

**OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MEETING OF COUNCIL – 16 APRIL 2024**

**SCHEDULE OF BUSINESS**

<b>ITEM/TIME</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>PROPOSALS (M = Motion; SEC = Seconders; Am = Amendment S = Statement; Q = Question; REC = Recommendation to be determined)</b>
<b>1</b>  <b>10:30</b>	<b>Minutes</b>  To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2024 ( <b>CC1</b> ) and to receive information arising from them.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	
<b>3</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
<b>4</b>  <b>10:35</b>  <b>5 mins</b>	<b>Official Communications</b>  Ofsted has judged Oxfordshire County Council's Children's Services as 'good' as part of an inspection that took place in February 2024.  Ofsted commented that "Strong political and corporate support has continued and has ensured that the children's directorate has received ongoing investment to develop and strengthen services for vulnerable children.  Since the last Full Council meeting in February, the Chair has had the following invitations - <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 12<sup>th</sup> March Opening of Edmonds Park Pavilion, Didcot</li><li>• 16<sup>th</sup> March South Oxfordshire District Council quiz night, Chalgrove</li><li>• 22<sup>nd</sup> March SODC Chair's Civic charity dinner, Chalgrove</li></ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 28<sup>th</sup> March Oxfordshire music theatre production, Abingdon</li> <li>• 5<sup>th</sup> April Mayor of Henley's Civic dinner, Henley</li> <li>• 13<sup>th</sup> April Mayor of Thame Civic event, Thame</li> </ul> <p>On the 15<sup>th</sup> of March Cllr Bloomfield held his annual Civic event raising over £3,000 for his chosen charities.</p> <p>Upcoming events are –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16<sup>th</sup> April Oxfordshire employment and annual celebration event, Oxford</li> <li>• 17<sup>th</sup> April Blue Plaque meeting, Oxford</li> <li>• 19<sup>th</sup> April Millstream extension opening</li> <li>• 21<sup>st</sup> April Faringdon Civic service</li> <li>• 7<sup>th</sup> May Mayor of Didcot's Mayor making</li> <li>• 14<sup>th</sup> May Inauguration of the Banbury Town Mayor, Banbury</li> <li>• 17<sup>th</sup> May Chair of West Oxfordshire District Council charity quiz, Witney</li> </ul>	
<b>5</b>	<b>Appointments</b> <p>To be dealt with under Item 15 Review of Political Balance.</p>	
<b>6</b>  <b>10:40</b>  <b>30 mins</b>	<b>Petitions and Public Address</b> <p><b><i>Any person may address the Council on an item on the agenda subject to the provisions in CPR 10.2 of the Constitution</i></b></p> <p>Public Address – 3 minutes to speak on this occasion (reduced from 5 minutes at the discretion of the Chair – CPR 10.3)</p>	<b>Petitions</b> None  <b>Public Address</b> <u>Item 9: Annual Report of the Director of Public Health</u> Professor Hugh Montgomery Professor Sir Andrew Haine  <u>Item 17: Motion by Councillor Reeves</u> Claire Wilding Helen Evans Krista Beighton Clare Nelis

		<p>Helen Evans</p> <p><u>Item 20: Motion by Councillor Gawrysiak</u> Janet Waters Caroline Newton</p> <p><u>Item 21: Motion by Councillor Reeves</u> Kimberly Morgan Tressa Verrier</p> <p>Note that requests were received for Items 25 and 26 but the Chair declined them as those items will not be reached.</p>
<p><b>7.</b></p> <p><b>11:10</b></p> <p><b>5 mins</b></p>	<p><b>Questions from Members of the Public</b></p> <p>See Annex 2 for questions and responses. One supplementary question allowed for each.</p> <p><b>1. District Councillor Paul Barrow.</b> <b>2. Janine Bailey</b> <b>3. Anne Spares</b></p>	<p>Cllr Gant Cllr Levy Cllr Gant</p>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>11:15</b></p> <p><b>30 mins</b></p>	<p><b>Questions with Notice from Members of the Council</b></p> <p>See Annex 3 for questions and responses. One supplementary question allowed for each.</p> <p><b>1. Ford to Sudbury</b> <b>2. Cherry to Gant</b> <b>3. Snowdon to Gant</b> <b>4. Phillips to Sudbury</b> <b>5. Van Mierlo to Saul</b> <b>6. Reynolds to Gant</b> <b>7. Reynolds to Gant</b> <b>8. Reeves to Howson</b> <b>9. Elphinstone to Gant</b> <b>10. Elphinstone to Gant</b> <b>11. Pressel to Gant</b> <b>12. Pressel to Sudbury</b></p>	

	<b>13. Pressel to Gant</b> <b>14. Povolotsky to Gregory</b> <b>15. Povolotsky to Gregory</b> <b>16. Bartholomew to Gant</b> <b>17. Bartholomew to Sudbury</b> <b>18. Bartholomew to Roberts</b> <b>19. Reeves to Gregory</b> <b>20. Reeves to Sudbury</b> <b>21. Saul to Levy</b> <b>22. Ford to Roberts</b> <b>23. Ford to Gant</b> <b>24. Waine to Gant</b> <b>25. Corkin to Gregory</b>	
<b>9</b>  <b>11:45</b>  <b>40 mins</b>	<b>Annual Report of the Director of Public Health (Pages 7-76)</b>  <b>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</b>  The full Council is RECOMMENDED to note the Director of Public Health Annual Report and to take every opportunity to support actions and initiatives that will progress related work.	M Ley SEC Leffman S O'Connor S Edosomwan S Lygo S Pressel S Ley S Leffman S Gant S Howson S Sudbury S Miller
<b>10</b>  <b>12:25</b>  <b>5 mins</b>	<b>Dispensation from Attending Meetings (Pages 77-78)</b>  <b>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</b>  The Council is RECOMMENDED a) To grant a dispensation to Cllr Yvonne Constance from the statutory requirement to attend a meeting of the Council within a six-month period from the last noted attendance due to illness. b) To approve that the dispensation last up to and including 30 November 2024	M Reeves SEC Leffman
<b>11</b>  <b>12:30</b>  <b>30 mins</b>	<b>Cabinet Report (Pages 79-102)</b>  Leader (Liz Leffman) Pg 79: Item 1	Q Baines Q Hicks Q O'Connor Q Elphinstone

		Q Enright Q Pressel
	Item 2	Q Phillips
	Adult Social Care (Tim Bearder) Pg 80: Item 3	Q Pressel
	Community & Corporate Services (Neil Fawcett) Pg 80: Item 4	Q Pressel Q Cherry
	Pg 81: Item 5	Q Phillips
	Item 6	Q Pressel Q van Mierlo
	Item 7	
	Item 8	Q Phillips Q Baines
	Infrastructure & Development Strategy (Judy Roberts) Pg 82: Item 9	Q Enright
	Finance (Dan Levy) Pg 82: Item 10	Q Baines
	Pg 83: Item 11	Q Baines
	Item 12	
	Item 13	Q Baines
	Item 14	Q Bartholomew
	Pg 84: Item 15	Q Baines
	Item 16	
	Pg 85: Item 17	Q O'Connor Q Brighthouse Q Bartholomew
	Item 18	
	Item 19	Q Baines
	Item 20	Q Enright Q Elphinstone Q Cherry

	Scrutiny Reports Pg 86: Item 21	Q Baines Q Pressel
<b>13:00</b>  <b>30 mins</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>	
<b>12</b>  <b>13:30</b>  <b>10 mins</b>	<p><b>Review of Arrangements for Dealing with Complaints against Members (Pages 87-120)</b></p> <p><b>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</b></p> <p>Council is RECOMMENDED to approve and adopt the revised arrangements for dealing with Code of Conduct complaints against members attached to this report together with annexes 1 to 5.</p>	M Smith SEC Baines S Brighthouse
<b>13</b>  <b>13:40</b>  <b>10 mins</b>	<p><b>Audit &amp; Governance Committee Terms of Reference - Whistleblowing Policy (Pages 121-122)</b></p> <p><b>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</b></p> <p>Council is RECOMMENDED to amend the terms of reference for the Audit and Governance Committee to include the following addition: 'To monitor whistleblowing arrangements and to approve the Whistleblowing Policy'.</p>	M Smith SEC Baines
<b>14</b>  <b>13:50</b>  <b>10 mins</b>	<p><b>Further Draft Recommendations re Electoral Arrangements for Oxfordshire County Council (Pages 123-128)</b></p> <p><b>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</b></p> <p>The Council is RECOMMENDED to support the further draft recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) relating to the division boundaries for the Cherwell District and Vale of White Horse District and to submit a</p>	M Gawrysiak SEC Mallon S Baines

	response to the further LGBCE consultation confirming this position.	
<b>15</b>  <b>14:00</b>  <b>15 mins</b>	<b>Review of Political Balance (Pages 129-137)</b>  <b>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</b>  Council is RECOMMENDED a) To note the review of political balance of committees to reflect the formation of a new political group 'The Independent Voice of Oxfordshire (TIVOO)' comprising three members: Cllr Stefan Gawrysiak, Cllr Damian Haywood (Deputy Group Leader) and Cllr Sally Povolotsky (Group Leader).  b) To appoint members to the committees of the Council listed at Annex 1. A fully populated list with nominations from the political groups for the vacant seats will be circulated ahead of the meeting.  c) To remove the Corporate Parenting Committee from the list of Council committees.	M Chair SEC Vice-Chair S Leffman S Sudbury S Middleton
	<b>EXEMPT ITEM 16 will be taken in private session.</b>	
<b>16</b>  <b>14:15</b>  <b>20 mins</b>	<b>Proposed Leadership Restructuring</b>  <b>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</b>	M Leffman SEC S Baines S Brighthouse S Fawcett S Sudbury
<b>17</b>  <b>14:35</b>  <b>15 mins</b>	<b>Motion by Councillor Eddie Reeves</b>  <b>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</b>	M Reeves SEC Corkin Am Gregory SEC Howson

	<p>This Council regrets the way its retendering of services to neurodiverse families, children and young people was handled, leading to Autism Family Support Oxfordshire (AFSO) having funding for its youth groups and family support work cut from 1 April 2024.</p> <p>The decision means that only funding for AFSO's Easter and Summer holiday activities will now be funded.</p> <p>This Council further regrets the minimal oversight of such decision afforded to elected members and underscores the importance of democratic accountability in decisions taken in respect of services for vulnerable residents.</p> <p>Specifically, one would have expected such a change to have been taken with the approval of the Leader of the Council, relevant Cabinet member and/or with pre-scrutiny of such decision having been taken on a cross-party basis. In the latter case, this did not occur.</p> <p>The effect of such an arbitrary decision by this Council is that, from 1 April 2024, two well-qualified members of AFSO's team will be made redundant. Given that AFSO has provided cost-effective support for children and young people from diagnosis up to the age of 25 for over a decade – managing a caseload of 4,500 families – it is reasonable to assume that cutting its services will make matters worse for families.</p> <p>Given that the annual cost of maintaining these services is only £90,000, this Council requests that Cabinet review the decision and recommends that a paper be taken to the Education and Young People Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee explaining the chronology and governance surrounding it.</p>	
<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>14:50</b></p> <p><b>15 mins</b></p>	<p><b>Motion by Councillor Mark Cherry</b></p> <p><b>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</b></p>	<p>M Cherry SEC Baines S Levy</p>



	<p>Council requests Cabinet to consider approving the Councils for Fair Tax declaration.</p> <p>This commits Councils to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead by example and demonstrate good practice in our tax conduct, right across our activities.</li> <li>• Ensure IR35 is implemented robustly and contract workers pay a fair share of employment taxes.</li> <li>• Not use offshore vehicles for the purchase of land and property, especially where this leads to reduced payments of stamp duty.</li> <li>• Undertake due diligence to ensure that not-for-profit structures are not being used inappropriately by suppliers as an artificial device to reduce the payment of tax and business rates.</li> <li>• Demand clarity on the ultimate beneficial ownership of suppliers, UK and overseas, and their consolidated profit &amp; loss position, given lack of clarity could be strong indicators of poor financial probity and weak financial standing.</li> <li>• Promote Fair Tax Mark certification especially for any business in which we have a significant stake and where corporation tax is due.</li> <li>• Support Fair Tax Week events in the area, and celebrate the tax contribution made by responsible businesses that are proud to promote responsible tax conduct and pay their fair share of corporation tax.</li> </ul> <p>Council also requests the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer supporting calls for urgent reform of UK procurement law to enable local authorities to better penalise poor tax conduct and reward good tax conduct through their procurement policies.</p>	
<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>15:05</b></p>	<p><b>Motion by Councillor David Rouane</b></p>	<p>M Rouane SEC Ley S Roberts</p>

<p><b>15 mins</b></p>	<p><b>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</b></p> <p>Pride in the appearance of the public realm is important to our residents. Ensuring that streets and pavements are accessible, level, without hazards, clear of weeds and vegetation is essential for preventing long term damage to the footways, improving accessibility for all, visibility, reducing the chances of accidents, and also allowing people to have pride in their neighbourhood.</p> <p>Council resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Note the difficulties in maintaining weed clearance to a high standard in view of the expanding network of highways, and in the context of over a decade of budget cuts; and</li> <li>2. Acknowledge the justified phasing out of glyphosate and herbicide-based methods based on health and environmental grounds; and</li> <li>3. Recognise that the Council has a statutory duty to keep pavements free of weeds and hazards; and</li> <li>4. Request the Cabinet Member for Transport Management to consider options for alternative methods of weed removal, and scheduled maintenance that are both cost-effective and environmentally friendly, including supporting the work of towns and parishes, local groups and individuals, that can be developed and trialled around the county, and for ongoing consideration of other methods.</li> <li>5. Request that the Cabinet Member for Finance give due consideration to the findings of this report as part of the 2025/26 budget setting.</li> <li>6. Embrace collection of green matter from weeding and grass cutting and</li> </ol>	<p>S Gant</p>
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	ask the Cabinet Member for Climate Change Delivery and Environment to consider the feasibility of a county owned Anaerobic digester facility.	
<p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>15:20</b></p>	<p><b>Motion by Councillor Stefan Gawrysiak</b></p> <p><b>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</b></p> <p>In December Oxfordshire County Council removed 7 beds from the Chiltern care home. These beds were removed without any consultation with the GP's who run them, Henley Town Council and the community of South Oxfordshire and Henley. This lack of consultation by the Council is unacceptable.</p> <p>These beds were originally provided as NHS beds.</p> <p>Following FOI requests to the Integrated Care Board Buckinghamshire Oxfordshire Berkshire West (ICB BOB) and the Council we have firmly established that these beds are NHS Beds funded by ICB, the Council and Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust and cannot be closed without consultation.</p> <p>Dr Broughton interim Chief Executive of the ICB BOB states 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024</p> <p>"The beds have not 'lost NHS funding', "The beds continued to be overseen by the Oxford University Hospital Hub team."</p> <p>These beds are NHS beds which cannot be removed without consultation.</p> <p>This Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Deplores the removal without consultation</li> <li>2. Believes these beds which serve a population of 140,000 of South Oxfordshire should be reinstated.</li> </ol> <p>This Council requests that Cabinet:</p>	<p>M Gawrysiak SEC Povolotsky</p>

	<p>3. Asks partners to seek to reinstate the 7 Chiltern Court Beds serving South Oxfordshire.</p> <p>4. Conduct a consultation if they still wish to remove the beds.</p>	
21	<p><b>Motion by Councillor Eddie Reeves</b></p> <p><b>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</b></p> <p>This Council restates its commitment to improving its Children's Services following its Extraordinary Meeting almost six months to the day on 13 October 2023.</p> <p>Services provided by the Local Area Partnership have not been good enough in recent years and last year's Ofsted-Care Quality Commission report makes it clear that local challenges stand to be recognised and addressed.</p> <p>At the time of writing, the Council awaits the determination of its Inspecting Local Authorities' Children's Services (ILACS) inspection.</p> <p>Mindful of the improvements that are needed in its Children's Services in any event, this Council resolves to ensure that there is full and proper consideration of the outcome of the ILACS inspection by elected members, with the Cabinet members for Children's Services and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Improvement meeting with the Chairs of the Education &amp; Young People and People Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committees to ensure that there is proper cross-party scrutiny both of the contents of the report and subsequent improvements arising therefrom.</p>	<p>M Reeves SEC Simpson Am Howson SEC Gregory S Brighthouse</p>
22	<p><b>Motion by Councillor Donna Ford</b></p> <p><b>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</b></p>	<p>M Ford SEC Champken-Woods S Coles</p>

	<p>Councillors note the increasing number of vacant bank and building society buildings on our high streets, which are largely the result of technological change. The loss of community banking services is of concern to many residents, especially older constituents and those with disabilities and adaptive needs.</p> <p>Buckinghamshire Council has set up a Banking Hub in Buckingham library for people to access banking services in the town centre.</p> <p>Established in partnership with Buckinghamshire Council through its Buckingham and Villages Community Board, with the support of Buckingham Town Council and community representatives, the temporary Banking Hub provides local people with access to banking services. This offers a counter service operated by the Post Office, where customers of all major banks and building societies can carry out regular cash transactions. It also offers a Community Banker service where customers can talk to their banking provider about more complicated issues. Community Bankers work on rotation, with a different bank or building society available on each day of the week, to ensure fair and equitable access to major banking and building society customers.</p> <p>Council requests the relevant Cabinet Member for Community and Corporate Services and the Cabinet Member for Finance to take a lead from forward-thinking colleagues at Buckinghamshire Council and, working with its Town Council, and District Council partners, invite banks and building societies that have left – or are due to leave – our high streets to explore opportunities to work with this Council to set up similar banking hubs within appropriate Council libraries.</p>	
23	<b>Motion by Councillor Eddie Reeves</b>	M Reeves

	<p><b>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</b></p> <p>This Council recognises that the voice of small and medium-sized enterprises ('SMEs') have, too often, been overlooked.</p> <p>This Council resolves to request the Leader of the Council to appoint a Small Business Champion to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide a single point of contact for local businesspeople, including those running co-operatives, and</li> <li>• advise Members attending Cabinet and relevant scrutiny committees of the impact of Council policies on the county's SMEs.</li> </ul>	<p>SEC Snowdon Am Baines SEC O'Connor</p>
24	<p><b>Motion by Councillor Freddie van Mierlo</b></p> <p><b>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</b></p> <p>The adopted Local Transport and Connectivity Plan aims to make walking, cycling, public and shared transport the natural first choice. The Director of Public Health's Annual Report states such initiatives have benefits for both physical and mental health – directly through increased physical activity and indirectly through cleaner, less polluted air.</p> <p>To achieve this important shift, walking and cycling must be made safer. In January 2022, the government introduced new rules on the 'hierarchy of road users', clarifying that pedestrians and cyclists going straight ahead at a junction have priority over traffic waiting to turn into or out of a side road, unless road signs or markings indicate otherwise.</p> <p>Unfortunately, no funds were given to implement these new rules and few alterations have been made to the road network to reflect these changes on our roads in the past year and a half. This council</p>	<p>M van Mierlo</p>

	<p>resolves to ask the Cabinet Member for Transport Management, in conjunction with the Director of Highways and Operations, to consider the formulation of a plan to gradually migrate the signs and lines to mirror the new guidance at the same time that regular planned line refreshes are taking place.</p>	
25	<p><b>Motion by Councillor Charlie Hicks</b></p> <p><b>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</b></p> <p>This Council believes that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Council needs to do more to increase public involvement of Oxfordshire communities on decisions around the future of transport. Too many residents feel that their views and experiences have been ignored.</li> <li>2. To bring the public into the room, we need a public deliberative process to empower residents to shape the future of transport in Oxfordshire. This is now possible thanks to the 2024/25 budget amendment by Oxfordshire Labour.</li> </ol> <p>Council requests Cabinet to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Deliver a Citizens' Panel, made up of a representative group of local people, picked by an independent organisation using a fair and transparent process, to be a direct public accountability function to the Cabinet for the traffic filter trial. The Panel should first meet before the traffic filters are implemented and again multiple times through the traffic filter Experimental Traffic Regulation Order trial period, conducting a deliberative process with input from a range of stakeholders. It should be focused on whether the traffic filter trial is working and should make recommendations to Cabinet on what changes should be made during the trial, whether the filters should be made permanent or not, and next steps regarding "core schemes".</li> </ol>	M Hicks

	<p>This process will ensure that the lived experiences of residents are directly factored into future decisions about the traffic filters. To bring the whole public along with the process, it should be publicised widely (e.g. via Youtube) and the wider public should have the ability to provide input.</p>	
<b>26</b>	<p><b>Motion by Councillor Sally Povolotsky</b></p> <p><b>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</b></p>	M Povolotsky



	<p>In September 2023, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission declared their judgment post inspection that the Local Area Partnership (LAP) had multiple systemic failures.</p> <p>Despite the Priority Action Plan (PAP), the Council is failing to meaningfully engage with and capture the voice of the user, our young people.</p> <p>Council calls on Cabinet to consider;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Meaningfully involving young people and youth organisations throughout all policy-making processes within SEND improvement and the PAP. Co-management and co-creation structures are the best way to ensure direct participation.</li> <li>2. Any consultations or engagement with young people by this council must have a visible public follow-up to the outcomes.</li> <li>3. All Council policies and frameworks that affect young people, must include an impact assessment, and ensure there are mitigation measures in place for those youth groups that might be negatively impacted by a new policy or framework.</li> <li>4. Ensuring all future events, in person/online, run by or funded by OCC, especially those related to the PAP, LAP, and SEND improvement, are open to all young people with the attendance of their parent or carer.</li> <li>5. Launching a rapid task force for the voice of the young person and SEND users, and task them to create a framework for a Youth Forum within 3 months of this meeting date.</li> <li>6. <b>The leader to appoint a SEND Champion to enable seldom heard</b></li> </ol>	
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	<p>voices in the SEND community to feed into SEND improvement and services, and that person to sit on the SEND Improvement board.</p>	
27	<p><b>Motion by Councillor Ian Middleton</b></p> <p><b>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</b></p> <p>In 2018 this council passed a motion stating that it was opposed to the licensing of a badger cull in Oxfordshire.</p> <p>When DEFRA announced that badger culling would be phased out by 2025, many people believed that the cull had ended. Sadly, culling in Oxfordshire intensified, seemingly with the intent of shooting as many badgers as possible before the deadline. Over 50% of the county is in the killing zones.</p> <p>A new DEFRA policy now allows epidemiological culling or 'epi-culling', which involves killing up to 100% of badgers across a large area in response to a new cluster of herd breakdowns. Epi-Culling was first introduced in Cumbria, and has been adopted on a trial basis in parts of England over the past five years. Oxfordshire is now being considered by DEFRA for future epi-culling programmes.</p> <p>A recent scientific report shows that epi-culling is ineffective as a control measure. However, DEFRA, Animal and Public Health Agenda, the bTB Hub/NFU and British Cattle Veterinary Association, continue to advocate its use.</p> <p>This council therefore :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Re-affirms our opposition to badger culling and condemns the introduction of epidemiological culling which has been shown to be an ineffective control measure for bTB.</li> </ol>	M Middleton

	<p>2. Asks the cabinet to consider a specific policy that badger culling will not be permitted on council owned land.</p> <p>Requests that the leader writes to DEFRA making clear our continued opposition to the cull and any extension of it in size and scope, especially with regard to epidemiological culling.</p>	
28	<p><b>Motion by Councillor Ian Middleton</b></p> <p><b>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</b></p> <p>Many people in Oxfordshire who live in flood prone areas watch the skies with trepidation. In some communities even moderate amounts of sustained rainfall can cause significant flooding that overwhelms outdated flood relief infrastructure. This is often poorly maintained and constructed with no central plan for water management. Sewers are also regularly overwhelmed with infiltration from surface water, causing sewage to leak: putting public health at risk as well as properties.</p> <p>As the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), the Council has a responsibility to respond to these risks and work with other local authorities to develop flood management plans. We also assess how any new developments will impact on flood prone areas. That role is now more crucial as climate change increases the likelihood and frequency of heavy downpours and flooding across the county.</p> <p>In the face of these urgent pressures, our powers of intervention are limited by out of date and inadequate guidelines set by central government. These include developers only having to prove that they won't make flooding worse, rather than helping to alleviate the problem in known flood risk areas.</p> <p>Council calls on the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and other responsible agencies to work with us to :</p>	M Middleton

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Urgently review national planning guidance and legislation on flood prevention.</li><li>2. Provide more powers to LLFAs to prevent or limit developments in known flood risk areas</li><li>3. Require developers to contribute to reducing existing risks in flood prone areas as part of any new development.</li></ol>	
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