

**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.

<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
<p><b>1. COUNCILLOR NICK CARTER</b></p> <p>In one of Oxfordshire's principal market towns, Thame, employment land is shrinking at an alarming rate because of ill-conceived new planning rules, which oblige district councils to grant change of use from business to residential accommodation. Since the new rules' introduction, the resulting loss of employment land in Thame alone represents the equivalent of 900 jobs.</p> <p>The effect of this change in planning law must surely be contrary to the County's long-stated ambitions for economic growth. It severely reduces the options for existing local businesses which want to expand; it prevents businesses from moving into Oxfordshire and bringing their business rates with them; and it limits the ability of start-ups to locate where they need to.</p> <p>What is the Council's understanding of the impact of these new rules on employment land and business premises across the county, and will the relevant Cabinet member initiate urgent research into their effect <i>per</i> district, and preferably <i>per</i> market town?</p>	<p><b>COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</b></p> <p>This question appears to refer to the changes to the Town &amp; Country Planning General Development Order (GDO) that were initially introduced on a temporary basis in 2013 and subsequently made permanent in 2016, under which the conversion of offices to residential uses became “Permitted Development” (PD) - that is, development which is allowable without the need for planning permission. Although “prior approval” is still required from local authorities for a limited number of technical matters concerning highways safety, flooding and pollution, the new regime is considerably more facilitative of residential uses than hitherto.</p> <p>The primary reason for these changes was the need for a major step-change in the delivery of new homes nationally, recent levels of output being little more than half of what is needed to match with demands and to ensure an adequate future labour supply. Oxfordshire is no exception to this and, as members will be aware, some 100,000 new homes need to be provided in the county by 2031.</p> <p>That said, it is nonetheless apparent that this much less restrictive approach to office conversions has not been without some significant adverse effects in certain parts of the country – the kind of effects to which the question refers. This has been particularly the case in highly constrained communities, where suitable opportunities to replace lost office space can be very difficult. In the local context, both Oxford City and West Oxfordshire District have experienced such problems and in these parts of the county the local authorities have taken steps to prevent “office-to-residential” conversions on several key employment sites. They have done this by making what is known as an “Article 4 Direction”, the effect of which is to withdraw the relevant permitted development rights; hence, if a prospective developer wishes to convert offices to homes in these areas they now have to apply for planning permission in the normal way. From investigations, it does not appear that either Cherwell or South Oxfordshire District Councils have yet felt the need to withdraw permitted</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>development rights on any of their key employment sites, while the situation in the Vale of White Horse is presently unknown.</p> <p>Officers will, however, keep the situation under review and of course, new provision for employment-generating development will be brought forward in appropriate parts of the county through the statutory Local and Neighbourhood Plan-making processes.</p> <p>As things stand at the moment, jobs growth in Oxfordshire is running ahead of the target in the Oxfordshire Strategic Economic Plan 2016 (SEP) - 86,000 new jobs between 2011 and 2031 - with some 45,000 jobs having been created since the 2011 base date.</p>
<p><b>2. COUNCILLOR MARK CHERRY</b></p> <p>Will the Cabinet member for Environment ensure that there is adequate funding in the next financial year to Facilitate Full researching of both Caernarvon Way roads off Edinburgh Way, Banbury, as highways officers have informed that both stated roads need totally re-surfacing. As one resident put it “Caernarvon Way roads have had managed decline over ten years.”</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</b></p> <p>It is recognised that Caernarvon Way is in need of treatment and as such full investigations have already been carried out. As a result officers will be recommending that two schemes for Caernarvon Way (Edinburgh Way to End) and (Edinburgh Way to Stirling Court) be considered for inclusion within the Capital Programme for 2018/19 that will be going to Cabinet later this year.</p>
<p><b>3. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</b></p> <p>If any money collected from schools as part of the Apprenticeship Levy remains unspent at the end of the financial year what happens to the remaining money?</p>	<p><b>COUCILLOR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE</b></p> <p>The Apprenticeship Levy is a central government initiative, and as a large employer, the Council has to abide by <a href="#">funding rules as defined by the ESFA</a> (Education and Skills Funding Agency). Any Levy funds left in the Council’s digital account expire after 24 months. Central government do not explicitly advise large employers what happens to the funds after this, but I believe</p>

Questions	Answers								
	they are absorbed by the Treasury.								
<p><b>4. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</b></p> <p>What discussions with Head Teacher Associations have taken place with regard to the possibility of using Apprenticeship Levy money for leadership development in primary schools?</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR HIBBERT-BILES, CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH &amp; EDUCATION</b></p> <p>Apprenticeship Levy funds can only be spent on formal apprenticeship training. A “school leadership” apprenticeship is not currently available, although there are general management and leadership apprenticeships available, which have been promoted to schools via a series of face to face meetings, articles in Schools News and briefings to School Business Managers.</p> <p>The Institute for Apprenticeships is responsible for the development of new apprenticeship standards, and supports Trailblazer groups of employers to create new standards, to meet demands for new apprenticeships. In order to develop a new “school leadership” apprenticeship standard, a national Trailblazer group needs to form, to devise the standard and assessment requirements. Groups have to have at least 10 different employers as members (in addition to any professional bodies who want to be involved). The <a href="#">latest information about the development of new standards</a> suggests that there is no Trailblazer group currently working on a school leadership apprenticeship.</p>								
<p><b>5. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</b></p> <p>How much less is being spent on non-SEND transport this term compared with the same term in the year before the last major change in transport policy was introduced?</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR HIBBERT-BILES, CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH &amp; EDUCATION</b></p> <p>Information is recorded based on financial years, not school years / terms, therefore the following table compares net expenditure for April to July 2015 with net expenditure for April to July 2017.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="936 1358 1977 1436"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>April - July 2015</th> <th>April - July 2017</th> <th>Change</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Mainstream Primary</td> <td>560,561</td> <td>454,845</td> <td>-105,716</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		April - July 2015	April - July 2017	Change	Mainstream Primary	560,561	454,845	-105,716
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<p data-bbox="203 488 696 512"><b>6. COUNCILLOR ROZ SMITH</b></p> <p data-bbox="203 600 898 775">Is the Cabinet Member content that the new highway engineering works in Queen Street, undertaken during the recent Westgate re-development, will withstand the weight of busses and HGVs without damage?</p>	<p data-bbox="936 488 1883 552"><b>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</b></p> <p data-bbox="936 600 2018 847">I can confirm that all highway works associated with the Westgate Development, including works to Queen Street, are designed in excess of nationally recognised highway design standards. To this end and for clarity, the carriageway at the New Street end of Queen Street is capable of passing both Public Service Vehicles and HGV's without sustaining damage (100mm thick yorkstone paviers are installed on high strength cement bedding, over 150mm thick reinforced concrete base).</p>												
<p data-bbox="203 895 696 919"><b>7. COUNCILLOR ROZ SMITH</b></p> <p data-bbox="203 1007 898 1182">Thank you for attending the recent Access to Headington stakeholders meetings. The original consultation showed schemes costing a total of around £12.5 million for this project. What is the current estimate of the total scheme?</p>	<p data-bbox="936 895 1883 959"><b>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</b></p> <p data-bbox="936 1007 2018 1110">The total budget allocation for the Access to Headington programme including completed design, construction and preparation work as well as forthcoming works for planned phases is £11,030,000.</p> <p data-bbox="936 1150 2018 1334">The difference in the original consulted budget (£12.5m) and the current budget (£11m) revolves around s106 allocation. Some of which was wrongly allocated (already allocated to other city projects) and some of which has been re-allocated for specific Headington schemes outside of the Access to Headington programme (CPZs/20mph zones)</p> <p data-bbox="936 1374 2018 1437">The nature of the scheme allows for maximum delivery against this budget and the estimate for the scheme as it stands, including risk and contingency,</p>												

Questions	Answers
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<p><b>8. COUNCILLOR JUDY ROBERTS</b></p> <p>How many children have been offered a place at St Gregory the Great School for September 2017, and since then as in-year admissions requested through the County, where the parent had not specified this as a school for their child?</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR HIBBERT-BILES, CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH &amp; EDUCATION</b></p> <p>On behalf of the Governors, we offered 130 children places in Year 7 at St Gregory the Great Catholic School for September 2017 and we have offered 20 places to in-year applicants of which 10 did not request the school. 14 of these offers were accepted. 17 further requests for places are in the pipeline from parents who have requested the school. There is also 1 request pending regarding a child whose parents have not listed St Gregory the Great Catholic School as a preference.</p> <p>This academic year, the first admissions' meeting for Governors was held on 14 September 2017. The second meeting was due on 19 October 2017 but was cancelled. The next admissions' meeting for Governors is expected to be on 2 November 2017.</p> <p>The PAN is 210. We do not hold accurate data on this schools numbers on roll but all year groups known to be below the PAN.</p>

<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
<p><b>9. COUNCILLOR BOB JOHNSTON</b></p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member for Transport inform the Council as to what contingency planning (if any) for the future of Queen Street should the Minister side with the bus companies?</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</b></p> <p>There has already been a significant amount of planning for both Queen Street scenarios i.e. with and without buses. This planning has involved many discussions with bus operators and with other stakeholders of city centre streets, such as taxi owners.</p> <p>Following advice received from civil servants at the Department for Transport, the Council is now monitoring the impact of a reduced number of buses (amounting to approximately 50% reduction, compared to pre-Westgate flows) in Bonn Square and Queen Street.</p>
<p><b>10. COUNCILLOR RICHARD WEBBER</b></p> <p>Please could the Leader list the national newspapers and other publications available in County Hall which are provided free to the public and to employees of the Council, and the total annual cost to the council of providing this service?</p>	<p><b>COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</b></p> <p>I can advise Cllr Webber that the papers which are free to the public and employees at County Hall are detailed in the attached Annex.</p>
<p><b>11. COUNCILLOR RICHARD WEBBER</b></p> <p>In "The MJ" - the management journal for local authority business - "Council Leaders were encouraged to quote "bin" letters from Jeremy Hunt by Lord Porter - Chairman of the LGA. Mr Hunt's letter criticised some LAs for failing to reach delayed transfer of care targets. Lord Porter thinks the targets are unachievable. Does the Leader support the position of Mr Hunt or Lord Porter? And what</p>	<p><b>COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</b></p> <p>The comments made by Lord Porter to "bin the letters from the Secretary of State for Health unless there is a cheque attached" were off the cuff comments made at the recent NCAS (National Children and Adult Services) conference; as such they probably do not reflect the view of the LGA.</p> <p>We take seriously any communication for any member of the Government, should we feel that some of the comments are of a generic nature and not reflect the situation in Oxfordshire then we robustly defend our position.</p>

<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
<p>did OCC do with Mr Hunt's letter?</p>	<p>We decided to not respond to the letter from the SoS, but that we have provided information to the LGA, CCN and ADASS about our challenging DTOC trajectory, how we are currently spending the improved Better Care Fund, and the potential impact on services should funding allocations be reviewed.</p>
<p><b>12. COUNCILLOR ROZ SMITH</b></p> <p>Can she confirm that residents are being written to regarding the installation of new LED lights and columns as per the agreement with the contractor?</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</b></p> <p>I can confirm that letter drops are being made to local residents, these are sent two weeks prior to works commencing on site. Unfortunately there were teething problems earlier in the project with Balfour Beatty's previous distributor, a new distributor has now been appointed.</p>
<p><b>13. COUNCILLOR PAUL BUCKLEY</b></p> <p>It is now over a year since the Council's new Community Asset Transfer Policy came into force. Under the policy all community groups, renting OCC properties and seeking to renew their lease, face huge rent increases that will threaten the viability of treasured, community-run activities across the county. What evidence does the Cabinet member have so far, to reassure Council that this harsh policy will not lead to a collapse of community-run activities relying on use of OCC properties?</p>	<p><b>COUCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY- GALE, CABINET MEMBER FOR PROPERTY &amp; CULTURAL SERVICES</b></p> <p>The Councils Asset Transfer Policy was reviewed in early 2016 following collaborative discussions with services and tenants in light of lessons learnt under the wave of asset transfers arising under Big Society. A revised policy was then adopted in June 2016. The material change was that the Council would not let premises upon a notional or peppercorn rent but would charge an appropriate rent for the property in line with ambitions to make most effective use of Council assets, which takes into account the restriction for community use</p> <p>In December 2016 Cabinet considered a motion to waive the rent for a building where that would keep a Children's Centre open in circumstances where it would otherwise have to close. Whilst additional transitional support through a rent free period was adopted the principal of charging rent was unchanged.</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>The report to Cabinet, dated 20<sup>th</sup> December 2016 provides detailed background of the reasoning behind the policy which Cllr Buckley may find helpful. It forms agenda item 10 and can be found on page 257 of the public reports pack.</p> <p>It is recognised that the sustainability of Voluntary &amp; Community Sector activity can be challenging and that is why the county council put in place facilities to aid the transitional phase both through grant and through rent free periods. This approach helps to ensure that those planning to deliver activity through non-OCC buildings are not disadvantaged.</p> <p>Since adoption of the policy the council has implemented a transformation programme which has enabled community groups to come forward with proposals to deliver community services within county council buildings backed up by robust business cases that account for the full costs of the service including premises costs. Many of these are celebrated in the October 2017 Update issued by Cllr Gray, Cabinet Member for Local Communities. The terms for use of county council buildings within this programme are determined in accordance with the policy.</p> <p>The County Council does recognise that it is important to review the support offered to the Voluntary &amp; Community Sector but it is clear that hidden subsidy to those groups that are fortunate to occupy county council premises is not a fair and transparent approach.</p> <p><b>Background</b></p> <p>All buildings held by the Council place financial pressures upon the authority not just the day to day running costs but also more importantly the investment necessary to maintain their condition.</p> <p>Any building leased out will expect to be on terms that deliver income to help meet these costs but at rent levels that reflect the use; consequently</p>



Questions	Answers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• where the use is commercial in nature the rent will be a commercial market rent</li> <li>• but where the use is a community use it will be an appropriate rent reflecting the community use (typically half that levied for commercial uses but in some defined circumstances significantly less than that). Whilst such rents are not free they are likely to be significantly less than premises which might otherwise be available within the market places</li> </ul> <p>The income is necessary to help offset the costs of holding the building and the loss of income or receipts that would otherwise have been generated.</p> <p>I fully recognise that in the past the County Council has, on occasion, provided subsidy to community organisations through nominal or even peppercorn rent. This however brings material issues to the County Council for example:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the subsidy provided is not transparent, nor recognised by the wider community and can be argued to disadvantage other bodies who rely upon use of non - county council buildings</li> <li>2. when a group do not pay rent they have no motivation to consolidate operations into the actual space required and reduce their costs nor to co-operate with other community groups to share costs</li> <li>3. where a community group occupy without rent there are instances where they sub-let to other community groups, other publically funded services or even commercial operations at market rates generating further hidden subsidy.</li> <li>4. It is very important that the council is in control of the levels of subsidy it offers – it may in some circumstances need to manage the levels of subsidy in light of competing priorities.</li> </ol>

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	<p>The Policy now makes it clear that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>any subsidy, other than via community rent, shall be through direct grant funding rather than indirect premises support</li> </ol> <p>That subletting of premises at rates higher than those applied under the head lease are controlled to ensure that community groups are not demotivated from making best use of assets but equally that where appropriate income generation from use of the building can be shared to not only help offset any occupiers priorities but also those of the county council.</p>																																										
<p><b>14. COUNCILLOR EMILY SMITH</b></p> <p>The OSCB Annual Report suggests that the 21% increase in children being educated at home could be the result of poor handling of difficult situations at school, What evidence does the Council possess to either support or refute the OSCB view about the reason for the increase in home schooling in Oxfordshire?</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR HIBBERT-BILES, CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH &amp; EDUCATION</b></p> <p>This is information gathered from parents when we are informed of their decision to go EHE and would be the only evidence we could provide. This year's data is available, however, the report this has come from has not yet been published and OSCB will not have had access to the data for 2016/17.</p> <p>Reasons for Elective Home Education</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="947 1114 2011 1437"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th colspan="5">Number of cases</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Reason</th> <th>2011/12</th> <th>2012/13</th> <th>2013/14</th> <th>2014/15</th> <th>2015/16</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bullying</td> <td>28</td> <td>27</td> <td>24</td> <td>22</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dissatisfaction with system</td> <td>81</td> <td>85</td> <td>85</td> <td>62</td> <td>51</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Distance/Access to local School</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> <td>13</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other/Unknown</td> <td>51</td> <td>47</td> <td>64</td> <td>122</td> <td>127</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parents Desire for Closer</td> <td>26</td> <td>29</td> <td>27</td> <td>30</td> <td>25</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Number of cases					Reason	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Bullying	28	27	24	22	25	Dissatisfaction with system	81	85	85	62	51	Distance/Access to local School	5	5	13	4	4	Other/Unknown	51	47	64	122	127	Parents Desire for Closer	26	29	27	30	25
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<p data-bbox="203 663 824 692"><b>15. COUNCILLOR RICHARD WEBBER</b></p> <p data-bbox="203 738 898 879">How does the Leader and Cabinet propose to respond to the call of the Communities Secretary to use Prudential Borrowing as a means of addressing the current Housing crisis?</p>	<p data-bbox="936 663 1805 692"><b>COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</b></p> <p data-bbox="936 738 2029 1026">We all recognise that there is a need for more homes particularly for young residents of Oxfordshire. I understand that this was a suggestion by the Secretary of State to address the shortage of homes; as yet it is not a proposal out for consultation. Should there be an announcement in the budget on these lines then we will need to look at the detail before we respond. Obviously the provision of housing is the responsibility of the District and City councils; we would have to ensure that the appropriate infrastructure is delivered however the funding is provided.</p> <p data-bbox="936 1072 2029 1246">My personal view is that we need to look at all ways of providing more homes for Oxfordshire’s residents. It is incumbent on all elected representatives whether City, District, County Councillors or MP not to have closed minds either on a parochial or ideological basis otherwise we will be failing Oxfordshire’s residents.</p>																																									
<p data-bbox="203 1297 831 1326"><b>16. COUNCILLOR KIRSTEN JOHNSON</b></p> <p data-bbox="203 1369 864 1434">To ensure public confidence in the decision on where the OxCam Expressway is placed, it is</p>	<p data-bbox="936 1297 1805 1326"><b>COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</b></p> <p data-bbox="936 1369 2040 1434">As members are aware I often write to government and departments regarding various matters and I’m content to ask the question in the context of</p>																																									

<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
<p>important to give local residents a say. Will you ask Highways England to conduct a full public consultation on the general corridor of the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway in Stage 1A of the options, prior to HE's announcement of this corridor in July 2018?</p>	<p>the greater Strategic scheme.</p> <p>This is a national piece of infrastructure that could provide a local solution for Oxfordshire particularly around the A34 which impacts on the majority of Oxfordshire's residents. To reject a scheme that would benefit the majority of Oxfordshire on the basis of some important but local matters would not be looking at the strategic view across the County.</p> <p>Whatever route is chosen by HE there will inevitably a negative reaction from the local communities affected. We need to take all the views into consideration and look for mitigation.</p>
<p><b>17. COUNCILLOR JENNY HANNABY</b></p> <p>What are you personally doing as leader of Oxfordshire County Council to persuade the Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire District Councils to join the other Oxfordshire District Councils in taking over enforcement of illegal parking.</p>	<p><b>COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</b></p> <p>I personally have always been open, not just to South &amp; Vale but to all our District and City partners that we should work together to deliver Civil Parking Enforcement across the County. To have one back office obviously saves on administration expenses so that we can provide a better service to residents. A greater number of enforcement officers would mean we could direct them to particular areas during peak times for instance the Henley Regatta or Abingdon fair or Countyfile Live at Blenheim or Bank holiday weekends at Bicester village. To have smaller fragmented schemes would not provide the full benefits for the residents and visitors.</p> <p>The County Council have worked closely with Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire District Councils several times in the past to investigate the potential for introducing enforcement of on street parking in those areas. There are strict requirements for civil enforcement that makes the operation of such a scheme quite costly and modelling undertaken to date has suggested that introducing any scheme in these areas would as a result operate at a significant loss. Given the pressure on budgets both within the County and District Councils therefore it has not been possible to progress the implementation of an enforcement scheme. There remains regular</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>dialogue between the authorities however to ensure that a scheme could be progressed should the opportunity arise.</p>
<p><b>18. COUNCILLOR KIRSTEN JOHNSON</b></p> <p>What has the impact been on Schools' Transport budgets and demand as a result of local bus service cuts?</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</b></p> <p>When the council withdrew subsidies to bus services, there were 106 scholars traveling on 10 subsidised buses who needed to be accommodated elsewhere.</p> <p>Before the withdrawal of subsidised bus services, the council spent almost £46k a year on season tickets to transport children to school on these services. Prior to the withdrawal, the council estimated that it would need to spend around £140k to transport these children by other means. In practice, it has cost the council around £78k, which is set against the £3m saved on the withdrawal of subsidised bus services</p> <p>Costs were not as high as originally thought because of the impact of the Nearest School policy change, which reduced the number of students entitled to free school transport from Berinsfield to Abingdon. Also, a safe walking route review reduced the number entitled to free school transport from Towersey to Thame. These changes would have occurred regardless of the withdrawal of bus subsidies.</p> <p>Had subsidies continued, these two changes mean that we would now only be buying season tickets to the value of about £30k across all affected routes rather than the £46k. Therefore the real additional cost to school travel as a result of the withdrawal of bus subsidies is approximately £48K (£78k-£30k).</p> <p>I can provide a detailed breakdown by individual route if Cllr Johnson would like these.</p>

<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
<p><b>19. COUNCILLOR KIRSTEN JOHNSON</b></p> <p>Laybys off the A40, the A418, and Oxford's ring road are being taken over by lorries parked overnight. The fouling that results is a health hazard; further, the lorries occupy space meant for motorists ordinarily using the road. Does the member agree these laybys need No Parking Overnight signs, and will she take action on this?</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</b></p> <p>Some of the laybys on the A40 and A418 do have waiting restrictions that apply twenty four hours a day, which limit parking to either a 30 minute or one hour period. These restrictions were implemented as a result of antisocial behaviour or crime, and their enforcement is the remit of Thames Valley Police.</p> <p>If I am made aware of other specific laybys that are suffering from overnight lorry parking and associated antisocial behaviour then motorist's (including lorry drivers) usage of the laybys will be investigated and the implementation of waiting restrictions will be considered.</p>
<p><b>20. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</b></p> <p>It's great to have the new Westgate Centre open at last, but what a pity we still have to wait two months longer for the new Library. Surely this could have been better managed?</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</b></p> <p>The County Council does not directly control the delivery of the Westgate Library Project. This contract was let and managed by the Westgate Alliance.</p> <p>Much of the works being delivered for the county council were consequential works necessary to enable the remodelling of the entrance to centre in order to achieve the transformation necessary to make the viable and sustainable new shopping centre we now all celebrate.</p> <p>As I am sure Councillor Pressel will have noticed the frontage to the centre has only very recently become finished – some 4-6 weeks ago fenestration to the front corner of the library had still not been fitted and roofing works were incomplete. It must also be emphasised that the developer has significant works left outstanding with many units still unfinished and ongoing works across the centre likely to continue for the next 4 – 6 months. On opening day only 60 out of 124 units were open, and only 90 out of 124 will be open by Christmas. This is inevitable when dealing with such a major construction</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>project.</p> <p>The works to the library were very different from the rest of the centre – all other parts of the centre were completely gutted and refitted whereas the library, other than the consequential works necessary in light of the centre transformation, was pre-dominantly re-furnishing. However this brought forward unique challenges to programming such as additional work found necessary only once works planned to be undertaken by the Alliance were carried out. These for example included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New ceilings where the planned works resulted in the need to take down some ceilings but the condition of supporting structures were found to be inadequate due to age</li><li>• Enhancements to fire precautions due to incompatibility of existing systems with the overall new systems included in the centre and exposure of poor fire separation due to the age of the building</li></ul> <p>I trust Councillor Pressel will support the need to ensure that such works which have a bearing upon the health and safety of library users must outweigh our own aspirations to align the opening of the library with the centre.</p> <p>Whilst I share Cllr Pressel’s frustration in not being able to experience the new library on day one, I have been closely engaged with the team of officers who have been working tirelessly in the background in close collaboration with the Westgate Alliance and I am confident that library users will appreciate the refurbishments and alterations that have taken place.</p> <p>We are opening the doors to the public on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December, and the Library Service is planning our own “Grand Opening” at the end of February when we will be welcoming the Minister for Libraries, Mr John Glen MP, and hope that Members will join us at this celebration. In the meantime, the service is concentrating on closing the temporary library in the Castle Quarter,</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>and moving over 100,000 books back into the Westgate as soon as we get handover from the developers on November 18th.</p>
<p><b>21. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</b></p> <p>One of the things I get most complaints about is vehicles parking in cycle lanes. It is dangerous when cyclists have to swing out into sometimes heavy traffic, because the cycle lane is obstructed. This is much less likely to happen where we have mandatory cycle lanes (with a solid white line), so please can we have more of these? We say we want to encourage cycling, so we need to make it feel safer.</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</b></p> <p>There are a number of factors that determine whether mandatory cycle lanes can be provided or are suitable, including width of the highway and impacts on other road users. Cycle standards, including the county council's own cycle design guide, typically recommend mandatory cycle lane widths of ideally 1.8m or a minimum of 1.5m. On roads in the city where mandatory cycle lanes have not already been introduced then this is generally because the existing carriageway is too narrow for even the minimum width of mandatory cycle lane and if implemented could result in larger vehicles encroaching the lane.</p> <p>There are a number of locations in the city where narrow mandatory lanes are provided, however, these are no longer considered appropriate as this can cause motorists to leave a smaller and inadequate space when overtaking cyclists. It also means cyclists having to travel where the road surface is often poorer because of drainage gullies and debris.</p> <p>Where there is the highway width to accommodate mandatory cycle lanes then it will often be necessary to undertake reallocation measures such as removing on-street parking, reducing footways widths (in areas with low footfall) and removing road centre lines.</p> <p>Where funding is available then this will be considered and is being done as part of the Access to Headington project, where some on-street parking is being removed to accommodate new and improved cycle lanes including hybrid, or fully segregated cycle lanes, mandatory and wider advisory where the highway is still too narrow.</p>



Questions	Answers
<p><b>22. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</b></p> <p>The most common complaint of all from cyclists in recent years is about potholes. These can be highly dangerous and are certainly a deterrent to cycling. Please can you tell me what you intend to do about this?</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</b></p> <p>The service is aware of the impact potholes have on both experienced cyclists and how it acts as a deterrent to less experienced cyclists and as such there is a different criteria for fixing potholes on cycle routes to reflect the higher risk that arises. Ideally, the service would like to be more proactive in repairing roads before pot holes form however current levels of funding only allow roads to be surfaced on average once every 178 years, when typically the life expectancy of a road surface would be 20-30 years and so this is not currently possible although the service is currently developing a business case to increase investment into highway maintenance in Oxfordshire.</p> <p>In the meantime, the service has recently launched a survey with cycle groups to better understand where the higher risk areas are and these will help influence future maintenance programmes.</p>
<p><b>23. COUNCILLOR JAMILA AZAD</b></p> <p>Black Cabs Taxi Rank in Corn Market is very dangerous as too many Taxis are there in the evening. They have to do u turn to go to St. Aldates or High Street and I don't understand the logic of putting Black Cabs in Corn Market. Previous system worked well for drivers and passengers.</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</b></p> <p>The Cornmarket taxi rank is experimental and will be reviewed once the Westgate centre is fully open, including the new taxi rank in Old Greyfriars Street. Queen Street is expected to be very busy with pedestrians in the evenings once the new cinema and restaurant in the Westgate centre open. The situation will be kept under review and we are regularly liaising with COLTA and the City Council licensing team.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p><b>24. COUNCILLOR JAMILA AZAD</b></p> <p>Now that buses are running through Queen Street, can I ask Cabinet Member that Taxis are permitted to run through Queen Street after 6.30pm and before 6am. They have to come from George Street to use Corn Market Rank than to go to Hythe Bridge Street or Holly Bush Row and have to go to Oxpense and passing through Speedwell Street into St. Aldates. Can we put limit on Black Cabs on each Rank?</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</b></p> <p>The Cornmarket taxi rank is experimental and will be reviewed once the Westgate centre is fully open, including the new taxi rank in Old Greyfriars Street. Queen Street is expected to be very busy with pedestrians in the evenings once the new cinema and restaurant in the Westgate centre open. The situation will be kept under review and we are regularly liaising with COLTA and the city council licensing team.</p>
<p><b>25. COUNCILLOR GLYNIS PHILLIPS</b></p> <p>What more can be done to reduce the time that young carers have to wait for an assessment of their needs? In October there were over 100 children waiting over 4 months for an assessment and this is an improvement from an earlier waiting time of 6 months. This should be unacceptable for a Council which boasts of prioritising the most vulnerable in our county'.</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR STEVE HARROD, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN &amp; FAMILY SERVICES</b></p> <p>As of 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017 the OCC Young Carers Service has 120 children waiting for an assessment of their caring needs. Of this group 36 have been waiting longer than 4 months to be seen.</p> <p>We have this waiting list due to a number of factors including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A high level of referrals that have sustained since the legal changes for young carers relating to the Care Act /Children and Families Act in 2015. We have received 176 referrals over the last 6 months.</li> <li>• Prior to 1st April 2017 Spurgeon’s Children’s Charity where contracted by OCC to undertake these assessments, they had a significant waiting list/time delay. When the Spurgeon’s contract ended and all the service came under the OCC Young Carers Service we inherited that waiting list – at that time the list was at nearly 200 children.</li> <li>• Since April 2017 the OCC Young Carers team has been subject to a service consultation and restructure. We are now a team that consists of a part time manager, 2x Senior Practitioners Social Workers (1 new post filled in September</li> </ul>

Questions	Answers
	<p data-bbox="981 220 2011 320">17 &amp;1 vacant due to be filled in November 17), 7.6fte grade 9 posts – Young Carers Specialist Workers (currently 1.19fte vacant posts and 1fte on long term sick leave) and 1fte administrator. We are a small team covering the county.</p> <p data-bbox="931 360 2022 560">We have worked hard since April to address the waiting list. We have a process in place to monitor and prioritise the referrals received by the team, this includes using information on the social care system, reviewing school attendance and considering the case against a specialist young carers risk form we have developed. The manager and Senior Practitioner meets weekly to review, cases that have been waiting for more than 4 months are reviewed again and prioritised.</p> <p data-bbox="931 600 2022 730">Cases are allocated as soon as possible to workers, however working with young carers and their families is demanding emotionally on staff and as a manager I work hard to protect the caseload levels of my staff, keeping them to below 25 for a fulltime worker.</p> <p data-bbox="931 770 2022 871">At present the team records within Framework but we do not have specific work flow (episodes) within the system which does hinder and elongate the written element and quality assurance of the assessment.</p> <p data-bbox="931 911 2022 1110">While we are working to deal with the historic number of referrals, we are also endeavouring to ensure that future referrals are relevant and timely for the child and family. We are attending the area RAP meetings, publicising the changes to our core offer and working with LCSS to ensure that our work with schools is supportive and that the clear message to all partners is that safeguarding and supporting young carers is everyone’s business.</p> <p data-bbox="931 1150 2022 1318">As a service we fully recognise that this waiting time is not an ideal situation and our aspiration is to be dealing with our referrals in real time, so that waiting times for young carers are kept to a minimum. Even with the measures outlined above in place and the current staff resource available, we will still have a waiting list for some time to come.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p><b>26. COUNCILLOR DEBORAH MCILVEEN</b></p> <p>The Living Wage is enough to ensure that employees and their families can live free from poverty and is a voluntary scheme. The Oxford Living Wage is £9.26 an hour. Employers who sign up to the Living Wage commit to pay it to all staff over the age of 18 who work regularly on their premises. This includes employed, contracted and subcontracted staff. The National Living Wage is only £5.60 per hour for 18 - 20year olds rising to £7.50 per hour for employees over 25 years. What percentage of Oxford based County Council employees are paid the Oxford Living Wage and what percentage of non-Oxford based employees are paid the National Living Wage?</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR JUDITH HEATHCOAT, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</b></p> <p>Firstly just to clarify, the National Living Wage is £7.50 and applies only to those aged 25 or over. For those under 25, the relevant National Minimum Wage applies.</p> <p><b>What percentage of Oxford based County Council employees are paid the Oxford Living Wage?</b></p> <p>20.16% of our employees are known to live in Oxford (OX1, OX2, OX3 and OX4 postcodes). Of those 70.66% are paid above or equal to the Oxford Living Wage.</p> <p>85.04% of our employees are known to live in Oxfordshire (OX Postcode &amp; SN7 Postcode). Of those, 67.20% are paid above or equal to the Oxford Living Wage.</p> <p><b>What percentage of non-Oxford based employees are paid the National Living Wage?</b></p> <p>78.04% of our employees are known to live outside of Oxford Centre (not an OX1, OX2, OX3 and OX4 postcode). Of those, 99.94% are paid at or above the National Living Wage, regardless of age.</p> <p>13.15% of our employees are known to live outside of Oxfordshire (not an OX postcode &amp; SN7 postcode). Of those, 99.93% are paid at or above the National Living Wage, regardless of age.</p> <p>For comparison:</p> <p><b>What percentage of non-Oxford based County Council employees are paid the Oxford Living Wage?</b></p> <p>78.04% of our employees are known to live outside of Oxford, (not an OX1, OX2, OX3 and OX4 postcode). Of those 68.06% are paid above or equal to the Oxford Living Wage.</p> <p>13.15% of our employees are known to live outside of Oxfordshire (not an OX or</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>SN7 postcode). Of those, 77.58% are paid above or equal to the Oxford Living Wage.</p> <p><b>What percentage of Oxford based employees are paid the National Living Wage?</b></p> <p>20.16% of our employees are known to live in Oxford (OX1, OX2, OX3 and OX4 postcodes). Of those 99.91% are paid above or equal to the National Living Wage, regardless of age.</p> <p>85.04% of our employees are known to live in Oxfordshire (OX Postcode &amp; SN7 Postcode). Of those, 99.94% are paid above or equal to the National Living Wage, regardless of age.</p>
<p><b>27. COUNCILLOR DR SUZANNE BARTINGTON</b></p> <p>The community response to cardiac arrest is critical to saving lives. Each year, UK emergency services respond to approximately 60,000 cases of suspected cardiac arrest. The immediate initiation of bystander Basic Life Support (BLS) including Cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) can double long-term survival from out-of-hospital cardiac arrest, but currently only approximately 40% of UK victims receive bystander CPR.</p> <p>Strengthening the community response to cardiac arrest by training and empowering bystanders with emergency life-support skills could help save lives in Oxfordshire. In the past year, over 10,000 people in southern England have been trained to provide</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR JUDITH HEATHCOAT, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</b></p> <p>I'm grateful for Cllr Bartington's question that County Councillors be offered training in Basic Life Support and CPR.</p> <p>As County Councillors we are all aware that we can help raise the profile of emergency life support training within our communities and of the safe use of Automated External Defibrillators (AED) devices. There's no better way to do this than by taking the training ourselves if we possibly can.</p> <p>Three Training sessions for County Councillors have been arranged as a key part of our councillor development programme and the training covers:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic Life Support including Cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training; and the</li> <li>• Use of defibrillators (AEDs – Automated External Defibrillators)</li> </ul> <p>The first session was held on 2 November. This was well attended. There are to be two further sessions for County Councillors on 6 and 7 December. All</p>

<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
<p>emergency life-support and figures from NHS England confirm that an extra 3 lives per week have been saved as a result. Within their role as elected representatives, County Councillors are regularly in contact with members of the public, including attendance at events held at facilities with installed Automated External Defibrillator (AED) devices. Equipping County Councillors with essential bystander life-support skills would empower them to assist in an emergency situation and help save further lives in Oxfordshire.</p> <p>Can you tell me what specific steps this County Council is taking for ensuring that Councillors are trained and prepared to deliver bystander life-support including emergency CPR and to safely use an AED device? Thank you in advance for answering this question in detail.</p>	<p>councillors have received invitations to take up one of these sessions and I strongly urge colleagues to attend, if they can. Ninety minutes is time well spent if it gives us the skills and confidence that might, one day, save a life.</p>

## Annex

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Café</b>	Times Telegraph Daily Mail Daily Express	Times Telegraph Daily Mail Daily Express	Times Telegraph Daily Mail Daily Express	Times Telegraph Daily Mail Daily Express Oxford Times	Times Telegraph Daily Mail Daily Express
<b>Group Rooms</b>	3 x Oxford Mail	3 x Oxford Mail	3 x Oxford Mail	3 x Oxford Mail	3 x Oxford Mail
<b>Ian Hudspeth</b>	Oxford Mail Oxford Mail (Sat)	Oxford Mail	Oxford Mail Abingdon Herald Didcot Herald Witney Gazette	Oxford Mail Banbury Guardian Bicester Advertiser Oxford Times	Oxford Mail Henley Standard
<b>Head of Paid Service</b>	Times Oxford Mail Oxford Mail (Sat)	Times Oxford Mail	Times Oxford Mail	Times Oxford Mail Oxford Times	Times Oxford Mail
<b>Legal</b>	Times	Times	Times	Times	Times
<b>Finance</b>	Financial Times	Financial Times	Financial Times	Financial Times	Financial Times Investors Chronicle
<b>Media</b>			Abingdon Herald Witney Gazette	Banbury Guardian Bicester Advertiser	Henley Standard

<b>S &amp; SC</b>	Oxford Mail	Oxford Mail	Oxford Mail	Oxford Mail	Oxford Mail TES
<b>Localities (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)</b>	Oxford Mail Oxford Mail (Sat)	Oxford Mail	Oxford Mail Didcot Herald Witney Gazette	Oxford Mail Oxford Times Banbury Guardian Bicester Advertiser	Oxford Mail
<b>TRO (E &amp; E 1<sup>st</sup> Floor)</b>			Didcot Herald Witney Gazette	Oxford Times Banbury Guardian Bicester Advertiser	Henley Standard