

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 NICK HARDS</p> <p>Following on from Councillor Dhesi's question in September about persistent potholes and the explanation that repairs are guaranteed for 2 years, please would the Cabinet Member for Environment explain what the position is when a badly worn section of road is patched and the adjacent section then deteriorates so much that a patch is required next to the previous patch. Would enquiries be made to establish whether the second fault had occurred as a result of the first repair?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>County inspectors work hard to identify the most effective repairs for failed sections of road taking account of the budget constraints that we have. Inevitably any repair will always leave a joint with adjoining surfacing and this is a point of weakness in the overall carriageway surface. We monitor the quality of repairs through a combination of random site visits and photographic evidence and should we become aware of a repair that is not completed to a satisfactory standard we would have this redone at the expense of our contractor. If an adjacent section of road subsequently fails then there could be a range of causes for this ranging from the extent of the area initially identified for repair through to subsequent foundation failure caused by ongoing traffic loads. Whilst the council would prefer to do more preventative pavement repair schemes to eliminate this problem it has to manage its programme within the available budget and so professional choices regarding the amount and type of repair have to be made.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>When it is apparent that the failure is due to the fact that the area initially identified for repair was inadequate and that more should have been repaired the first time, who is that dealt with? both by us and by the contractor please?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Thank you, it is a bit of a grey area because it is actually on case by case basis and you can't be prescriptive about every single circumstance. If it is clear that it is part of the initial works that were identified at that time and were instructed to the contractor, it is the contractor again who should be doing it. But as I say it is a grey area and it is on a case by case basis and I can't be prescriptive about it.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>2. COUNCILLOR SAM COATES</p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member recommend the recently published upgraded 'London Cycling Standards' for future planning purposes with regard to the future provision of cycle ways?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>As you may be aware, the Council has recently approved an ambitious new cycle strategy as an element of Connecting Oxfordshire – Local Transport Plan 2015-2031 (LTP4). Our ambition within the lifetime of this Plan is to take cycling from its current levels (of around 3% of all trips) to 10% of all journeys across Oxfordshire. A crucial element in the Strategy is to develop a high quality cycle network.</p> <p>As part of LTP Adoption by Full Council, an amendment was passed proposing that LTP4 should be strengthened in its aims to reduce air pollution, including by more positively encouraging walking and cycling. As a result, we are proposing to include our updated approach to cycling as part of an 'Active & Healthy Travel Strategy', which will be drafted in early 2016. As part of this process, we will be reviewing the London Cycling Design Standards and the Design Guidance for Cyclists as an outcome of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 and consider whether to adopt all or part of these Standards.</p> <p>Given the current financial climate, it is important to add that Transport for London and the Welsh Assembly have access to more funding than is available to OCC for cycling. For example, the Mayor of London undertook to double spending on cycling to £400 million (The Mayor's Vision for Cycling in London, 2013). However, we are committed to achieving our ambition of 10% mode share across Oxfordshire over the Plan period, and will give this proposal full and detailed consideration. With this in mind, we see it as essential to take up opportunities to achieve this through the planning process for new developments to ensure they are spatially well-integrated and connected in cycling terms.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Can I ask when he expects the strategy to be drafted in early 2016 when does he expect it</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>It will be concluded as quickly as we can get it done after it has been drafted is all I can say at the moment.</p>

Questions	Answers
to be concluded?	
<p>3. COUNCILLOR SAM COATES</p> <p>When the decision was taken earlier this month by Cabinet to end support for all subsidised bus services, it was expressed that the decision may be reviewed during the budget preparation process. What further developments have there been, and are all these expected cuts still expected to go ahead?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The decision as to whether to withdraw all bus subsidies is a council decision and will be made in February 2016 as part of the budget setting process.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Can I thank Councillor Nimmo Smith for he very factual answer. Given that the spending review did not in fact scrap the bus service operators' grants does that change the situation at all?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I will provide you with a written answer to that question.</p>
<p>4. COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS</p> <p>Much was said in October about how the County Council was willing to actually help the current wave of genuine refugees from Syria desperately trying to escape from incessant bombing by over a dozen countries and despotic treatment on the ground by terrorist organisations such as ISIS but what has actually been done? Is it any clearer what the Government intend to fund and by how much?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>The County Council has convened and led the statutory agencies ie all local housing authorities (district councils) and health organisations, working in cooperation with Roy Millard of the South East Strategic Partnership for Migration. We have co-operated closely with the City Council which has acted as the co-ordinator for the voluntary and faith sectors in the county.</p> <p>At the start of the process it was unclear from the Home Office what would be most helpful and what the government's arrangements would be for receiving and funding support to refugees from Syria. The County Council has been prepared to develop emergency accommodation from which to receive and</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p data-bbox="880 220 2018 327">disperse arrivals, to provide foster homes or supported lodgings to young people arriving alone and to offer social care to children and adults and support parents in getting children into nurseries, schools and colleges.</p> <p data-bbox="880 368 2018 547">Gradually, it has become clear that there would be no need for emergency reception centres after all as the Syrian Vulnerable People's Resettlement Scheme (SVPRS) ensures people are screened, given 5-year refugee status before arriving in the UK, and matched to identified housing once here. The plan is to transfer families directly from the airport to permanent accommodation.</p> <p data-bbox="880 588 2018 916">The County Council has the statutory responsibility to look after children under 18 years who present in our area without parents and carers. Indeed, in the last year, we have more than doubled the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children we look after and their numbers continue to rise. We place and support these children in foster homes, hostels and supported lodgings and help them with their induction, education, training and employment. The council has been working with Home For Good, a fostering recruitment and support charity, to attract more carers. Recently our two information evenings attracted 100 attendees and we are following up expressions of interest and assessments.</p> <p data-bbox="880 995 2018 1251">In regard to extending these responsibilities under the SVPRS, we were advised that it would be highly exceptional for children to be brought here without their families as there is an emphasis on reunification work in the camps. Once children have been taken such a long distance away, any practical possibility of placing them with their extended families or communities is lost and is not considered to be in their best interests. So far, the SVPRS has made no request to us to accept any unaccompanied children.</p> <p data-bbox="880 1292 2018 1428">We have maintained close working with the Districts and City Council, supporting their officers who are developing housing options for families. This has proved to be challenging due to the high cost of rented accommodation in the county and the limited availability of suitable properties, especially in the City. The Home</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>Office has offered to pay local areas a per capita amount (see the enclosed guidance) to cover the costs of all services. This includes a single amount for local authorities, which has to cover the costs of top-up rent and any additional social care. However, the Home Office is open to considering specific individuals' high cost-needs in addition.</p> <p>The City Council has made a commitment to housing 10 families over the next year, starting with two families of 4 and 5 members, respectively, starting in January. The County Council is willing and able to provide social care, should it be needed, for any of the families, and have appointed an officer to be in direct contact to meet parents and address the children's educational needs as soon as they arrive. I enclose the City's scheme, which you will see also has proposals for providing the welcome and induction arrangements families will need.</p> <p>West Oxfordshire District Council is also working to identify suitable housing and we have just learned that they will be receiving two families on Wednesday 2nd December. We shall offer to support to these refugee families in the ways outlined above.</p> <p>We remain in touch with the other district councils, in similar vein.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>It is clear from the reply that the County Council is doing its bit in terms of contributing to finding places for refugees. I accept that there are relatively low numbers that are being presented to the Council for support, but would he accept that now Briton has decided to bomb Syria there may well be far more pressure for more refugees trying to escape from far more bombs?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>No I do not accept that. I think that the Government has a clear policy in making sure that the refugees they are taking are actually coming from the refugee camps which is very good because then it means everybody can prepare in this country for receiving those refugees. Of course, the action that had cross party support taken by parliament last week means that it should actually reduce the number of refugees because it is most important that we actually help Syria get over the issue of the civil war that is going on there so that people can stay in Syria and that is the key thing that actually bring people over here isn't such a good thing as actually the people to have the ability to live a good life within Syria.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>5. COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS</p> <p>In view of recent research indicating that more than half of schools in England are cutting staff, what steps will the County Council be taking to ensure teaching and support staff in the County's schools are retained? In what way will passing on the full costs of local authority support services to schools budget help them retain staff? <i>Note Article: Half the schools in England set to cut staff to balance books - Richard Adams Guardian 20/11/2015.</i></p>	<p>COUNCILLOR MELINDA TILLEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES</p> <p>Schools are of course aware of the importance of securing and retaining sufficient teachers and support staff; it is for them to deploy the resources available to them to best effect. This is not something in relation to which the Local Authority can (or has the capacity to) become involved.</p> <p>The local authority has increased delegation of funding to schools in recent years consistent with the principles of school funding reforms. This has reduced funding available centrally so provision of traded central services to schools cannot be subsidised, and the expectation is that where schools are purchasing services the charges include recovery of the full costs, as would be the case with other providers.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Will having full costs of all the services provided by the County Council actually put greater pressure on each school's budget? If that is the case, does she accept that in fact that will mean reductions in the numbers of teachers who are actually in each particular school?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>No.</p>
<p>6. COUNCILLOR SAM COATES</p> <p>I note that Oxfordshire is ranked as the third worst area in the country for the proportion of nursing homes and care homes not meeting standards, according to the Care Quality Commission. Could I ask the Cabinet</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR JUDITH HEATHCOAT, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE</p> <p>We are aware that the TrustedCare online directory reported that Oxfordshire is the third worst area in the country for the proportion of nursing homes and care homes not meeting standards according to the care quality commission.</p> <p>However I would like to make it clear that in my view the above statement does</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>Member to outline what steps the Council will be taking to address this problem?</p>	<p>not tie in with the data published by the Care Quality Commission on their website. Recent analysis of the Care Quality Commissions ratings by officers from the council indicates that 45% of care homes in Oxfordshire require improvement, compared with 37% nationally and 76% for the third worst ranked authority. No home in Oxfordshire is rated as inadequate, compared to 4% nationally. Over two thirds of authorities nationally contain inadequate homes.</p> <p>These ratings are based on a relatively new inspection regime that came in last year, which included new lines of enquiries with both inspectors and service users reviewing services. We are aware that the Care Quality Commission has adopted a risk base approach for its inspection programme so it is perhaps inevitable that some of the earlier results will include a number of services rated as Requires Improvement. In Oxfordshire, as elsewhere, we would hope to see the ratings improve as the Commission completes its first full round of inspections.</p> <p>Within the council we receive a weekly update from the Care Quality Commission - usually on a Monday - identifying the reports that they have published in the previous week. Each report relevant to Oxfordshire is reviewed to identify if specific action is needed by the council.</p> <p>Outside of this regular update there is good information sharing between the Council and the Care Quality Commission. Where there are significant concerns about a care home the Care Quality Commission will contact us immediately to share its concerns and seek our views.</p> <p>The Council has a good track record of working with providers to improve services, and it monitors care homes in Oxfordshire through its Quality and Contracts Team. They undertake annual reviews, put in place action plans, and use a traffic light system to provide intelligence on all providers.</p> <p>Furthermore and since the beginning of this year officers have taken steps to</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>improve the overall market intelligence available to us. We have developed and now hold a multi-agency Care Governance Group that meets monthly to share intelligence on areas of concern and areas of increasing risk. This multi-agency group involves representatives from the County Council (Safeguarding, Contracts, Complaints and operational teams) together with Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Oxford Health's Continuing Health Care Team and the Care Quality Commission; these are the key partners we work with when issues arise. These meetings provide intelligence that helps the council to co-ordinate actions including where we should undertake a contract review and if necessary institute safeguarding procedures; it also acts as an early warning system for themes and trends that may be emerging.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Given in terms of the league tables Oxfordshire is still quite close to the bottom in terms of care homes deemed in need of improvement, are there any specific actions that she is considering to look into the cause for that?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I could of course just give a very short answer and say no, but what I would like to do is to refer the whole of this chamber to parts of the reply that I have given because I believe that the response actually answers your question for you. It is in paragraph 2; I would like to make it clear that the statement that I issued in the first paragraph of my answer does not tie in with the data published by the Care Quality Commission on their website. I think that is a very important fact. If you then read on it gives the statistics of where we are and later in my reply I have mentioned that we receive a weekly update from the Quality Care Commission. The update identifies reports that have been published the previous week and each report relevant in Oxfordshire is reviewed which means we are not complacent, we are making sure that we look at these figures as they come down to us.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>7. COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS</p> <p>Now that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has reversed his previous decisions on Police cuts, tax credits and the level of Council tax rises allowed could the Leader of the Council now confirm that with the extra money this may produce and the slight easing of pressure on Council services provision that may result, the planned closure of the Children's Centres will not now go ahead?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>I welcome the additional funding opportunities that the Chancellor announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review however the ability to raise the council tax was related to providing additional funding for Social care and more importantly it was linked to delivering the Living Wage by 2020. In Oxfordshire this could be an added pressure that has to be taken into consideration before we can set the budget. With regard to Children's Centres there is an ongoing consultation until 10th January that has to take into account the £6 million reduction in funding that council voted through as part of the budget 17th February 2015.</p> <p>I am sure that Cllr Williams is aware that the council is required by law to produce a balanced budget on 16th February 2016 that has to be signed off by the section 151 officer. I look forward to viewing his budget proposals that find the additional funding to reverse the £6million of savings for Children's Centres/Early Intervention along with all the other savings that are required following the Comprehensive Spending review.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Would he accept that the Greens have always put forward a balanced budget we have never shirked from that responsibility?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I have seen on occasions you have got a balanced budget. Of course what you have to take into account to balance this particular budget and to remove all £50m potential savings we have got to make in the budget and add in £6m as well which will bring the total up to edging £60m that you would be looking a referendum limit of round about 19% in a one off. I don't think that residents of Oxfordshire or the voters of Oxfordshire would be voting in favour of 19% increase in Council Tax because we do have to remember that people haven't had their increase in wages. So even when we are considering the budget we have got to be very careful around the additional 2% that is coming in because that obviously could mean a 4% increase and have people's wages gone up by 4%. So I think that it is interesting to see what will be coming forward, but as I say if there is a 19% increase in the Council Tax I don't think that is suitable for the residents of Oxfordshire.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>8. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>What preparations and planned response does the County Council have for dealing with a possible nuclear incident taking place in Oxfordshire, such as a petrol tanker crashing into a lorry carrying a nuclear warhead and causing a fire on the A34?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR RODNEY ROSE, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>As part of our role as a category one responder within the Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum we have ensured that the risks associated with this type of incident have been identified and there are sufficient preparations and planned responses to deal with an accidental or deliberate release of a radiological substance as the result of any incident within Oxfordshire.</p> <p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-Agency Procedures-Emergencies • Evacuation and Shelter Protocol • Mass Fatalities Management Plan • Mass Casualties Framework • Humanitarian Assistance Framework & OCC Supporting People Plan • Recovery Plan • CBRN and Hazmat Plan • Site Clearance Plan • Communications Plan - Warning and Informing • Strategic Roads Plan <p>In addition to these plans we have National Operational Guidance available for Fire and Rescue Services when attending incidents relating to the release of chemical, radiological and biological and nuclear substances through an accidental release. OCC also provides off-site plans for key fixed sites within the county which include planning, training and exercising.</p> <p>There is also national guidance from the Ministry of Defence (MoD) for dealing with the transportation of nuclear weapons which set out the levels of protection and the MoD response to an incident that has occurred whilst being transported by road. It lays out the specialisms with the convoy team which includes firefighting and radiological monitoring as well as the MoD response and assistance to the local emergency services and local authorities.</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>Whilst there has never been an accident involving defence nuclear material which has led, or come anywhere near leading to a release of radiological material to the environment, the County Council, Thames Valley LRF and the emergency services within Oxfordshire have ensured that they are fully prepared and have resilient and exercised plans to deal with any such event. These plans have been exercised across the Thames Valley with the National Ambulance Resilience Unit on the last two regional exercises and the next planned exercise in Oxfordshire is in September 2016.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Does Councillor Rose share the concern of a growing number of people in Oxfordshire about the regular nuclear weapon convoys that travel up and down the A34 between Burghfield the factor and Scotland?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Through you Chairman, I think I care more about the security of this nation rather than worrying about one lorry load on British highways.</p>
<p>9. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>I'm grateful that the County Council has been drilling investigative holes into Folly Bridge in Oxford. Will the Cabinet member tell us the state of the bridge and when the public can expect the road on the bridge to be resurfaced?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The drilling mentioned was in fact trial holes dug to determine the depth of the existing surfacing material over Folly Bridge. The intention is to resurface approximately 80 linear metres of carriageway over this bridge. The main three span section of the bridge to the north is in reasonable condition but the single span section 30 metres further south requires some stonework repairs to its arch barrel. As some of these stonework repairs need to be done from above it is intended that these repairs will be undertaken immediately prior to the resurfacing works as effectively one coordinated scheme.</p> <p>Given the complexities of undertaking work over navigable water on a bridge that is both listed and a scheduled ancient monument it is anticipated that the work is unlikely to be able to commence before mid or late summer next financial year.</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>Until then the surfacing over Folly Bridge will be inspected monthly as part of the St Aldates inspection route. Any surfacing safety defects identified during these inspections will be remedied as per our inspection policy.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Could Councillor Nimmo Smith explain the meaning of the last sentence “any surfacing safety defects identified during these inspections, we are talking about Folly Bridge in Oxford, would be remedied as per our inspection policy”, because my observation are in the County Council’s Inspection Policy is that when holes are found in the roads they are no repaired.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I find it hard to believe that if holes in the road are identified they are not repaired. I am not quite sure whether you have got the up to date copy of our inspection policy and I will make sure a copy is made available to you.</p>
<p>10. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>Before work began on Frideswide Square the Cabinet member for Transport told assured me that there would be two east-west cycle paths, for cyclists only, on either side of the square. Can he explain the absence of the cycle path?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>As part of the design there is a 4.5m off-carriageway (or off-road) shared footway/cycleway i.e. in-between both lines of planters created on both sides of the square. Cyclists can get onto the shared pedestrian/ cycling area accessible by lengths of dropped kerbing, marked by timber bollards with signs and highlighted by slabs with the shared use symbols etched into them. These are at the north and sides of the square. The decision to do this was included in the report presented before Cabinet Members in 2012. This is a deliberate decision as incorporating cycle lanes would mean that the road would be wider and motorists would also have the opportunity to use that space and the design is</p>

Questions	Answers
	focused on keeping vehicle speeds through the square down which would have been compromised by a wider carriageway.
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>I wonder if Councillor Nimmo Smith could explain to me why I think under questions to Cabinet about a year ago before the Frideswide work started, he assured me that there would be separate clearly delineated cycle routes on either side of the Square separated from pedestrian areas, shared use areas and traffic areas when in fact those pathways don't exist and was that because he misunderstood the situation or because he deliberately misled me.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Far be it for me to deliberately mislead anybody in this Chamber. But we are where we are with the scheme opening up on, all the barriers have been taken away now and it is more or less available for the official opening next week. I can't remember the exact wording or the exact circumstances that Councillor Tanner is referring to but we have a shared space there. We will be looking at it regularly as it is being used as will we be looking at the traffic lights in Worcester Street, George Street and that sort of area as well to make sure that we have a free flow of traffic that the safety of the pedestrians, cyclists, bus users, lorry users, taxis and everything else is maintained for the benefit of all.</p>
<p>11. COUNCILLOR LIZ BRIGHOUSE</p> <p>As a result of your exchange of letters with the Prime Minister the LGA were commissioned to carry out a review of Oxfordshire's finance in order to help the Council set the budget in February. As all members of this Council will be involved in setting the budget can you please give them a copy of the report written as the result of that review?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>The LGA review report will be published as part of the papers for Performance Scrutiny Committee on 17 December.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Do you think that when the report is published tomorrow that the Prime Minister and MP for West Oxfordshire will begin to start understanding that cuts in public expenditure actually do me cuts in public service even in his back yard?</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I am sure that my local MP will be looking forward to the report being published, but obviously I can't speak for his interpretation of the report and would be unwise of me to do so, but I am sure he will take it into due consideration and all the points that have been made and made in other words he will be doing it but I don't think he will be communicating his thoughts in letters to me.</p>
<p>12. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</p> <p>What safety measures are in place for cyclists accessing the shared space outside the Said Business School when travelling from the Hythe Bridge Street direction?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>As part of the design there is a 4.5m off-carriageway (or off-road) shared footway/cycleway i.e. in-between both lines of planters created on both sides of the square. Cyclists can get onto the shared pedestrian/cycling area accessible by lengths of dropped kerbing, marked by timber bollards with signs and highlighted by slabs with the shared use symbols etched into them. These are at the north and sides of the square. The decision to do this was included in the report presented before Cabinet Members in 2012. This is a deliberate decision as incorporating cycle lanes would mean that the road would be wider and motorists would also have the opportunity to use that space and the design is focused on keeping vehicle speeds through the square down which would have been compromised by a wider carriageway.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>I am particularly concerned that in the plans that were presented and passed at Cabinet in the 2012, there was a medium strip in Hythe Bridge Street which was clearly to allow the cyclist to access that shared space that medium strip has not been constructed and at present there are still in Hythe Bridge Street</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>I haven't actually looked at it in that much detail and I will make a point of doing so in the next few days.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>prior to the opening next week two lanes marking on the road could he tell me what is going to be done about this?</p>	
<p>13. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</p> <p>When will the consultation on possible bus gates in the Worcester Street & Longwall Street vicinities be undertaken in view of the adoption of the Local Transport plan by this Council in September?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Further traffic access controls in the city centre and other parts of the city are included in the long term transport strategy for the city as part of the Oxford Transport Strategy (OTS). The OTS does not specify that these access controls will be bus gates (such as the High Street bus gate). The access restrictions could be full or part-time closures, or could be road user charging points.</p> <p>No specific timetable has been set for their introduction, or, therefore, for consultation. However, the OTS suggests the earliest they would be introduced is 2020.</p>
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Will the consultation in the first stage relate to the alternative methods or the mixture of methods whether it is work based charging, road user charging or the use of bus gates rather than as suggesting in LTP4 which we passed in September that bus gates were likely to come in by 2020.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWER</p> <p>Nothing formal has been put forward for consultation yet and we will see what the consultation document actually proposes in due course so I can't be specific at this time.</p>