quoted figure therefore represents a figure that is likely to be towards the higher end of the possible range of costs that the re-instatement could require. It should be noted that the same allowances for land, contingencies and optimism bias were added to the basic cost estimates of all the strategy options put forward in the consultation.

19. COUNCILLOR JANET GODDEN

The two paragraphs below came from a school in my division after the beginning of this term (followed up by me on 21 September but only an interim acknowledgement received so far). Many other schools have had similar stories to tell; it would be useful if the locality meetings

COUNCILLOR NICK CARTER, CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS & CUSTOMER SERVICES

Members are currently provided with a property update at each locality meeting which includes a section on the current schools build programme and an estimated practical completion date, further details are available on request from Jamie Hiscock whose contact details are also in the Locality Meeting Property Update. Jamie is also happy to take any queries that members may have about specific projects.

could receive regular reports on work that has fallen behind or where there have been major hitches. Most important, what can be done to improve this kind of poor service?

“Seeded areas are more like weed areas; grass grown along fence lines is knee high, not having been strummed when fencing has been removed; fencing stacked up; skips; rolls of material and bricks scattered around the perimeter of the field where the builders’ compound had been; green felt on scramble net is not secured/safe; drains left standing proud etc.

Lockers have now arrived for our staff kitchen, thank you (2 years late), however staff cannot put items away in the KS2 classroom as there are still no drawers for the units under the sink nor are they able to put anything in cupboards as there is nothing to hold the shelves in place.”

It is not possible to respond in detail to Cllr Godden however the requirements of the contract are that cleared areas of ground are seeded as this provides the best long term solution to establish the area, however it needs to be maintained by the school until established. No materials are left in an area of the school which is unsecured and segregated from the school staff and pupils, every endeavour is made to ensure all external areas are cleared when buildings are handed over to the school, however occasionally materials are still to be cleared after building work is complete. No site area has been left with loose materials in an area of school occupation when the school is open.

Officers would be happy to discuss any detailed issues that Cllr Godden has with the school build programme.