

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 MIKE FOX-DAVIES</p> <p>Could you please update me on the Cycle route between Wantage and Harwell Campus, as part of the Science Vale Cycle route, detailing the scope and timescale please.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The route allows cyclists travelling from Wantage to Harwell Campus to avoid the A417 and A4185 reducing journeys shared with road traffic by over 2 miles.</p> <p>Users benefit from a much improved, widened and surfaced (with Type 1 Limestone) paths, appropriate for this unique rural setting. The old wooden bridge, over Ginge Brook, will be replaced with a 20m-long galvanised steel bridge with wooden deck and parapets. There will also be improvements to two newly dedicated bridleways.</p> <p>Works started 26 May with completion by October 2020.</p>
<p>2. COUNCILLOR NEVILLE HARRIS</p> <p>Please advise the name of the main contractor to be employed for the work required to complete the Didcot Northern Perimeter Road together with confirmation of its final route. Please also provide an estimate of the time that will be needed to complete the work required and details of the proposed planned traffic diversions?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>We are in the process of going through the procurement process to secure a contractor. The final route will be confirmed once the transport model for the area has been completed to ensure that it meets the needs of the (yet to be confirmed) housing numbers for Didcot and the surrounding areas.</p> <p>Further information such as traffic management plans and future phases of works will be communicated and uploaded to the website as soon as they have been finalised.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>3. COUNCILLOR NEVILLE HARRIS</p> <p>Didcot's Northern Perimeter Road is still not complete and the wait for its completion now exceeds 40 years. Please confirm the commencement date for the work required to complete what has been designated Phase Three of Didcot's Northern Perimeter Road?</p>	<p>COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>Significant design work on the NPR3 has been undertaken and Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) has secured a proportion of the funding required to design and build the road from housing developments in the area. South Oxfordshire District Council has also secured some funding from Government to help fund the road.</p> <p>Design work on NPR3 was put temporarily on hold while OCC had a transport model built for Didcot and the surrounding area. The model is now available to use to test different options for the design of the junctions that form part of the NPR3 scheme. When this testing is complete, we will be able to proceed to the next stage of the design work, including working up a planning application to allow us to seek permission to build the road.</p> <p>The alignment of the road has not changed since the public consultation was carried out in April 2016, although the design and exact positioning of the northernmost roundabout is still to be confirmed, depending on the outcome of transport modelling work.</p> <p>At the moment, it is not possible to provide a precise timescale for the expected construction of the road. NPR3 is dependent on Ladygrove East to contribute towards the funding required to build the road and provide a large portion of the land that the scheme requires. It is expected that SODC will forward fund the road (until such time that it can recoup the money from the Ladygrove East development).</p> <p>In respect of delivery timing, the county council also needs to be mindful of the operation of the road network in Didcot and the impact that could result from the simultaneous construction of NPR3 and the HIF schemes. Therefore, as design work progresses on all schemes, we will work with our network management team to plan when is best to deliver the works.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>4. COUNCILLOR SUZANNE BARTINGTON</p> <p>The local cycling and walking infrastructure plan (LCWIP) for Oxford received widespread praise as leading the way on planning for proper provision for cycling and walking when it was submitted in late 2019, accompanied with a bid for £300 million to the Department for Transport. The LCWIP for Bicester has been drafted and the plan for Didcot is underway supported by our Active and Health Travel Officer. What is the broader plan for LCWIPS and Active Travel with other market towns across Oxfordshire?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The Council is considering extending LCWIPs to other towns as funding and other opportunities arise. With the co-operation of Cherwell District Council, we are already developing an LCWIP in Kidlington.</p>
<p>5. COUNCILLOR SUZANNE BARTINGTON</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council has recently recruited an Active Travel Hub lead, following a £0.5M investment for an active travel hub in the most recent Council budget. What will be the responsibilities of the Active Travel Hub lead and how will this support locking-in benefits of cycling uptake observed during the COVID-19 lockdown?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The Council has appointed an active travel hub lead whose responsibility will be to embed active travel throughout Oxfordshire. This will entail ensuring that all relevant Council policies, programmes and schemes support active travel. The post commences at the beginning of August and it is envisaged that the postholder will be involved in the prioritisation and implementation of active travel recovery schemes.</p>
<p>6. COUNCILLOR SUZANNE BARTINGTON</p> <p>The Peep O Day Lane cycleway (running from Abingdon Marina to Drayton) has recently been</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>It is great to hear such positive feedback on the use of Flexipave and i-glo discs. We will also be using this on Science Vale Cycle Network route 3D</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>resurfaced within the most recent phase Science Vale Cycling Network project which aims to provide better cycle connectivity between the employment centres at Harwell, Oxford, Milton Park and Culham Science Centre and the towns of Abingdon, Didcot, and Wantage. The surface used for Peep O Day Lane has received widespread praise from users, given it is porous reclaimed rubber with luminous side-markers. Are there any future plans to deploy this excellent surface across additional cycleways in Oxfordshire?</p>	<p>(Milton Park to Sutton Courtenay) and 7A (Abingdon to Culham Science Centre).</p> <p>We will also look at how this surface could be incorporated into Oxfordshire County Council's cycling design standards, which are being reviewed this year. These would then be incorporated into our Local Transport and Connectivity Plan.</p>
<p>7. COUNCILLOR LIZ LEFFMAN</p> <p>On June 25th the BBC aired a news item which showed that much of the plastic waste that people in the UK separate into their recycling bins is going to Turkey, where it is being burnt in the open air rather than being recycled. Can Councillor Constance assure this Council that Oxfordshire's waste plastic is not ending up being handled in this way, but is being recycled for reuse as our residents expect it to be?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The County Council has direct control over materials collected at the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) with the District Councils responsible for recycling materials collected at the kerbside. All Oxfordshire Authorities require contractors to provide details of every facility that our waste is sent to on an ongoing basis and report these to the Environment Agency as required.</p> <p>We use appropriately licensed facilities or brokers through contractors who can process the materials sent to them. However, materials are sold on as commodities, sometimes several times and this can be in the UK, Europe or beyond subject to market influences. Unfortunately, as waste moves beyond our contracted initial destination, we lose visibility and control and therefore cannot say with absolute certainty that Oxfordshire's waste is not being exported to locations of concern.</p> <p>Within the current system all local authorities, the Environment Agency and</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>the UK government have limited visibility to track waste beyond the UK borders and rely on the regulation of those industries to assess the markets they sell the material into. This issue is a national problem requiring a national solution, which is being addressed in the governments national Resources and Waste Strategy 2018. An important additional factor is the lack of infrastructure to process recyclables in the UK. This is also a national issue and until addressed will see some recyclables continue to be sent abroad.</p> <p>As individual authorities, and a waste partnership, we are engaged with Government, national groups and the waste industry to reform the waste tracking system, provide greater visibility to the councils of how its recycled waste is used, and develop UK recycling infrastructure.</p>
<p>8. COUNCILLOR MARK CHERRY</p> <p>Could I have written confirmation of the current schedule for all streetlights in Banbury Ruscote to be changed from halogen to LED, and are there any plans for electric car chargers to be installed in Banbury Ruscote?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LIAM WALKER, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS DELIVERY AND OPERATIONS</p> <p>The conversion from Halogen to LED streetlights will take place on some assets in the area mentioned within the next few years. Our current approach is to prioritise replacement of luminaires and columns that physically failing on major traffic routes. This is where the bigger energy savings would be made.</p> <p>Regarding plans for electric vehicle chargers, The County Council in partnership with the District Councils are currently working on the strategy and design standards for electric vehicle chargers. We are yet to finalise plans for specific locations.</p>
<p>9. COUNCILLOR MARK CHERRY</p> <p>Warwick Road and Edmonds Road continue to deteriorate and so far, are not looking like any major resurfacing work is going to be carried out in the next few years. As the members for</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LIAM WALKER, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS DELIVERY AND OPERATIONS</p> <p>Warwick Road from Orchard Way to Southam Road lights is currently on our future programme for delivery in year 2024/25. It was reassessed last year (with no evidence to suggest a change in priority). Edmonds Road has not been assessed. I have asked officers to schedule one and report back.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>environment including transport, could you tell me if this situation be reconsidered?</p>	
<p>10. COUNCILLOR MARK CHERRY</p> <p>You will be aware that the section 106 and section 278 works were completed by Bloor homes contractors MV Kelly in the locality north Oxfordshire Academy School ,A422 Stratford Road although Road works including resurfacing work and new puffin crossing did not include funding for a vitally needed 20 MPH speed limit by the school for safety concerns.</p> <p>I have put this request into the relevant officers for consideration for the active travel fund which criteria includes 20MPH zone. Could the cabinet member inform me if funding will be forthcoming for a 20MPH zone by north Oxfordshire Academy School?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LIAM WALKER, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS DELIVERY AND OPERATIONS</p> <p>I can confirm that the request for a 20mph zone outside the North Oxfordshire Academy in Banbury will be assessed within the Tranche 2 of the Active Travel Measures. We will need the criteria for the funding from the Department for Transport in order to assess all the options being put forward and then prioritise schemes against the confirmed funding allocation.</p>
<p>11. COUNCILLOR JUDITH HEATHCOAT</p> <p>In my Division recently, on the A417 there was a burst sewerage main which regurgitated raw sewerage on to the street, into gardens of residents, and also in the carpark of a local nursery establishment. The little ones were sent home. Skanska responded to the emergency and closed the road; Thames Water were immediately on the scene and OFRS offered</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>We recognise that this is a huge problem, not just in Oxfordshire, but nationwide. So, with this in mind we will be getting in touch with Thames Water to look at how we can coordinate joint messaging to help raise better awareness.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>support to householders. The burst was caused by a resident flushing completely unsuitable items down their toilets. Non-disposable nappies, non-disposable wipes, baby buds, non-disposable sanitary wear and believe it, or believe it not, children's toys. Can I ask that we contact Thames Water to see if there is anything, we can do together to promote the correct disposal around these sorts of items, there doesn't appear to be one trade or professional body that covers all the different aspects of the water system. There needs to be a higher profile and encouragement by ourselves, the utilities to education our residents but, most of all a higher profile and publicity to ensure that work is done with manufacturers to stop them promoting items as flushable or disposable when they clearly are not.</p>	
<p>12. COUNCILLOR MICHAEL WAINE</p> <p>What is the current status of the South-East Bicester Relief Road, is it just a line on a plan or is it actively seen as the vital component enabling Bicester's growth?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>At Cabinet Member Decisions in March 2016, the following recommendations were approved:</p> <p>The Cabinet Member is RECOMMENDED to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) note the responses received as part of the consultation; (b) safeguard Route Option 2 (Southern alignment) through agreement with Cherwell District Council as part of Cherwell Local Plan Part 2 (CLP Part 2). <p>OCC did subsequently write to Cherwell District Council asking for the route to be safeguarded but the Local Plan Part 2 was not progressed.</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>The project was put on hold awaiting the outcome of Bicester Town Garden work on a proposals for a new motorway junction and the outcome of the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway. Work on the scheme does need to be progressed as part of a planned review of the A41 through Bicester, which will feed into the area transport strategy within the Local Transport & Connectivity Plan (LTCP) and Cherwell District Council's Local Plan Review.</p> <p>The A41 forms part of the peripheral road network in Bicester which plays a key role in the transport strategy for the town. The peripheral routes strategy is expected to remain integral with the increasing focus on active and healthy travel through the LTCP as it will enable the local travel network to concentrate on sustainable modes. With the number of developments that have or are being delivered along the corridor, as well as the background growth along this strategic link, the A41 through Bicester is becoming heavily congested and the south east link road remains a vital component at this stage.</p>
<p>13 .COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>Why did it take 4 months for the government to start sharing with us granular data on who has tested positive for Covid-19? (I'm aware that the full Test-Trace-Isolate system started only in June, but we should surely have been given all the Pillar 2 data as well from February or March onwards, in a timely, reliable and comprehensive manner?)</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LAWRIE STRATFORD, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE & PUBLIC HEALTH</p> <p>The NHS Test and Trace system services are commissioned and operationally overseen by Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). They are the owners of the data that is associated with these services. The Councillor will need to ask DHSC regarding their decisions on sharing data locally.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>14. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>Why do you think the government was initially slow to speak to us, to headteachers and to the unions about how to get all children back to school safely?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CULTURAL SERVICES</p> <p>I cannot comment on the government's approach, but I can comment on engagement between our officers and officials from the Department for Education (DfE).</p> <p>Officers from the Children, Education and Families Directorate have a weekly virtual meeting with Department for Education officials. This provides an opportunity for officers to share good practice, respond to questions and offer advice to officials based on local experience. Officers continue to meet with Headteacher Chairs of Local Partnership each week. This means that there can be a good process of engagement with Department for Education officials.</p>
<p>15. COUNCILLOR EMMA TURNBULL</p> <p>What proportion of Oxfordshire's vulnerable young people, particularly those with EHC plans, have not had regular access to an education setting during lockdown; how many are still waiting for DfE equipment, such as laptops; and what interventions have been made to address the lack of provision?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CULTURAL SERVICES</p> <p>All schools have remained open for children of Critical Workers and those who are deemed as vulnerable, this includes those who have EHCPs. Only two special schools had to close (Kingfisher Academy and Fitzwarren Academy – both in the Propeller Academy Trust). Less than 5% of maintained schools closed and then only for deep cleaning for a day or in some cases two. When places for eligible children have been required by parents and their schools have been closed, the County Council's emergency brokerage team was able to find a temporary place in another school or setting for all that sought an alternative place bar one Early Years child.</p> <p>Regarding interventions when a lack of provision has been available, the affected cohort has been a small number of permanently excluded children who had yet to be placed via the In Year Fair Access process. These children have received education through online tutoring services commissioned by the County Council.</p>

Questions	Answers								
	<p>Specifically, for children with EHCPs, attendance during the week before May half term break (the last week before 1st June when all primary schools opened more widely) was</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td data-bbox="931 368 1518 437">LA mainstream schools only EHCP cohort</td> <td data-bbox="1525 368 1957 403">- 131 pupils 8.5% of possible</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="931 442 1518 510">LA special schools only EHCP cohort</td> <td data-bbox="1525 442 1989 477">- 134 pupils – 11.3% of possible</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="931 515 1518 584">LA mainstream and special schools EHCP cohort</td> <td data-bbox="1525 515 1964 550">- 265 pupils 9.7% of possible</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="931 588 1518 657">All Oxfordshire schools incl. independent EHCP cohort</td> <td data-bbox="1525 588 1951 624">- 302 pupils 8.9% of possible</td> </tr> </table> <p>Should any parent of a child with an EHCP be seeking a return to school place and requires support, Special Needs Officers are on hand to provide this service. During lockdown, officers have participated in two open virtual events for parents of children with special educational needs. Barriers to return to school were not raised by individual parents during these events, with in excess of 100 parents participating in each, but the advice was offered to be shared with parents not attending these events to contact their Special Needs Officers if issues arise.</p> <p>During the week before half term 3567 pupils with EHCPs, with critical worker parents or deemed as vulnerable attended school which is 3.86% of the Oxfordshire school population – compared with 2.70% nationally.</p> <p>Since 1st June, the data below indicates take up of return to school wider opportunities for children deemed vulnerable and with EHCPs.</p>	LA mainstream schools only EHCP cohort	- 131 pupils 8.5% of possible	LA special schools only EHCP cohort	- 134 pupils – 11.3% of possible	LA mainstream and special schools EHCP cohort	- 265 pupils 9.7% of possible	All Oxfordshire schools incl. independent EHCP cohort	- 302 pupils 8.9% of possible
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<p>16. COUNCILLOR EMMA TURNBULL</p> <p>How many Home-to-School transport journeys were cancelled for eligible pupils who were still entitled to attend school during lockdown?</p>	<p>THE DfE funded I.T equipment (laptops and routers) are for those children who are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care leavers • Have a Social Worker • Are in Y10 and 'disadvantaged' <p>The County Council is responsible for ordering the laptops for care leavers and those pupils with Social Workers.</p> <p>In the case of Y10s deemed 'disadvantaged', Academies order them direct from the DfE and OCC order for the maintained secondaries. OCC, therefore, only ordered for Carterton Community College and the delivery was made to the school on 25th June.</p> <p>Whilst gathering the information from schools about numbers required, it was widely reported that individual schools have loaned their own computers to pupils.</p> <p>Children's Social Care is arranging wider delivery of the laptops to Care Leavers and pupils deemed 'disadvantaged' this week ending 10th July 2020.</p> <p>COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CULTURAL SERVICES</p> <p>Regarding Home to School transport provision for pupils entitled to this service there has been transport available throughout the period of lockdown. Where pupils were attending school by virtue of either being deemed as vulnerable or as child of a parent/carer defined as a critical worker, transport</p>																																																																					

Questions	Answers
	<p>has been made available. This has also been the case for children accessing places in a different school for any reason through the school place brokering service.</p> <p>It is not possible to give figures of any cancelled individual journeys because schools (Mainstream and Special) have been frequently changing the requirements for transport to accommodate the needs of pupils on site.</p> <p>Although there are monthly records of the number of pupils being transported (and Direct Travel Payments made) which could be compared against the number being transported pre COVID this would not show that the same children have been transported in any month.</p>
<p>17. COUNCILLOR EMMA TURNBULL</p> <p>How many vulnerable children have the multi-agency teams been unable to contact within the statutory timeframe during lockdown, and what have been the primary reasons for this?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR STEVE HARROD, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES</p> <p>Since April we have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • received 1403 contacts into the MASH of which 75% were dealt with on time, 83% of the high need cases were on time. We have taken actions to improve the timeliness of partner’s information-sharing and anticipate that the high need will return to 90+% on time in the next month • within these contacts there have been 427 child protection enquiries undertaken • 83% of our ICPCs have been on time (last national average 79%) • started 1601 social care assessments – with 93% of the caseload being work with on time • each week we have routinely visited between 600 and 700 children we care for, those the subject of a child protection plan and those the subject of a child in need plan • all children open to social care are risk assessed weekly and RAG rated. All ‘red’ children are seen face-to-face and all others are seen via videocalls to statutory timescales. PPE is used on home visits.

Questions	Answers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> all staff with underlying health conditions and all staff from minority ethnic groups are risk assessed in respect of their participation in face-to-face work. Staff work flexibly to ensure all children's visits take place
<p>18. COUNCILLOR GLYNIS PHILLIPS</p> <p>The Cabinet meeting 16 June 2020 was advised that although the Council has received £27.2m from government that there was a shortfall of £37.3m for 2020/2021. It would be helpful if the Cabinet member could advise how the shortfall will be met and share his deliberations around setting an emergency budget?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE</p> <p>Thank you for asking this important question and giving me the opportunity to provide an update on the financial impact of Covid-19 on the Council.</p> <p>The figure you refer to was an early estimate of the impact on 20/21. This estimate was subsequently revised down to £62.9m in the May return to MHCLG. After Government funding of £27.2, this gave a nett shortfall of £35.7m. Since then, a revised base case has been produced further revising down the impact to £50.9m, which translates to £23.7m nett.</p> <p>On 2 July the SoS announced additional funding, but at the time of writing Oxfordshire's allocation has not been confirmed, although officers have produced an estimate of the likely amount. Should you wish to ask a follow-up question, I may be able to be more precise at Full Council on 14 July.</p> <p>Whatever the exact amount, it is clear that the existing Budget will require substantial revision. Cabinet Members are currently working with officers to identify the changes that have to be made. These will be reviewed during the course of July to be followed by an Extraordinary Cabinet Meeting in August. Recommendations for Budget revisions will then be put to Full Council in September.</p>
<p>19. COUNCILLOR GILL SANDERS</p> <p>I am being asked by my constituents as to why Oxfordshire has lost £300,000 of the First</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The Emergency Active Travel Fund was intended to enable walking and cycling as lockdown restrictions were eased through 'swift and meaningful</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>Tranche funding from the government's Active Travel Fund that had been earmarked for Oxfordshire County Council. Will the cabinet member explain how it was that the county was unable to meet the government's criteria? Will she admit that the additional £300,000 that the council has decided to make up the shortfall will come out of county funds that might better have been spent on other front-line services?</p>	<p>plans to reallocate road space to cyclists and pedestrians, including on strategic corridors. Oxfordshire was given an indicative allocation of £597,000 for tranche one. The conditions we were asked to comply with included spending the money within eight weeks, and we were given 1 week to submit our proposal.</p> <p>In developing the Oxfordshire proposal, officers started by reviewing the outputs of the recently undertaken active travel member survey to ensure that our bid reflected their priorities. We then shortlisted these based on the measures we believed were consistent with the grant conditions and those that were aligned with the priorities of the district and city councils. We also ensured that the needs of the entire county were considered. In addition to new temporary measures, we also proposed that we would add to any money from Department for Transport (DfT) by reprioritising our maintenance programmes, and also sought other funding to enable more to be done, including the use of developer's contributions. This process was designed to ensure that we developed a package of measures that would best meet the needs of Oxfordshire's residents and communities as lockdown restrictions were eased.</p> <p>When we received formal notification of funding, we were advised that DfT had decided to award authorities either 25%, 50%, 75% or 100% of their allocation. In some cases, authorities could receive more than their indicative allocation. This was not stated in the original grant conditions.</p> <p>Oxfordshire received 50% of its indicative allocation. Feedback from DfT, suggested that they didn't feel all of our measures would achieve the meaningful shift to cycling and walking. They said that "we did not see sufficient evidence of this in your proposal and noted that a number of measures were around maintenance of existing lanes and repainting of existing cycle lanes which is not the primary purpose of the fund, so were not able to agree to the full indicative allocation". We suspect the approach of looking across Oxfordshire as a whole rather than concentrating on main</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>urban areas may have also had a bearing. This does seem to have been an issue across the country, with many counties receiving approximately 50% of their allocation, and many urban metropolitan areas receiving either 100% or 111% of their allocation.</p> <p>As set out above, the Active Travel Fund was just one of a number of funding sources that we are using to deliver this programme, and I can confirm that all the measures we identified for the tranche one programme will be still delivered. It is clear from the feedback from DfT that any additional funding we could have received from them would have had to be spent on measures that are in addition to what is already planned, and so wouldn't have reduced the financial pressure to deliver our current programme.</p> <p>We will be looking to increase our funding in tranche two, for which our indicative allocation is £2.3m, and we will liaise closely with DfT to ensure we maximise our chances to achieve that. We have not yet received any information from DfT on tranche 2, but are told that it is imminent.</p>
<p>20. COUNCILLOR DAMIAN HAYWOOD</p> <p>I am pleased that the Cabinet member has agreed to implement the full £600k of work identified in tranche 1 even though our bid was not fully successful, we have only received 50%, but this is £300k which we didn't need to spend. So, my question is why does the cabinet member think they were not provided with the full allocation?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The Emergency Active Travel Fund was intended to enable walking and cycling as lockdown restrictions were eased through 'swift and meaningful plans to reallocate road space to cyclists and pedestrians, including on strategic corridors. Oxfordshire was given an indicative allocation of £597,000 for tranche one. The conditions we were asked to comply with included spending the money within eight weeks, and we were given 1 week to submit our proposal.</p> <p>In developing the Oxfordshire proposal, officers started by reviewing the outputs of the recently undertaken active travel member survey to ensure that our bid reflected their priorities. We then shortlisted these based on the</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>measures we believed were consistent with the grant conditions and those that were aligned with the priorities of the district and city councils. We also ensured that the needs of the entire county were considered. In addition to new temporary measures, we also proposed that we would add to any money from Department for Transport (DfT) by reprioritising our maintenance programmes, and also sought other funding to enable more to be done, including the use of developer's contributions. This process was designed to ensure that we developed a package of measures that would best meet the needs of Oxfordshire's residents and communities as lockdown restrictions were eased.</p> <p>When we received formal notification of funding, we were advised that DfT had decided to award authorities either 25%, 50%, 75% or 100% of their allocation. In some cases, authorities could receive more than their indicative allocation. This was not stated in the original grant conditions.</p> <p>Oxfordshire received 50% of its indicative allocation. Feedback from DfT, suggested that they didn't feel all of our measures would achieve the meaningful shift to cycling and walking. They said that "we did not see sufficient evidence of this in your proposal and noted that a number of measures were around maintenance of existing lanes and repainting of existing cycle lanes which is not the primary purpose of the fund, so were not able to agree to the full indicative allocation". We suspect the approach of looking across Oxfordshire as a whole rather than concentrating on main urban areas may have also had a bearing. This does seem to have been an issue across the country, with many counties receiving approximately 50% of their allocation, and many urban metropolitan areas receiving either 100% or 111% of their allocation.</p> <p>As set out above, the Active Travel Fund was just one of a number of funding sources that we are using to deliver this programme, and I can confirm that all the measures we identified for the tranche one programme will be still delivered. It is clear from the feedback from DfT that any additional funding</p>

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	<p>we could have received from them would have had to be spent on measures that are in addition to what is already planned, and so wouldn't have reduced the financial pressure to deliver our current programme.</p> <p>We will be looking to increase our funding in tranche two, for which our indicative allocation is £2.3m, and we will liaise closely with DfT to ensure we maximise our chances to achieve that. We have not yet received any information from DfT on tranche 2, but are told that it is imminent.</p>
<p>21. COUNCILLOR JUDY ROBERTS</p> <p>Given this Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency, will the Cabinet member confirm that the Officers comments in it's One response reply to planning applications are consistent with our Carbon Neutral aims?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The council is currently reviewing its response to planning applications to ensure that comments fully reflect our Climate Emergency commitments. We are proactively working with Districts and City partners on ensuring climate action is given high priority in the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 and responding to local and neighbourhood plans. Our response to the Future Homes Standard consultation asked the government to go further in setting stretching standards for residential housing development.</p>
<p>22. COUNCILLOR JUDY ROBERTS</p> <p>How much of the Apprentice Levy was not spent in the year 2019-2020?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE</p> <p>The Apprenticeship Levy was introduced in 2017. Oxfordshire County Council's Apprenticeship Levy pot can only be spent on apprenticeship training, not on salaries or support costs. This pot of funding is generated by a monthly charge of 0.5% on the council's pay bill. The funding is available for 24 months from when it is paid into the pot. Funding with the shortest availability period is applied to expenditure first. Course fees are drawn down from the pot on a monthly basis over the period of the course rather than upfront. If funding remains unspent after 24 months is 'expires' and is removed from the pot. In 2019/20 £309,754.11 expired.</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>We offer a wide range of apprenticeships across 29 frameworks including Business Admin and Management, as well as specific career paths such as those in Civil Engineering and Legal, ranging from Level 2 (GCSE) to Level 7 (Masters). There were 224 active apprenticeships during 2019/20, of these more than 50% were permanent staff undertaking CPD, of these 108 were new apprenticeships commencing in 2019-20, and 19 of these commenced during Q4. The total amount paid to the levy during 2019-20 was £1,172,488. Approximately 42% of this was funded by Schools. £733,527 has been committed to apprenticeships within this period, although only 20% of apprenticeships were within Schools.</p> <p>The key point is that the funding is managed on a rolling basis rather than a straight-forward annual allocation.</p>
<p>23. COUNCILLOR JANE HANNA</p> <p>Can the leader report on the success of his lobbying efforts since April to provide Oxfordshire with the real time and granular data necessary to find and combat Covid 19 within the County and the time lines for this access and can the leader share anonymous data on Covid 19 hotspots with the rest of the Council and the public so that communities can move forward with confidence and trust in the knowledge that Oxfordshire is Covid secure?</p>	<p>COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>Up until late on Thursday the published data was for pillar 1, but the government has now changed this to show the positive cases from all testing routes including pillar 2. This is a welcome development which is the result of continued and robust lobbying to improve of the data available to our local public health teams. This will enable us to closely monitor the number of COVID cases to ensure that we can provide a prompt response to limit community transmission of the virus. I re-emphasise this data is shared with local teams in order to manage and prevent outbreaks.</p> <p>The data is also now starting to become available at a more granular post code level. As I am sure you will appreciate this data is highly sensitive and comes with extremely strict conditions. It is not to be shared wider as doing so can relatively easily breach patient confidentiality. In Oxfordshire we have signed up to the required data sharing agreement process and are now working with the base data to make it usable.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>24. COUNCILLOR JANE HANNA</p> <p>Can the leader report on whether he is lobbying for the Oxfordshire public health team to have decision making power over the siting of testing centres across Oxfordshire given he confirmed these decisions were made at national level without understanding of where there have been infection outbreaks and deaths and intelligence within local communities relevant to choice of site?</p>	<p>COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>The siting of the regional testing units is not a matter for local determination. However, I can assure you through the COVID-19 Health Protection Board, we have considered our local testing capacity through a combination local labs and regional testing centres while taking into consideration of the clinical appropriateness.</p>
<p>25. COUNCILLOR JANE HANNA</p> <p>Would the leader convene a meeting of the Chairs of HOSC, Performance scrutiny and Audit and Governance to consider conducting a rapid forward looking review to hear experiences from County Councillors about the impact of the Covid 19 response so far on the health and well-being and engagement with local wards as well as the impact of rapid changes in governance on the inclusion of Councillors and the local communities they represent?</p>	<p>COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>I believe in strong independent scrutiny committees and would never suggest what they investigate or scrutinise as that is the responsibility of the committees. However, I would remind everybody that we are not out of the pandemic. Our officers have been working extremely hard since before lock down. I'm not sure if we should be asking hard pressed officers to carry out additional work when especially at a time of uncertainty.</p>
<p>26. COUNCILLOR JENNY HANNABY</p> <p>Given access to Covid testing is key to reducing infection and saving lives in the community</p>	<p>COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>The policy and guidance for the discharge of patients from Hospitals during the pandemic has been the responsibility of the NHS and Department of</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>why were residents and staff in care homes and nursing homes put in danger by discharge of patients from hospitals without knowing whether they had tested negative from Covid 19 and does the leader know whether the relevant policy documentation and guidance used by the acute hospitals is confidential or available to County Councillors and the public?</p>	<p>Health and Social Care, Specific guidance regarding hospital discharge was published on the 19th March 2020 and is publicly available via the DHSC website. Officers within the Council and the NHS have followed all policies and amendments and updates are they were issued. The policy specific to testing patients prior to discharge to care homes was implemented from the 15th April and since then all patients being transferred to care homes are tested for COVID before discharge.</p>
<p>27. COUNCILLOR JENNY HANNABY</p> <p>Does the leader agree that had testing occurred prior to patients being discharged high levels of infection would have been avoided and many people and professionals would have avoided the devastation from the excess death toll during the first wave of Covid 19?</p>	<p>COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>The officers in the Council have advocated testing of people before discharge from hospital into care homes. Testing is one aspect of reducing transmission of infection in the community, but it is not the only intervention that reduces spread. Effective infection control and social distancing are also essential tools in the fight against COVID-19.</p> <p>There now is testing of patients on discharge in to care homes. Fixating on historical testing policies and apportioning blame is not constructive at this time. There is now more local input and response to COVID being handed to us which is welcome. This allows us to use our local knowledge and relationships to meet local response needs as we move to the next stage in the pandemic. Our focus is on the local planning to keep the spread of COVID down in the County.</p>
<p>28. COUNCILLOR JENNY HANNABY</p> <p>Care Homes have reported that the Target agreement with County has not been increased in real terms or kept in line with government pay</p>	<p>COUCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>This council values the relationship with its providers but as you might expect needs to balance the available resources. We have paid an additional 10% each month to our providers, as well as a number of additional activities,</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>increases. Can the leader give assurances that discussions will take place to agree payments for services that reflect actual cost of delivery, and that the County will address the public interest of the sustainability of placements in care homes to ensure that all residents in Oxfordshire have an opportunity for appropriate placement based on need and that decisions to discharge patients to home settings rather than residential settings will be grounded in the public interest of caring for the most vulnerable in society balanced but not driven by cost and that procurement is scrutinised?</p>	<p>paying to plan making a sustainability fund available. We have also ensured the practical support is there for homes through our care home cell, access to weekly calls and dedicated support for infection control and PPE.</p>
<p>29. COUNCILLOR ROZ SMITH</p> <p>Does the Cabinet member for finance have any concerns regarding the payments operation via the ContrOCC system within Children's Services?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE</p> <p>The ContrOCC system is the financial part of the Integrated Children's Services system.</p> <p>The finance system makes payments based on the receipt of information from the Social Care side of the system.</p> <p>As with any new system there is a period of stabilisation and transition to business as usual. There are business processes spanning operations and support services that are being reviewed for opportunities for improvement.</p> <p>In relation to the payment operation, this has recently moved into the social care payment team and standardised payment processes are being followed across both Adult and Children's Services.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p data-bbox="248 220 775 252">30. COUNCILLOR PETE SUDBURY</p> <p data-bbox="203 331 898 991">I've been fairly shocked by what appears to be the ineptitude of PHE right from the beginning of this crisis. The latest howler is that nobody in Leicester had a clue anything was wrong until last Thursday, due to the fact that half the testing is kept secret. I have also seen, on the news, officers from various local authorities expressing (remarkably calmly) their frustration with PHE only sharing postcode, not name, address, place of work, anything that might enable a proportionate and targeted local response. So, my question is whether you have considered setting up a test, track and trace system using your local team, which approach seems to have been effective in Ceredigion? Right now, when case numbers are (probably) low, would seem like a good time to start something like this, preparing for a putative "second wave".</p>	<p data-bbox="931 220 1995 288">COUNCILLOR LAWRIE STRATFORD, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE & PUBLIC HEALTH</p> <p data-bbox="931 331 2018 624">Up until very recently the published data was for pillar 1, but the government has now changed this to show the positive cases from all testing routes including pillar 2. This is a welcome development which is the result of continued and robust lobbying to improve of the data available to our local public health teams. This will enable us to closely monitor the number of COVID cases to ensure that we can provide a prompt response to limit community transmission of the virus. I re-emphasise this data is shared with local teams in order to manage and prevent outbreaks.</p> <p data-bbox="931 663 2040 879">The data is also now starting to become available at a more granular post code level. As I am sure you will appreciate this data is highly sensitive and comes with extremely strict conditions. It is not to be shared wider as doing so can relatively easily breach patient confidentiality. In Oxfordshire we have signed up to the required data sharing agreement process and are now working with the base data to make it usable.</p> <p data-bbox="931 919 2029 991">The concept of tracking and tracing has now received public attention and the awareness of this activity is at an all-time high.</p> <p data-bbox="931 1031 2040 1174"><u>This is not a new concept or activity</u> in fact it has been going on discretely and largely unnoticed in the County for many years. There are long established and robust systems and plans in the County to respond to monitoring and preventing the spread of communicable diseases in the County.</p> <p data-bbox="931 1214 2029 1430">I welcome the increased involvement of local government in monitoring and responding to COVID-19 in Oxfordshire. The PH team and the local partners have an understanding of the Oxfordshire population and what we need to do in order to respond to identified cases and limit spread of COVID-19. Local partners are working together through the newly set up COVID-19 Health Protection Board and have developed a Local Outbreak Control Plan which</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>will strengthen on the existing outbreak plans, so that we are prepared for any second wave if it does arrive as we expect later in the year.</p> <p>However, we need the assistance of public in following the social distancing guidance. The best way to manage an outbreak is to prevent one in the first place. The pandemic is far from over, we are not relaxing our vigilance and do not want to lose the effects of the sacrifice and hard work of everyone so far. It is important to emphasise that this prevention message not just for areas where there are cases but for whole of Oxfordshire.</p> <p>I hope this assures you that we have put in systems and process in place to manage and detect outbreaks, but it's really important that everyone in Oxfordshire also follows the key prevention message and stays alert at all time.</p>
<p>31. COUNCILLOR TED FENTON</p> <p>Can the Cab Member confirm the current position on DfT's Active Travel Tranche 2 funding? We understand that an 'indicative allocation' of £2.38 million has been announced. What are the criteria for this spend? Are there similar deadlines which affected the Tranche 1 spending and you confirm that this fund will be distributed to support projects across the whole county?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The Department for Transport have not yet announced the guidance and criteria for Tranche 2 funding. Officers are informed that an announcement is 'imminent'. We are confident that the schemes will be related to improving access for cyclists and pedestrians and sit well with our overarching longer-term Active Travel ambition.</p> <p>As a consequence, in preparation, we are exploring a number of key themes including Local Traffic Neighbourhoods, School Streets, use of 20 mph, and mapping across Oxfordshire all remaining measures put forward by Members, key stakeholders and the general public, to enable the development of some focussed (locality based or key route) schemes across Oxfordshire.</p> <p>On receipt of the letter, we propose to liaise closely with DfT colleagues to ensure that we understand fully their ambition and will develop a proposed timetable to ensure delivery to timescale. We will use DfT criteria along with</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>our own assessment/prioritisation framework to identify agreed schemes for further development, costing and consultation. Finally, our expectation is that we will seek Member approval on final schemes prior to DfT submission.</p>
<p>32. COUNCILLOR JAMILA AZAD</p> <p>We are locked down in Coved-19 and planning to go back to our normal life activities in near future. In my Division the pavements are narrow and there are no cycling lanes. It is very difficult for public to keep the social distance and at the same time wearing face masks is not compulsory.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LAWRIE STRATFORD, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE & PUBLIC HEALTH</p> <p>It is recognised that it can be difficult to maintain social distancing at all times. Whilst outside, there are other measures that people can take to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus. These include avoiding being face to face with another person, washing your hands regularly, and avoiding crowds. The link below gives more detailed advice on how to stay safe outside the home.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-safe-outside-your-home/staying-safe-outside-your-home</p>
<p>33. COUNCILLOR JAMILA AZAD</p> <p>Some parents are worried about sending their children to schools because of rising cases of Coronavirus cases and other risks in small classrooms and narrow corridors in School. What is County Council doing to counter parents' concerns, so they are happy to send their children to School?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LAWRIE STRATFORD, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE & PUBLIC HEALTH</p> <p>Throughout the response to COVID19 schools have remained open and officers in the Council from public health and the education team have meet weekly with headteachers to provide support and advice in safely managing the school setting using the national guidance. New guidance was published on 3rd July to enable schools to plan for September for classroom layouts and movement around the school. Each school will continue to liaise with their parent community about measures put in place in their individual settings.</p>