

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 EMMA TURNBULL</p> <p>What is this Council's policy in terms of enabling access to free school meals for pupils whose parents have no recourse to public funds? Many children in such families grow up in exceptional poverty. Would the Cabinet Member consider making funds available to help families in this position?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CULTURAL SERVICES</p> <p>It has been very many years since Oxfordshire County Council had any role or responsibility in the administration of Free School Meals (FSM) for schools in the County. As such OCC does not have a policy on FSM.</p> <p>FSM are administered by individual schools, reported through School Census to the DfE and attract additional funding through this process.</p> <p>Access to Pupil Premium additional funding is available to schools under a variety of criteria, eligibility for FSM being the most common. Pupil Premium funding is intended by Government to off-set the impacts of poverty, vulnerability and disadvantage and be used by schools to close the attainment gaps that poverty and disadvantage are shown to create. Access to FSM can also make financial support for transport and uniform accessible.</p> <p>Many schools report that a number of families opt to not declare themselves as eligible for FSM. Many schools actively promote and encourage families to step forward to access their FSM entitlement.</p> <p>All children in reception, year 1 and year 2 in England can receive free school meals.</p> <p>Beyond that, any child whose parents receive one of the following 'qualifying benefits' is eligible for free school meals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Income Support

Questions	Answers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance • Income-related Employment and Support Allowance • Asylum support (under section 95) • The guaranteed element of Pension Credit • Child Tax Credit (provided you’re not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190) • Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit • Universal Credit – if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get) <p>Asylum seekers receiving asylum support under section 95 are also eligible for free school meals.</p> <p>The scale of the school aged population in Oxfordshire from families with no recourse to public funds is not known as it is not captured in any available data set and, locally, would not be reliable as based on self-declaration only.</p> <p>Without a framework for systematically and fairly identifying all the families in Oxfordshire that Cllr. Turnbull is concerned with, any consideration of additional funding from local sources, as opposed to making a case to the Department for Education, could not reasonably be calculated.</p>
<p>2. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</p> <p>What help with transport to post-16 education institutions is provided for pupils attending the 11-16 secondary schools in the county, and has the county agreed any changes to previous</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CULTURAL SERVICES</p> <p>The Council operates a spare seat scheme under the terms of its Home to School transport policy. The “Spare Seat Scheme” operates on contracted routes that are operated for the benefit of those who are entitled to free transport to and from school. If there is an available home to school transport route operated on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council, students who are not of statutory school age and</p>

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provision?	<p>who are aged 16 to 18, may use the Spare Seat Scheme to purchase a seat on that route to enable access to their school or college.</p> <p>When there are more requests to pay for seats on a specific route than there are seats available, they will be allocated in the descending order of priority</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="949 443 1055 475">Priority</th> <th data-bbox="1077 443 1211 475">Category</th> <th data-bbox="1704 884 2092 954"></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="949 480 972 507">1.</td> <td data-bbox="1077 480 1675 544">Those with an Education, Health and Care Plan naming the school</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="949 555 972 582">2.</td> <td data-bbox="1077 555 1384 582">Looked After Children</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="949 593 972 620">3.</td> <td data-bbox="1077 593 1637 657">Years 12 and 13 (if there is no available service bus route)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="949 668 972 695">4.</td> <td data-bbox="1077 668 1666 801">Children in receipt of Free School Meals or whose parent /parents are in receipt of the maximum of Working Tax Credit</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="949 812 972 839">5.</td> <td data-bbox="1077 812 1592 876">Those who travelled on the route the previous term</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="949 887 972 914">6.</td> <td data-bbox="1077 887 1592 951">By year group, in ascending order of priority from Reception to Year 11</td> <td data-bbox="1704 887 2092 951">(or to Year 13 if there is an available service bus route)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>On 17 July 2018 the Cabinet confirmed the decision to end subsidised travel for Post 16 students to Henley College. It also confirmed that this change was to be implemented from September 2018. There are no students receiving OCC funded subsidised travel to Henley College at this time except one SEND student. There are three pending requests for free travel on SEND grounds.</p>	Priority	Category		1.	Those with an Education, Health and Care Plan naming the school		2.	Looked After Children		3.	Years 12 and 13 (if there is no available service bus route)		4.	Children in receipt of Free School Meals or whose parent /parents are in receipt of the maximum of Working Tax Credit		5.	Those who travelled on the route the previous term		6.	By year group, in ascending order of priority from Reception to Year 11	(or to Year 13 if there is an available service bus route)
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<p>COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</p> <p>What estimate has been made of the reduction in the number of car journeys to Oxford station in a</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Unfortunately, the officer who deals with this matter has been on sick leave. I will endeavour to get a response to you as soon as possible.</p>																					

Questions	Answers
<p>typical week since the opening of Oxford Parkway Station?</p>	
<p>4. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</p> <p>Following the statement in the Leader’s budget speech about the preparation of a business case for the Cowley Branch line re-opening to passenger traffic, can the Cabinet Member please provide a time line for when the business case will be completed and what the next steps would then be to ensure the line was re-opened for passenger traffic. I note that it was in 2014 that the Leader of this council was photographed taking a DMU trip on the line.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>This depends on the outcome of the current phase of work being done on the Cowley Branch Line as part of the Oxfordshire Rail Corridor Study, but we will not know the outcome (and therefore the scope and timescale for what happens next) until September.</p>
<p>5. COUNCILLOR DR SIMON CLARKE</p> <p>Could the Leader give details of the recent successful Housing Infrastructure Fund bid for the Didcot area.</p>	<p>COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council has been successful in securing £218m from the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) towards vital infrastructure to deliver and unlock new homes and economic growth in the Didcot Garden Town area. The funding is towards a total scheme package of £234m and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A4130 widening from A34 Milton Interchange towards Didcot • A new “Science Bridge” over the A4130, Great Western Railway Line and Milton Road into the former Didcot A Power Station site • A new Culham to Didcot river crossing between the A415 and A4130

Questions	Answers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="931 225 1413 256">• A Clifton Hampden Bypass <p data-bbox="931 296 2096 512">All elements will include segregated cycling and walking infrastructure. The funding will unlock around 13,000 new homes and will support the delivery of more than 18,000 new homes and thousands of new jobs. OCC is currently agreeing with Government the exact details surrounding the funding to deliver the infrastructure by March 2024. A map showing the package of measures in relation to Didcot is available from Aron.Wisdom@Oxfordshire.gov.uk .</p>
<p data-bbox="203 595 797 627">6. COUNCILLOR GEORGE REYNOLDS</p> <p data-bbox="203 703 909 1066">Now the specific post acting as first point of call for HS2 has been made redundant, without telling local councillors or parish councils, can I be assured there is sufficient officer time and finance to deal with the problems that may emerge as the project moves into the construction stage. We have been told to expect up to 500 two-way lorry trips for several years on several main roads in the north of the County which almost certainly result in road damage especially in winter.</p>	<p data-bbox="931 595 1890 659">COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p data-bbox="931 703 2078 922">Good communication with Councillors and Parish or Town Council's is vital, and I have asked officers to ensure that key changes in key staff contacts are properly communicated. Understanding who to go to is important and I am pleased to report that the recent "Highway Maintenance – Who does what factsheet" for Members and Parish and Town Councils has gone down very well and I have requested more of this type of communication.</p> <p data-bbox="931 967 2056 1142">I am able to confirm that there is sufficient and appropriate officer time being placed on working with HS2 during the construction stage. HS2 have their own obligation and requirements with regard to engaging with local communities on their issues and concerns and one that we will ensure is acted upon. We will of course keep resource levels under review.</p>
<p data-bbox="203 1182 797 1214">7. COUNCILLOR GEORGE REYNOLDS</p> <p data-bbox="203 1294 864 1431">Please can the Cabinet Member do something about the attitude of those doing work on the highway to minimise the time closures or part closures that are in operation. This especially</p>	<p data-bbox="931 1182 1890 1246">COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p data-bbox="931 1294 2101 1431">As the Local Highway Authority, we take seriously our responsibility to balance the needs to ensure traffic is able to effectively move around the highway network with the need to maintain the safety of workers and road users during roadworks. Our dedicated Network Management Team work to actively maintain this balance on</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>applies to traffic lights that are erected very early and not removed until way after the works have finished.</p>	<p>all works on the highway.</p> <p>We work very closely with all those wishing to temporarily occupy a part of the highway to ensure that all activities are considerately planned, and most appropriate traffic management used to ensure the minimum of inconvenience to the public whilst enabling essential work to take place. There may be times however when it is not obvious to road users why closures are still in place (i.e. whilst hot tarmac is cooling and therefore not suitable for traffic) and the service will investigate how we can communicate more effectively during these times if needed. There are also times when third parties do not do what is agreed and when this happens we can and do impose punitive financial penalties.</p> <p>If specific instances where it is believed activity on the network has been poorly or inadequately managed, then please make us aware via our customer service centre; so that we may review the matter and where necessary take the appropriate action.</p>
<p>8. COUNCILLOR SUZANNE BARTINGTON</p> <p>Given the inconsistency between a commitment to achieving a Strategic Active Travel Network as approved with unanimous support of Council on 13 November 2019 and the recent decision to remove the B4044 Community Path from the Housing Infrastructure Bid for West Oxfordshire, could the Leader please confirm what actions were taken to reverse this decision and what will now be done to secure funding at the earliest opportunity?</p>	<p>COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>When government officials told us if we included the B4044 cycle path in the HIF 2 bid then it would be likely that it would be unsuccessful we questioned the methodology but were unable to change the approach being applied to the HIF assessment process. We then contacted the local MPs, so they were aware of the position at an early stage. I took advantage of a meeting regarding Oxford City cycling with the Minister Jesse Norman, to make him aware of the situation to allow us to be able to submit with the scheme involved.</p> <p>We had to take the difficult decision to submit the bid without the B4044 scheme included as we could not risk losing all the funding for the A40 Smart corridor which has needed investment for many years. I can confirm we have submitted the bid for £102 million to improve this vital road corridor which includes upgrading of cycle path along the route.</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>I attach a copy of my letter to the minister which asks that the B4044 cycle path scheme is considered as a standalone bid.</p> <p>I remain committed to the B4044 cycle path scheme and will do everything possible to secure funding for it.</p>
<p>9. COUNCILLOR SUZANNE BARTINGTON</p> <p>Bridge Street, Witney has annual average levels of Nitrogen Dioxide which exceed EU legal limits and are known to be harmful to human health. Approximately 29,000 vehicles use this route daily, the only through link between East and West Witney. Please could the Cabinet Member provide an update on the progress for delivery of slips roads at the Shores Green interchange to move through traffic away from residential areas and improve quality of life for those living in Witney?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Funding has been allocated towards this scheme from the Housing & Growth Deal which will enable design work to get underway in the new financial year. Officers have been discussing the modelling and design work with West Oxfordshire District Council officers, as well as engaging with the East Witney developer. A combination of developer funding and the Growth Deal allocation will be required to deliver the scheme on the ground. The programme for the scheme is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Options and feasibility design work – 2019/20 • Preliminary design work – 2020/21 • Construction will depend on the agreement over the delivery of the works with landowners and developers and all funding being in place but is provisionally programmed for 2022/23. <p>Regular updates will be brought to the Locality Meetings.</p>
<p>10. COUNCILLOR SUSSANA PRESSEL</p> <p>With concern growing about poor air quality and congestion, would the Cabinet member agree that it's not just the City that would benefit from "congestion control management", but also</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The current congestion management programme in Oxford proposes measures to improve air quality and reduce traffic levels in and around Oxford – the Zero Emission Zone, a congestion charge, workplace parking levy and access restrictions, and the further roll-out of Controlled Parking Zones. If implemented,</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>several other parts of Oxfordshire?</p>	<p>this is likely to have benefits across the county, particularly given a large amount of traffic coming into Oxford originates from other parts of Oxfordshire.</p> <p>The roll out of further congestion management programmes in other parts of the county may be able to be implemented to benefit air quality, with any such measures carefully selected and applied to each location. Once the measures have been fully assessed, confirmed and implementation has begun for Oxford, this is the point when it is appropriate to consider their wider application across the county. It is anticipated that we will be able to begin this process from 2021. Oxfordshire County Council is undertaking considerable other work that will contribute to air quality and traffic congestion improvements including healthy place shaping, active and healthy travel, and helping residents move to electric vehicles.</p>
<p>11. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>Since transport is the main source of air pollution in the County, please can we have a regular report on moves to switch our fleet to less polluting vehicles?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>An annex to the internal Energy Strategy is due to go Member for Environment Delegated Decisions in April committing the council to move all cars and vans to electric as they come up for renewal where this is operationally viable.</p> <p>The Council has already put in place a programme to support teams with moving to electric vehicles including trials of vehicles, support with assessing whole lifecycle costs and a programme to install charging points at corporate sites. To date this work has resulted in the following vehicles in operation, on order and currently being trialled.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 fully electric Cars fire service (operating) • 7 fully electric Vans fire service (operating) • 3 fully electric pool cars (on order – arriving late Spring)

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 fully electric accessible minibus (on order) • 1 fully electric car Kingfisher team (on order) • Trails of electric cars are currently taking place in Adult Social Care and Print Services prior to an order. <p>Charging points have been installed as Table 1 below. A pipeline of a further 12 sites is due to be installed in Q2/3 2019.</p> <p>Table 1:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="936 544 2000 823"> <thead> <tr> <th>Phase 1 Sites Installed</th> <th>Type</th> <th>Quality</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>County Hall</td> <td>22kW Dual Wall mount Unit</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Speedwell</td> <td>22kW Dual Free-Standing Post Unit</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grandpont</td> <td>7kW Dual Free-Standing Post Unit</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Samuelson House</td> <td>22kW Dual Free-Standing Post Unit</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Banbury Fire Station</td> <td>22kW Dual Free-Standing Post Unit</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kidlington Fire Station</td> <td>22kW Dual Free-Standing Post Unit</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>A separate piece of work; ‘One Fleet’ is assessing how to bring all the council’s fleet together into a single point of control. This work is due to report at the end of Q3 and will help the council to further identify the forward pipeline of electric vehicles.</p> <p>Officers can update Members quarterly on progress installing charging and moving vehicles to electric.</p>	Phase 1 Sites Installed	Type	Quality	County Hall	22kW Dual Wall mount Unit	2	Speedwell	22kW Dual Free-Standing Post Unit	2	Grandpont	7kW Dual Free-Standing Post Unit	2	Samuelson House	22kW Dual Free-Standing Post Unit	2	Banbury Fire Station	22kW Dual Free-Standing Post Unit	2	Kidlington Fire Station	22kW Dual Free-Standing Post Unit	2
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<p>12. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>Would the Cabinet member like to join me in congratulating one of our apprentices, Nairne Barker, on being awarded the title of Apprentice of the Year at a recent ceremony in the Town Hall?</p>	<p>COUCILLOR JUDITH HEATHCOAT, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>I would like to congratulate not only Nairne Barker being awarded the title of “Apprentice of the Year” but also others shortlisted for the “Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards”.</p> <p>Nairne’s received the nomination for this award by her line managers because of her great work ethic, her enthusiasm, her exceptional ability to listen, learn and</p>																					

Questions	Answers
	<p>then act. Nairne works with vulnerable children and families. Nairne recently became an Apprenticeship Ambassador via a scheme coordinated by OxLEP, a role that involves attending events on behalf of the Council, talking to young people about the opportunity an apprenticeship provides, thereby playing an important role in recruiting our future workforce. As an aside, Nairne will be attending an event at the House of Commons on Monday 1st April as part of the national Youth Apprenticeship Ambassador network. She will be meeting Gillian Keegan MP (Con, Chichester) who has been appointed as an MP Apprenticeship Ambassador by the Skills Minister Anne Milton. I am proud of Nairne and pleased that she has been given this exciting opportunity to represent the Council at this event.</p> <p>Whilst noting Nairne’s success and congratulating her – she is also shortlisted along with other apprentices for several awards at the forthcoming “Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards” and they are as follows: -</p> <p>Intermediate Apprentice of the Year - Robin Morrisen, Business Admin Apprentice Advanced Apprentice of the Year – Nairne Barker, Business Admin Apprentice Special Recognition Award – Frederika Kaja, Data Analyst Apprentice Shining Star Award - Adam Barrett, Technical Highways Engineer Winners will be revealed on 4th April.</p>
<p>13. COUNILLOR JANE HANNA</p> <p>The Women’s Cycling Tour will be one of the events encouraged and supported by our County Council Cycling Champion this year. Can Councillor Suzanne Bartington and other County Councillors with specified responsibility to act as a County Council Champion provide a full list of events attended in the last six months to be</p>	<p>COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>The champions do an excellent job of representing the Council at various events in a voluntary role. I would not want to make this an over bureaucratic role however I will discuss with them how we report their meetings.</p>

Questions	Answers
made available to all Councillors?	