

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 LIZ LEFFMAN</p> <p>Councillor Constance will be aware of the looming deadline in 2026 for the registration of rights of way on the Definitive Map. Definitive Map Modification Orders are complicated and can take a long time to process. What measures are the County Council taking to ensure that parish councils and private individuals can register footpaths in their area that are not currently on the Definitive Map, to ensure that we do not lose rights of way because they are not registered in time?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>There are two kinds of Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO): those based on historical evidence, and those based on user evidence. The 2026 deadline only applies to the former and is only the cut-off date for <u>receiving</u> the application – not for completing the process.</p> <p>It is now an opportune time for us to proactively ensure Parish Councils are aware of the deadline and we will be taking this forward in 2019.</p> <p>New legislation in this area (Deregulation Act 2015, not yet enacted and held up behind Brexit) will for the first time give us opportunity to negotiate with Landowners affected by a DMMO which will in some cases allow us to reach an agreement and shortcut the full process.</p>
<p>2. COUNCILLOR LIZ LEFFMAN</p> <p>Recently a resident in my ward was told by her local library that when she reserves a book in future, she will no longer be notified of its arrival by post, and can only be notified online. As this resident does not have a computer, she is concerned that her access to library services will be diminished. Can Councillor Lindsay-Gale reassure members that the library service has plans in place to ensure that no user is</p>	<p>COUCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY- GALE, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CULTURAL SERVICES</p> <p>The Library Service currently offers customers the choice of receiving notices by post or by email. These notices include reminders about items on loan that are due for return/renewal, and also notifications that reserved items are available for collection. These notices are a discretionary service, provided to help customers using library services.</p> <p>Over the past 10 years we have seen a vast change with the majority of customers preferring to receive these notices by email. Between 2012 and</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>disadvantaged by the decision to withdraw notification by letter?</p>	<p>2017 the Service reported a 79% reduction in printed notices being sent which represents better value to the public in terms of the printing and postage costs and staff time required to process these notices. Consequently, the cost to deliver this service can no longer be justified and so the decision was taken in early 2018 to discontinue printed notices with effect from 1 April 2019. A Service and Community Impact Assessment (SCIA) was completed, as a result of which it was agreed to give 1 year's notice to all customers of this change, giving plenty of opportunity for those who wish to continue to receive the discretionary notices to set up an email account, and for them to be supported in doing so. Libraries are exceptionally well placed to support people in doing this as part of the digital agenda, with free public computers, free public wifi, and digital helper volunteers offering free help to customers in use of digital and online services.</p> <p>Other mitigations include:</p> <p>Customers can choose to nominate another person (e.g. friend, relative, neighbour or carer) to receive email notices on their behalf.</p> <p>Customers can be notified of any available reservations when visiting the library and asking staff at the counter.</p> <p>Customers who choose not to use email but who can access their library account online (either at home or at a free public computer in a library) can check on the status of their reserved items, or any overdue items. This can also be done via the user-friendly library app, which is suitable for any smartphone or tablet.</p> <p>Reserved items, when available for collection at the branch of the customer's choosing, are held for 2 weeks before being returned to the item's home branch or passed on to the next person waiting for it.</p> <p>Customers are only charged for the reservation (£1.20) when they collect the item.</p> <p>Some customers are exempt from reservation charges and can reserve/request books for free – these include under 18s, adults with a</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>reading impairment, and Home Library Service customers.</p> <p>In response to the question, I am happy to reassure Members that careful consideration was given to the impact of discontinuing printed notices, and that some mitigation is in place to minimise the impact on customers who choose not to use email. This decision to change this discretionary service was not taken lightly, but will return significant and necessary savings in terms of budget and staff time, while also meeting the Council’s agenda of services being digital by design.</p>
<p>3. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>Why are there still signs on the highway directing us to “Peers School”, although the school changed its name 10 years ago?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Thank you for bringing this to our attention, these signs had been overlooked. Arrangements will be made to remove/replace the three ‘Peers School’ destination signs from the network, in the interim we have arranged for the existing signs to be blanked over which should be done by 9 November 2018.</p>
<p>4. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>In her conference speech, Theresa May said that “austerity in over”. Please can you tell us what this means for OCC?</p>	<p>COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>I think it’s important to remind council of why the Conservatives supported by the Liberal Democrats had to introduce fiscal measures to reduce the deficit.</p> <p>At the turn of the century this country was running a budget surplus; any prudent Chancellor of the Exchequer would have been using the surplus to build up our reserves in case he failed on eliminating the boom and bust cycle of the economy.</p> <p>Instead the then Labour Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, went on a spending spree not only with hard working taxpayer’s money but racking</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>up debt for our children and grandchildren.</p> <p>When the global economy crashed it meant that as opposed to using our reserves we had to borrow even more money to support our economy. This led to the UK deficit at 2010 being a massive £147.5 billion or 9.3% of GDP, an unsustainable level.</p> <p>Through the hard work of the Conservative Government supported by the Liberal Democrats until 2015; the deficit has been reduced by 2017 to £36.2 billion or 1.8% of GDP which is good however not as good as local government that sets a balanced budget each year.</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council has played its part in reducing the deficit by taking significant cuts in funding from central government and making tough decisions sometimes with cross party support to enable the council still to deliver vital services especially to the vulnerable.</p> <p>In Oxfordshire we may have pre-empted the Prime Ministers announcement as building on our sound 4-year MTFP we have taken the decision to invest up to £120 million in our infrastructure focusing on highways maintenance. There is another £150 million for infrastructure, £60 million for affordable homes and £5 million capacity funding from the Growth Deal which the Chancellor said was a down payment.</p> <p>We have Housing infrastructure bids in for Didcot of £171 million and the A40 corridor for £135 million.</p> <p>This totals almost £500 million of investment in Oxfordshire which proves that delivering a sound financial plan delivers investment.</p> <p>Since 2010 the Conservatives have</p> <p>Deficit cut by four-fifths</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>Our economy has grown for 8 consecutive years When Labour left office in 2010 there were 3 million people unemployed, since then on average over 1,000 jobs a day have been created</p> <p>Our balanced approach to the economy is building a country where everyone can get on and resulted in last week's budget that delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £650m in 2019-20 for social care, additional funding for disabled facilities grant • £420m to tackle potholes, bridges, etc • £20m for work on central section of East-West Rail • Mental Health crisis service as part of NHS funding increase • £675m "future high streets fund", and business rates relief • Simplified system of developer contributions, capturing a greater proportion of land value uplift for infrastructure, and ending restrictions on s106 pooling • Further £500m for Housing Infrastructure Fund • PFI and PF2 abolished for future projects • £200m from the NPIF to pilot innovative approaches to full fibre internet in rural locations, starting with primary schools • £400m in-year 'bonus' to schools • Living Wage up to £8.21 from April 2019 • Personal allowance will be raised to manifesto commitment levels by April 2019, rather than April 2020 as planned (£12,500 and £50,000) prior to indexing them to inflation thereafter <p>I'm sure that Cllr Pressel would agree with the Shadow Chancellor in welcoming the personal tax allowances that will benefit the low paid.</p>
<p>5. COUNCILLOR SUZANNE BARTINGTON</p> <p>Air pollution is response for approximately 1 in 20 premature deaths in Oxfordshire, predominantly</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The councillor Inter Council Air Quality Action Group has not yet been set up, although discussions are continuing. To date no consensus has been</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>due to Particulate Matter and Nitrogen Dioxide exposure. In November 2017 this Council resolved to “<i>establish a councillor-led inter-council Air Pollution Action Group to produce plans for zero-emission or low-emission zones in AQMAs and to restrict the access of polluting traffic in such areas</i>”. Furthermore, this Government’s draft Government’s Clean Air Strategy recognises the importance of strong collaborative partnerships across geographical, structural and departmental boundaries to drive stronger, effective air quality action. Please could the Cabinet Member for Environment therefore provide members with an update regarding the establishment and planned activities of the inter-council group?</p>	<p>achieved from the districts to take such a group forward. Until agreement is reached, County Council officers are continuing to work with district officers on AQMAs as well as a wide range of measures aimed at tackling air pollution. For example, we are working successfully with the City Council via a joint Member Steering Group to progress the proposed Zero Emission Zone and Traffic Demand Management in Oxford and other complementary measures. Similar partnerships could be set up with other District Members, but this would require additional Council resource commitment.</p>
<p>6. COUNCILLOR CHARLES MATHEW</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member for Environment and the Deputy Leader receive congratulations for the work being done by Trading Standards on enforcing the maximum gross weight limit at Newbridge (Grade I 12thC. historic monument) by CCTV monitoring and will they inform the Council how many warning letters have been sent out and how many prosecutions have or are being pursued since the new camera resumed its work at this Thames river crossing a year ago?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras were installed on Newbridge in August 2017. The purpose of the cameras is to monitor this bridge for contraventions of the weight restriction order that applies to this stretch of the A415. Since these cameras became operational in September 2017 a total of 628 vehicles have been recorded by the cameras as potentially in contravention of the weight restriction order. Of these, 90 were recorded in September 2017 whereas only 28 were recorded in September 2018. This shows the overall trend is a continuing reduction in the number of Heavy Goods Vehicles using this bridge since the cameras were installed.</p> <p>In relation to enforcement action that resulted from the camera based monitoring at the bridge 515 warning letters have been sent to vehicle operators or drivers and 6 prosecutions have been concluded (resulting in a</p>

Questions	Answers
	total of £2,473 in fines & costs). A further 25 prosecutions have been instigated and are awaiting a Court hearing. There are currently 53 suspected contraventions under active investigation.
<p>7. COUNCILLOR CHARLES MATHEW</p> <p>Would the Cabinet Member for Environment confirm that calculations for total gravel and soft sand requirement for the period to 2031 included in the Core Strategy Minerals and Waste amounts to 9 per cent North of the Thames (Cherwell, West Oxfordshire and Oxford North of the Thames) and 91 per cent South of the Thames to achieve the agreed policy of 50 per cent for each area of the gravel to be excavated in Oxfordshire by the end of 2031?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Policy M3 of the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Part 1 – Core Strategy states: “Sites allocated for sharp sand and gravel working (including both new quarry sites and extensions to existing quarries, including any extensions outside the strategic resource areas), to meet the requirement in policy M2 will be located such that approximately 25% of the additional tonnage requirement is in northern Oxfordshire and approximately 75% of the additional tonnage requirement is in southern Oxfordshire, to achieve an approximately equal split of production capacity for sharp sand and gravel between northern and southern Oxfordshire by 2031.”</p> <p>Taking into account existing planning permissions, the remaining requirement for sharp sand and gravel to be provided for by the allocation of sites in Part 2 of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan – the Site Allocations Plan – currently totals 5.354 million tonnes. A 25%:75% split of this, in accordance with policy M3, gives the following requirements for provision in northern and southern Oxfordshire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Oxfordshire – 1.338 million tonnes (25%); • Southern Oxfordshire – 4.016 million tonnes (75%). <p>An alternative method of splitting the requirement between northern and southern Oxfordshire, in order to achieve an approximately equal split of production capacity by 2031, is to subdivide the total requirement at the start of the plan period (2014) 50:50 between the two parts of the county before beginning the calculation of the remaining requirement. This currently produces the following split of the total remaining requirement of 5.354 million</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>tonnes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Oxfordshire – 0.505 million tonnes (9%); • Southern Oxfordshire – 4.849 million tonnes (91%). <p>There was initial discussion of this at the Minerals and Waste Cabinet Advisory Group meeting on 15 October 2018 but no conclusions were reached. Further technical work needs to be done on the different methods for splitting the sharp sand and gravel provision requirement between northern and southern Oxfordshire, to establish which is the most appropriate to use as a basis for the allocation of sites for sand and gravel working in Part 2 of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan - the Site Allocations Plan. This work will be presented at a future meeting of the Minerals and Waste Cabinet Advisory Group for discussion prior to a report on a draft of the Site Allocations Plan being put to Cabinet in 2019.</p>
<p>8. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</p> <p>I was delighted to read in the October briefing to Members that ‘the county council continues to work with the city council to address the concerns regarding a cycle path that had led to the planning application for the Swan School originally being refused by city councillors in September.’</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member explain what form this work is taking?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The East Area Planning Committee resolved to refuse planning permission for Swan School on 5 September. This was on the grounds of harm to the Green Belt and lack of priority for cyclists on the cycle lane.</p> <p>The planning application was called into the Planning Review Committee on 12 October. Prior to this committee date, county council officers worked with the applicant and the city council to address the refusal reasons particularly the second reason for refusal.</p> <p>This work included revisiting the proposal and design of the proposed junction to understand if it could be improved further. However, the county council considered the proposed design to be acceptable.</p> <p>The applicant revised the proposal to reduce the level of car parking on site</p>

Questions	Answers																		
	<p>from 66 spaces to 55 spaces which would reduce the traffic generation and thereby the number of vehicles using the access. The applicant also revised the Travel Plan to present more ambitious targets for reducing car use amongst staff. Both amendments were welcomed by the county council.</p> <p>The Planning Review Committee considered these changes to the proposal and resolved to grant planning permission on 12 October. Several planning conditions will be attached to the permission which require the county council's approval for discharge including the implementation of the Travel Plan, possible reduction of speed limit on Marston Ferry Road, cycle parking, car park and access management plans and site visits to review the proposed operation of the access. The full committee report can be viewed on the city council's website http://mycouncil.oxford.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=147&MId=4507&Ver=4</p>																		
<p>9. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</p> <p>Since May 2013, how many officers, and from what service areas of the Council, have been paid redundancy or other leaving payments in excess of £50,000 by the County Council that were not associated with contributions to their pension?</p>	<p>COUCILLOR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="965 951 2051 1407"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="965 951 1200 1137">Year</th> <th data-bbox="1200 951 1559 1137">Number of staff receiving redundancy or other leaving payment in excess of £50,000</th> <th data-bbox="1559 951 2051 1137">Directorate</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="965 1137 1200 1177">2013</td> <td data-bbox="1200 1137 1559 1177">1</td> <td data-bbox="1559 1137 2051 1177">Children's Services</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="965 1177 1200 1217">2014</td> <td data-bbox="1200 1177 1559 1217">1</td> <td data-bbox="1559 1177 2051 1217">Adult Services</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="965 1217 1200 1257">2015</td> <td data-bbox="1200 1217 1559 1257">4</td> <td data-bbox="1559 1217 2051 1257">X2 Resources, x2 Communities</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="965 1257 1200 1337">2016</td> <td data-bbox="1200 1257 1559 1337">3</td> <td data-bbox="1559 1257 2051 1337">X2 Children's Services, x1 Communities</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="965 1337 1200 1407">2017</td> <td data-bbox="1200 1337 1559 1407">3</td> <td data-bbox="1559 1337 2051 1407">X2 Resources, x1 Children's Services</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Number of staff receiving redundancy or other leaving payment in excess of £50,000	Directorate	2013	1	Children's Services	2014	1	Adult Services	2015	4	X2 Resources, x2 Communities	2016	3	X2 Children's Services, x1 Communities	2017	3	X2 Resources, x1 Children's Services
Year	Number of staff receiving redundancy or other leaving payment in excess of £50,000	Directorate																	
2013	1	Children's Services																	
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2016	3	X2 Children's Services, x1 Communities																	
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Questions	Answers		
	2018 (to Oct)	3	X2 Resources, x1 Communities
	Total	15	
<p>10. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</p> <p>The 14-18 schools in Oxfordshire appear to have very poor attendance records. How did they compare during terms 1&2 of the 2017/18 school year for the levels of attendance of Years 10 and 11 pupils when measured against the other state funded secondary schools in the county?</p>	<p>COUCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY- GALE, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CULTURAL SERVICES</p> <p>In response, please find the latest ratified data from Autumn-Spring 2017-18 statistical release (Table attached at Annex). Studio Schools and University Technical Colleges (UTCs) in the county do report higher absence and persistent absence rates than other state funded secondary schools. However, as Studio Schools and UTCs offer education for pupils from Year 10 upwards only, schools attendance averages from Years 7-11 do not offer a like for like comparison. Pupil attendance at Key Stage 4 (Years 10 & 11) drop locally and nationally. This is reflected in the Studio Schools and UTCs data without the positive impact of Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9) attendance averages as a balance. Therefore, a comparison with local and national secondary schools is expected to be less favourable. When Key Stage 4 attendance data is extrapolated across the county, the attendance gap with Studio Schools and UTCs is less marked, demonstrating a 2.9% closure of the gap.</p> <p>Nevertheless, it is correct that Studio Schools and UTCs attendance is still below that of comparable year groups in secondary schools. This has been a picture reflected nationally. Two primary reasons are offered for this discrepancy.</p> <p>Pupils with a particular interest in the specialism offered by Studio Schools or UTCs have further to travel than to schools offering the standard national curriculum available in their local communities.</p> <p>Anecdotally, a minority of pupils who have transferred from their local school to a Studio School or UTC at the end of Year 9 have done so due to disengagement or dissatisfaction with their previous educational experience. Nationally, some Studio Schools and UTCs have reported receiving pupils at Year 10 with disproportionate motivation and behavioural challenges.</p>		

Questions	Answers
	<p>(Table attached at Annex)</p> <p>The County Attendance Team will ensure that their offer of scrutiny and support to Oxfordshire’s Studio Schools and UTCs will be revised and refreshed to seek to close the gap moving forward.</p>
<p>11. COUNCILLOR PAUL BUCKLEY</p> <p>On 26 July 2018, the Minister of State for Housing, Kit Malthouse MP, wrote to the Leader with a preposterous request. The Council was asked to ‘bring forward ambitious proposals for transformational housing growth’ for the period up to 2050, and to do so within seven weeks, at a time of year when many members and officers will inevitably be on holiday. Would the Leader please share with members how he responded to the Minister on our behalf.</p>	<p>COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>As I am sure Councillor Buckley is aware, Oxfordshire County Council is not either the housing or planning authority, therefore the response for allocating housing delivery has to come from the District and City councils who are housing and planning authorities.</p>
<p>12. COUNCILLOR PAUL BUCKLEY</p> <p>There have been recent press reports of councils ceasing to accept plastics for recycling, because they find it no longer economically viable, following China’s decision to stop accepting plastics waste and the resulting worldwide glut of plastics waste needing recycling. Can Councillor Constance (a) assure Council that all of Oxfordshire’s recyclable plastics waste collected is, and will continue to be, recycled, and (b)</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Arrangements for kerbside collection and processing of materials for recycling are managed by the City and District Councils. We work closely with them and we are not aware of any instances where appropriate materials collected for recycling have not been recycled. There are no current plans to materially reduce recycling services in Oxfordshire.</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council are very proud of our recycling and composting rate which is one of the best in the Country, and we are committed to improving that.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>guarantee that all this recycling is, and will remain, carried out only within the UK?</p>	<p>We continue to monitor national and international best practice and like many others are awaiting the national Resources and Waste Strategy which is due to be published later this year and will seek to maximise the benefits that the new policy, and emerging UK infrastructure and technology, to further enhance our performance including plastics.</p> <p>We recycle around 58% of our household waste and plastics contribute around 3% of this. At present our plastic waste is sorted and processed in the UK where there is a demand and appropriate business case but some waste is processed and recycled abroad. We are unable to make any guarantees as arrangements for collecting and processing materials for recycling are managed by the City and District Councils.</p> <p>We comply with all legislation and EA guidance to ensure our waste is appropriately processed both in the UK and abroad and continue to work alongside our contractors, government bodies and industry experts to develop best practice in this area.</p>
<p>13. COUNCILLOR EMMA TURNBULL</p> <p>The County Council's library services are undergoing significant change in terms of staffing levels; what assessment has the Cabinet Member made of the impact of staff reductions on the level of assistance that is available to residents in our public libraries?</p>	<p>COUCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY- GALE, CABINET MEMBER FOR PROPERTY & CULTURAL SERVICES</p> <p>The Library Service staffing has decreased from 198FTE in 2014 to 154FTE in 2018. In the main these reductions were made possible through the implementation of self-service kiosks in all 43 Libraries which enable to same level of service to be offered.</p> <p>In April 2017 the Service implemented a restructure with reductions made to Management, qualified librarians and support staff but no reduction in branch staff.</p> <p>Since 2013 the Library Service has worked hard with communities to establish a network of volunteers in our 21 community supported libraries to</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>maintain levels of service to customers. The Service currently has over 1000 volunteers across the Library network.</p> <p>Communities' expectation and demands of Libraries is evolving, not just in Oxfordshire. Libraries hold an important place in their community and the County Council has an aspiration to use these spaces to offer more to residents through our Library network.</p>
<p>14. COUNCILLOR EMMA TURNBULL</p> <p>What progress, if any, has been made on the high-needs block review and the SEND review, when will these reviews be completed, and will the Cabinet Member ensure that members are given regular progress reports?</p>	<p>COUCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY- GALE, CABINET MEMBER FOR PROPERTY & CULTURAL SERVICES</p> <p>In being able to answer this question it is important to clarify the situation in relation to a High Needs Block Review and SEND review.</p> <p>The High Needs Block (HNB) review was a process that Local Authorities with funding from Central Government carried out to review the spend of the HNB. This was conducted by an external consultant, Linda Calverley and was completed August 2018. The review coincided with the outcome of the Joint Local Area SEND Inspection and production of the subsequent Written Statement of Action (WSOA) that focussed on the 5 inspection recommendations for improvement.</p> <p>The HNB review set out a series of recommendations under 4 headings: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project: Financial process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work-package 1: Top-up banding • Work-package 2: Additional Payments process - Project: Strengthening our commissioning intentions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work-package 3: Resource Base Commissioning • Work-package 5: Commissioning Out of Area • Work-package 7: Sufficiency Strategy for provision • Alternative Provision - Project: Service Redesign <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work-package 4: SENSS service redesign efficiencies

Questions	Answers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work-package 6: Recording/ gatekeeping for pre-assessment – Project: System Governance • Work-package 8: Redefined governance and performance framework <p>The HNB review has been overseen by DLT; CLT and Schools Forum. It has also reported to the Education Scrutiny committee.</p> <p>In conjunction with this work was the Action Plan for the WSoA as a result of the Joint Local Area Inspection. Whilst the HNB review was aware of and incorporated aspects of the WSoA this aspect of SEND was overseen by a different group called the SEND Programme Board that meets once a month to focus on the progress being made by the Local Area against the Action Plan and this is further monitored by the DfE and NHS with quarterly visits. This Board reports to DLT; CLT and Cabinet along with Education Scrutiny.</p> <p>A further area of work being conducted is in relation to a review of the sufficiency of places for children and young people requiring provision for their special educational needs, in particular those with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Recently, there has been an increase in demand for places particularly for Social and Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) and Autism which has meant that there has been an increase in the use of Independent Non-Maintained Special Schools (INMSS) to place children with SEND creating a significant pressure on the HNB. The Sufficiency of Places has also coincided with the difficulties faced by Northfields schools and this has brought the overall picture into sharper focus. The Sufficiency of Places Strategy is being finalised and will be presented to DLT; CLT and Cabinet in November and December and the background need has been reported to CLT; Schools Forum and Education Scrutiny.</p> <p>These three key areas of work as a result are all very much interrelated and at recent meetings with Education Scrutiny and Schools Forum have shared how with the appointment of our new Head of Service for SEND, Jayne Howarth, we are in a strong position to bring these three areas into a more</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>aligned strategy.</p> <p>The key objectives are: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address the increasing overspend across the HNB • Ensure sufficient supply of SEND provision • Reduce demand for special school and independent and non-maintained specialist placements. • Improve the internal process and systems supporting the statutory assessment process, which determine the majority of High Needs Block spend. • Deliver the recommendations in the Written Statement of Action <p>The SEND service is well underway in aligning these areas of work and will be in the Spring term bringing to DLT, CLT and Cabinet the overall strategy for SEND and will also be reporting in February to Education Scrutiny. The intention is that the SEND programme board will, in the Spring term, become the SEND Performance Board not just specifically focussing on the WSoA progress but holding to account progress made within SEND as a whole. This Board will be chaired by the Lead Member for Education and reports will be given to Members, along with the appropriate Governance mechanism, on a regular basis following each Board.</p>
<p>15. COUNCILLOR EMMA TURNBULL</p> <p>We have a new CAMHS model, and yet almost 1,000 children are waiting for a first appointment; what is the Cabinet member doing to assess the impact of new model on waiting times, and when does he anticipate that the CAMHS will reach its waiting time targets?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LAWRIE STRATFORD, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH</p> <p>The new CAMHS model continues to be rolled out. This is monitored by OCCG via a monthly contract mobilisation meeting and is reported to OCCG Board (in Public). There is a risk management process in place for all children waiting over 16 weeks (long waiters) where a senior clinician phones and speaks to the family and can reprioritise the referral if necessary. The Head of Children’s Commissioning receives a report on long waiters monthly.</p> <p>More children are being seen by CAMHS month on month but capacity in the</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>CAMHS Teams needs increasing to keep up with demand. Waiting times for Autism diagnosis will decrease from November when the new pathway is launched. The plan is to reduce waiting times to 12 weeks by April 2019 and while this remains a challenge OCCG is waiting for the outcome of a Green Paper bid to NHS England which will provide new investment into both schools and waiting times.</p>
<p>16. COUNCILLOR PETE HANDLEY</p> <p>Could I ask the Cabinet Member for Environment what checks being done on repairs and resurfacing?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Checks on the quality of work are covered in three main ways. For planned works through on-site supervision during the works, for small quick works such as repairing potholes, a random sample, of about 10 per cent, is checked. We also investigate any quality concerns raised through FixMyStreet.</p> <p>Any poor-quality workmanship or failure to adhere to specifications is repaired or rectified free of charge to the authority. There have been pockets of quality issues in the last year which we have worked with Skanska to improve, I am also arranging to speak to Skanska's main sub-contractors to highlight the importance of quality workmanship.</p> <p>I can report that the majority of work has been completed without fault, and the teams have done an amazing job repairing significantly more potholes and carrying out more patching and resurfacing than in recent previous years. An amazing 35,127 defects have been fixed this year so far.</p> <p>Since the start of the year we have repaired 29,670 potholes – an average of 3,297 per month over the nine months. Due to severe weather, pothole fixing peaked between February and May with nearly 18,000 being repaired.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>17. COUNCILLOR EMILY SMITH</p> <p>What is the current amount in cash terms likely to be handed back to The Treasury at the end of the current financial year in unspent Apprenticeship Levy collected during the 2016-17 financial year and what percentage of that total was collected from schools in Oxfordshire?</p>	<p>COUCILLOR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE</p> <p>The way that Levy accrues, is spent, and expires is quite complex. The following information illustrates the financial position both for the whole Council, and for schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the 2-year period 17/18 - 18/19, we estimate that OCC as a whole will have paid £2m into the Levy account, of which £885,000 (44%) is from Schools • As of 31st Oct 2018, the Council has used £101,000 of our Levy funds • The Council currently contributes c.£87,000 per month into the Levy account. This number fluctuates depending on payroll costs. • Our current monthly Levy “utilisation payments” (i.e. funds sent to training providers for apprentice training) have a value of £20,500 per month. This number fluctuates depending on how many apprentices we have in training, and the value of the qualifications being pursued by the current cohort, which range from £1,500 to £27,000 per apprenticeship. Payments for apprenticeships are spread out over the duration of the apprenticeship period, which is usually between 12-18 months. • We have 25 apprentices due to start in November 2018, which will increase the Council’s monthly Levy utilisation payments to £28,000 per month. • Based on the numbers above, we estimate that by the end of the 18/19 financial year, we will have used c.£241,000 of our Levy, equivalent to 3 months’ worth of Levy contributions. We estimate therefore that this will leave £1,759,000 unspent. • Funds that employers don’t use expire 24 months after they enter our account. Payments from our account to our training provider always use the oldest funds first. Therefore, we anticipate that unspent funds will begin to expire in July 2019, and will be in the region of £59,000 per month. • To 31st October, Schools have used £18,941 Levy funding for

Questions	Answers
	<p>apprenticeship training. Currently, Schools apprenticeship training has a value of £8,928 per month, so we estimate the total amount of Levy Schools will use at £63,581 by the end of the financial year (26% of total spend). Monthly spend has recently increased significantly due to 12 senior leaders from Oxfordshire Schools commencing a Masters Level Apprenticeship programme, at an overall value of £216,000 over two years.</p>
<p>18. COUNCILLOR JEANNETTE MATELOT</p> <p>Does the Leader have a preferred corridor for the Expressway?</p>	<p>COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>I have been consistent that the road that causes the most traffic issues for Oxfordshire is the A34 as it's a mixture of local and national traffic. If the 2 parts could be separated to allow the ring road to function as a local road then there would be an improvement for the majority of Oxfordshire's residents. The A34 impacts on all 5 Districts and all 6 constituencies so there are few residents not affected. We only have to remember the traffic chaos caused on Oxfordshire's roads due to an accident on the A34 on Thursday 6th September, action needs to be taken.</p> <p><i>On page 17 of the strategic stage 3 study</i> (https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/571353/oxford-to-cambridge-expressway-strategic-study-stage-3-report.pdf) paragraphs 3.4.5 & 3.4.6, it is clear that this proposal will provide a local solution.</p> <p>Whatever corridor and, ultimately, route chosen there will be local impact with local opposition however we have to consider the bigger picture to improve the A34, which is why I support the overall road proposal.</p> <p>I welcome the decision to exclude Otmoor from the scoping however it's disappointing that there are still 2 corridor options around Oxford as that will</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>create uncertainly for those communities involved. Highways England have determined that they need to do more work on the environmental impact which should be concluded by the autumn of 2019.</p> <p>I am not suggesting a preferred corridor as I want to wait to see the evidence that Highways England will provide.</p> <p>Once the final route is chosen by Highways England I will work with affected communities to reduce the impact on them.</p>
<p>19. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>It is widely claimed that each car club car takes about 5 or more private cars off the road. Please can you tell me what we are doing to encourage more car club cars to be set up in congested parts of the county?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The Travel Plans Team recently carried out some research in to looking at setting up of car clubs outside of the city area in new residential developments. Companies where not interested setting them up as they would not be commercially viable in the short or longer term. Other areas have looked at using Section 106 funding to start the clubs but these have folded once the funding ran out, a similar problem we have had with bus services in the past.</p> <p>A car club was proposed in Bicester as part of the Eco-Bicester project, but again no companies came forward to take them up, Cherwell District Council are leading on this - http://www.ecobicester.org.uk/cms/content/car-club-bicester#.W9by0ORLEtw</p> <p>A slightly different approach we are currently investigating is demand management transport (similar to pick me up in Oxford), there are some very interesting results coming out of Sittingborne, linking a new edge of town residential development, the station and a new industrial estate and has replaced the town service bus, this would need to change how we use any S106 contributions for our bus services.</p>

Questions	Answers
	For information Go Ultra Low Project and Cities 4 People project are promoting working with car clubs.

TABLE FROM QUESTION 10

i. DfE	School	Yr. 7-11*			Year 10-11 only**			
		Overall absence	Persistent absence		No pupils	Overall absence	Persistent absence	
			Number	%			Number	%
	Oxfordshire	5.9	4801	14.5	11173	7.0	1941	17.4
	England	5.4		13.6				
4006	Space Studio	7.3	11	19.6	56	7.3	11	19.6
4008	UTC Oxfordshire	7.4	45	21.7	207	7.4	45	21.7
4012	Bicester Technology Studio	9.0	23	26.7	86	9.0	23	26.7