

Agency, Partnership and Joint Arrangements

1. Arrangements to Promote Well-Being

The Council or the Cabinet, in order to promote the economic, social or environmental well-being of its area, may:

- (a) enter into arrangements or agreements with any person or body;
- (b) co-operate with, or facilitate or co-ordinate the activities of, any person or body; and
- (c) exercise on behalf of that person or body any functions of that person or body.

2. Agency Arrangements

- (a) The Council may make arrangements with any other local authority whereby that other authority will exercise non-executive functions of the Council.
- (b) The Cabinet may make arrangements with any other local authority (or the executive of that authority if it is operating executive arrangements) whereby that other authority (or executive) will exercise executive functions of the Council.
- (c) No arrangements made under (a) or (b) above prevent the Council or the Cabinet from exercising the functions which are the subject of the arrangements.
- (d) The arrangements currently existing are listed in Schedule 1.

3. Partnerships

- (a) The Council participates in a range of partnerships. In some cases, such as the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Safeguarding Children Board, these are a statutory requirement. Others are voluntary partnerships and all help to co-ordinate and join up organisational effort across the public sector and with other local bodies.
- (b) The Oxfordshire Partnership is the over-arching strategic partnership for the county. It brings together organisations from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors to focus their efforts on the issues of importance to those who live, work, and visit Oxfordshire; and to discuss how we can work together to address the challenges we face. Its aims are set out in **Oxfordshire 2030**.
- (c) The Oxfordshire Partnership meets on a bi-annual basis.

- (d) The Council participates in various Oxfordshire-wide partnerships which are critical in progressing key county-wide priorities across the themes of economic growth, health, and wellbeing, thriving communities and support to the most vulnerable. Each of these Partnerships (included in Schedule 3) are required to report annually to Full Council. This report requires Partnerships to tell the Council:
- Their current focus
 - Key achievements in the last year
 - Aims for the year ahead
 - Key challenges
 - Outline of governance arrangements
- (e) The Partnership Report also includes information from a range of partnerships which do not have a formal requirement to report back to the Council, but on which the Council is represented. This includes in particular the Local Enterprise Partnership.

4. Joint Arrangements

- (a) The Council may establish joint arrangements with one or more local authorities to exercise functions which are not executive functions in any of the participating authorities, or to advise the Council. Such arrangements may involve the appointment of a joint committee with those other local authorities.
- (b) The Cabinet may establish joint arrangements with one or more local authorities to exercise functions which are executive functions. Such arrangements may involve the appointment of joint committees with those other local authorities.
- (c) Except as set out below, only Cabinet Members may be appointed to a joint committee which is responsible for discharging executive functions, and those members need not reflect the political composition of the local authority.¹
- (d) The Cabinet may appoint members to a joint committee from outside the Cabinet in the following circumstances:
- (i) Where the joint committee has functions for only part of the area of the authority, and that area is smaller than two-fifths of the authority by area or population, the Cabinet may appoint to the joint committee any councillor who is a member for an electoral division which is wholly or partly contained within the area.
 - (ii) Where the joint committee is between the Council and a single district council and relates to functions of the Cabinet of the County Council. In such cases, the Cabinet of the County Council may appoint to the joint committee any councillor who is a member for an electoral division which is wholly or partly

¹ Section 20 of the Local Government Act 2000

contained within the area. In both of these cases the political balance requirements do not apply to the appointments.

- (e) The joint committees currently existing are listed in Schedule 2.

5. Access to Information

- (a) If all the members of a joint committee are members of the Executive in each of the participating authorities, then its access to information regime is the same as that which applies to the Executive.
- (b) If the joint committee contains members who are not on the Executive of any participating authority, then the access to information rules in Part VA of the Local Government Act 1972 will apply.

6. Contracting Out

The Cabinet may contract out to another body or organisation functions which may be exercised by an officer, and which are subject to an order under section 70 of the Deregulation and Contracting Out Act 1994, or under contracting arrangements where the contractor acts as the Council's agent under usual contracting principles, provided there is no delegation of the Council's discretionary decision making.

Schedule 1 – Agency Arrangements

	Partner Authority	Function
(a)	Cherwell District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Verge, tree, and hedge maintenance. (ii) Adoption of private streets. (iii) Administration of Advance Payments Code. (iv) Recovery and disposal of abandoned vehicles. (v) Promotion and implementation of individual highway and traffic measures as specifically agreed from time to time. (vi) Highway verge maintenance (grass cutting)
(b)	Oxford City Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Promotion and implementation of minor highway and traffic measures funded from developer contributions. (ii) Recovery and disposal of abandoned vehicles. (iii) Highway verge maintenance (grass cutting)
(c)	South Oxfordshire District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Recovery and disposal of abandoned vehicles. (ii) Administration of specified on-street pay & display parking places, Wallingford. (iii) Promotion and implementation of individual highway and traffic measures as specifically agreed from time to time.
(d)	Vale of White Horse District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Verge, tree, and hedge maintenance. (ii) Adoption of private streets. (iii) Administration of Advance Payments Code. (iv) Recovery and disposal of abandoned vehicles. (v) Promotion and implementation of individual highway and traffic measures as specifically agreed from time to time. (vi) Highway verge maintenance (grass cutting)

(e)	West Oxfordshire District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Verge, tree, and hedge maintenance. (ii) Adoption of private streets. (iii) Administration of Advance Payments Code. (iv) Recovery and disposal of abandoned vehicles. (v) Promotion and implementation of individual highway and traffic measures as specifically agreed from time to time. (vi) Highway verge maintenance (grass cutting)
(f)	All Town & Parish Councils (Subject to specific agreement in each case)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (vii) Removal of unauthorised signs from the highway. (viii) Promotion and implementation of individual highway and traffic measures as specifically agreed from time to time. (ix) Highway verge maintenance (grass cutting)
(g) (h) (i)	Abingdon Town Council Henley Town Council Thame Town Council	Administration of specified town centre on-street parking schemes.

Schedule 2 – Joint Committees

Part 1 – Relating to Non-Executive Functions

Partner Authority(ies)

None

Committee

None

Part 2 – Relating to Executive Functions

Partner Authority(ies)	Committee
The authorities within the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) i.e., Cherwell District Council, Oxford City Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council and West Oxfordshire District Council Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, East Sussex, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Surrey and West Sussex Fire Authorities	Oxfordshire Growth Board
Other traffic authorities outside London operating Special and Permitted Parking Areas ²	National Parking Adjudication Service Joint Committee

²As defined in Schedule 3 to the Road Traffic Act 1991

Part 3 – Relating to Scrutiny Functions

Partner Authority(ies)	Committee
Oxfordshire County Council and the 5 district councils in the County ³	Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

³Statutory Committee set up under Section 8(2)(a) of the Health & Social Care Act 2001

Schedule 3 – Partnerships

In addition to its involvement in agency and joint arrangements, the Council participates in the Oxfordshire Partnership, the over-arching strategic partnership for the County.

In practice, the Council engages in various partnerships including:

- Oxfordshire Environment and Waste Partnership
- Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership
- Oxfordshire Stronger Communities Alliance
- Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board
- Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board