

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
MEETING OF COUNCIL – 8 JULY 2025
SCHEDULE OF BUSINESS

ITEM/TIME	ITEM	PROPOSALS (M = Motion; SEC = Second; Am = Amendment S = Statement; Q = Question; REC = Recommendation to be determined)
<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:30</p>	<p>Minutes</p> <p>To approve the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 20 May 2025 (CC1a) and the minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting also on 20 May 2025 (CC1b) and to receive information arising from them.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">2</p>	<p>Apologies for Absence</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">3</p>	<p>Declarations of Interest</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:35</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5 mins</p>	<p>Official Communications</p> <p>An annual event to celebrate the role of the military took place in Oxford on 23 June looking ahead to national Armed Forces Day which was on Saturday, 28 June.</p> <p>The armed forces flag was raised on buildings and landmarks around the country. Oxfordshire County Council's flag raising event was overseen by Councillor Mark Lygo, Chair of the Council, in Oxford Castle Yard.</p> <p>The event involved a parade which was led by 1 Regiment Royal Logistics Corps based at Bicester. Lieutenant Colonel Ged Hennigan joined the Councillor Lygo, the Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire and the High Sheriff of Oxfordshire in raising the armed forces flag.</p>	

	<p>Military and civilian representatives were in attendance, including Oxfordshire County Council armed forces champions.</p> <p>There was also a ceremony to honour the new affiliation between Oxfordshire County Council and HMS Diamond.</p> <p>As signatories of the Armed Forces Covenant Oxfordshire County Council is proud of its strong and supportive relationship with the local armed forces community.</p> <p>Other events attended by the Chair and Vice Chair since the last Council meeting are listed in Annex 1.</p> <p>A full list of Oxfordshire award recipients in the King's Birthday Honours is attached at Annex 2.</p> <p>"We meet today on a sad day, when businessman Dave Chester, who died in the tragic incident at Bicester Motion on 15 May, will be laid to rest. The Chester family has asked for a private funeral for family, friends and those who knew and were connected to Dave. In line with their wishes, a small Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service guard of honour will form for Dave as part of these arrangements.</p> <p>Members will be aware that firefighters Jennie Logan and Martyn Sadler also tragically died. The funeral for firefighter Martyn Sadler has yet to take place. The funeral for Jennie took place on Saturday 14 June and I'd like to thank our fire service, partners and colleagues for their unwavering support in delivering a very moving and respectful procession in line with her family's wishes.</p> <p>Members will also be aware that two other firefighters sustained serious injuries. Both have now been discharged from hospital. We remain in contact with them and all families affected.</p>	
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	<p>Members are reminded that our online book of condolence for Dave, Jennie and Martyn remains open should anyone wish to sign. Councillors and residents can visit www.online-tribute.com/Bicester."</p>	
<p>5</p> <p>10:40</p> <p>5 mins</p>	<p>Appointments</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>The Council is RECOMMENDED to note the appointments listed in paragraph 7 of this report to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Corporate Parenting Panel • Oxfordshire County Council and Employees Joint Consultative Committee • Oxfordshire County Council and Teachers Joint Committee • Oxfordshire County Council Joint Consultative Committee for Uniformed Members of the Fire Service 	<p>M Chair SEC Vice Chair</p> <p>Am Leffman SEC Fawcett</p>
<p>6</p> <p>10:45</p> <p>15 mins</p>	<p>Petitions and Public Address</p> <p><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></p> <p>Petitions – 3 minutes to speak (10.1.2(i))</p> <p>Public Address – 3 minutes to speak (10.2.1)</p>	<p>Petitions</p> <p>None</p> <p>Public Address</p> <p><u>Item 16: Motion from Councillor Jane Hanna</u></p> <p>Melody Drinkwater</p> <p><u>Item 18: Motion from Councillor James Plumb</u></p> <p>District Cllr Sally Povolotsky Kimberly Morgan Neil Barry Claire Brenner</p>
7.	Questions from Members of the Public	

	21. Malik to Gant 22. Plumb to Gaul 23. Plumb to Gant 24. Cherry to Gant 25. Thomas to Leffman 26. Thomas to Levy 27. Thomas to Roberts 28. Barlow to Gant 29. Barlow to Gant 30. Barlow to Roberts 31. Fenton to Gant 32. Pressel to Gant 33. Pressel to Roberts 34. Pressel to Gant 35. Middleton to Gant 36. Middleton to Gant 37. Middleton to Gant 38. McLauchlan to Gant 39. McLauchlan to Gant 40. McLauchlan to Gant 41. Gordon to Gant 42. Gordon to Gant 43. Baines to Gant 44. Baines to Roberts 45. Baines to Gant 46. Jones to Gant 47. Kerr to Fawcett 48. Crichton to Gant 49. Crichton to Gant 50. Fry to Gant 51. Fry to Gant 52. Fry to Higgins 53. Snowdon to Roberts 54. Garnett to Gant 55. Garnett to Gant 56. Snowdon to Roberts 57. Garnett to Gant 58. Gordon to Gant	
9 11:45 30 mins	Report of the Cabinet (Pages 13 to 20) Leader (Cllr Leffman) Page 13: Item 1 Resources and Deputy Leader (Cllr Fawcett) Page 13: Item 2 Place, Environment and Climate Action (Cllr Roberts) Page 14: Item 4	Q Baines (1) Q Phillips (1) Middleton (1) Q Phillips (2)

	<p>Finance, Property and Transformation (Cllr Levy)</p> <p>Page 15: Item 5</p> <p>Page 15: Item 6</p> <p>Page 15: Item 7</p> <p>Page 16: Item 8</p> <p>Page 16: Item 9</p> <p>Page 17: Item 10</p> <p>Page 17: Item 11</p> <p>Public Health and Inequalities (Cllr Gregory)</p> <p>Page 18: Item 12</p> <p>Transport Management (Cllr Gant)</p> <p>Page 18: Item 13</p> <p>Page 18: Item 14</p> <p>Scrutiny Reports</p> <p>Page 19: Item 15</p>	<p>Q Brighouse (4)</p> <p>Q Baines (4)</p> <p>Q Baines (5)</p> <p>Q Baines (6)</p> <p>Q Brighouse (6)</p> <p>Q Phillips (6)</p> <p>Q Baines (7)</p> <p>Q Middleton (7)</p> <p>Q Fry (8)</p> <p>Q Baines (8)</p> <p>Q Baines (9)</p> <p>Q Pressel (9)</p> <p>Q Baines (10)</p> <p>Q Fry (10)</p> <p>Q Fry (11)</p> <p>Q Baines (11)</p> <p>Q Saul (11)</p> <p>Q Brighouse (11)</p> <p>Q Pressel (12)</p> <p>Q Cherry (12)</p> <p>Q Edosomwan (12)</p> <p>Q Middleton (12)</p> <p>Q Baines (13)</p> <p>Q Brighouse (13)</p> <p>Q Pressel (14)</p> <p>Q Baines (14)</p> <p>Q Fry (14)</p> <p>Q Phillips (14)</p> <p>Q Edosomwan (14)</p> <p>Q Malik (14)</p> <p>Q Middleton (14)</p> <p>Q Baines (15)</p> <p>Q Pressel (15)</p> <p>Q Crichton (15)</p>
<p>10</p> <p>12:15</p>	<p>Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2024/25 (Pages 21-50)</p>	<p>M Hanna</p> <p>SEC Epps</p>

20 mins	<p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>Council is RECOMMENDED to: - a) Receive and note the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee's (JHOSC) Annual Report set out in Annex 1.</p>	<p>S Pressel S Phillips S Brighthouse</p>
<p>11</p> <p>12:35</p> <p>20 mins</p>	<p>Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report (Pages 51-82)</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>The Council is RECOMMENDED to a) Receive the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report.</p>	<p>M Walker SEC Brighthouse</p> <p>S Baines S Cherry S Phillips</p>
<p>12:55</p> <p>40 mins</p>	LUNCH	
<p>12</p> <p>13:35</p> <p>10 mins</p>	<p>Appointment of Independent Members of the Audit & Governance Committee (in the Addenda)</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>At its meeting on 11 July 2023, Council approved the creation of the roles of two Independent Members of the Audit and Governance Committee. This report is to propose appointments to the two positions.</p>	<p>M Smith SEC Shiri</p> <p>S Baines</p>
<p>13</p> <p>13:45</p> <p>5 mins</p>	<p>Appointments to and Formation of the Independent Remuneration Panel (in the Addenda)</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>This report is to provide details of the arrangements for the forthcoming review of members' allowances to be completed in the current Council Year 2025/26 and implemented from 1 April 2026.</p>	<p>M Leffman SEC Fawcett</p> <p>S Middleton</p>

14 13:50 10 mins	Councillors Parental Leave Policy (pages 83-92) Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2 Council is RECOMMENDED to approve a parental leave policy for councillors, ensuring support for new parents and best practice in local governance. The policy includes provisions for temporary cover and reflects the council's commitment to promoting equality and diversity among elected officials.	M Leffman SEC Fawcett S Pressel S Garnett
15 14:00 15 mins	Presentation of scroll to Alderman Bob Johnston Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2	M Leffman SEC Brighthouse S Lugova
16 14:15 30 mins	Motion by Councillor Jane Hanna – Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Provision Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2 Council notes with deep concern the failure of successive governments to address the crisis in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Provision. Councils across the country are grappling with soaring high needs deficits, which the Local Government Association (LGA) predicts will exceed £5 billion nationally by next year. Over half the councils providing these services warned they would face effective bankruptcy when the statutory override for SEND deficits was to expire in 2026. The extension to 2028 has not solved the underlying problem. Between 2020 and 2024, Oxfordshire County Council's deficit on the `Dedicated Schools Grant` was £46 million. This increased to £85m at the end of financial year	M Hanna SEC Hope-Smith S Brighthouse S Baines S Edosomwan S Gaul S Gregory S Leffman S Levy S Smith S Middleton S Hannaby S Malik

	<p>2024-25 and is budgeted to reach £127m by the end of financial year 2025-26.</p> <p>Oxfordshire saw a 27% increase in requests for Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs) during 2023/24 with an increase of 18% of approved EHCPs. These increases continue upward.</p> <p>The LGA says that the current SEND system is “not working for anyone in it”. The Spending Review once again failed to provide clarity on how the Government will address these mounting deficits.</p> <p>The announced increase in core school funding amounts to just a 1.1% uplift insufficient to keep pace with inflation and rising pay costs in schools.</p> <p>The Council asks the leader to write to the Chancellor, Rachel Reeves MP, urging her to set out urgently how the Government will eliminate high needs deficits and deliver a SEND system that works for children, families and councils alike.</p>	
<p>17</p> <p>14:45</p> <p>30 mins</p>	<p>Motion by Councillor Liz Brighthouse – Transport Poverty</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>The Children’s Society notes that transport poverty exacerbates other inequalities, with children from low-income families potentially missing out on school trips, extracurricular activities, or suffering poor school attendance. A 2025 report by the Institute for Fiscal Studies similarly identified that young people’s mobility is closely tied to long -term social and economic outcomes.</p> <p>This Council, being aware of the levels of child poverty in this county and the effect this has on the ability of families and young people to travel by public transport, asks the Cabinet to set up a Cabinet Advisory Group to consider a scheme to provide free or</p>	<p>M Brighthouse SEC Baines</p> <p>Am Kerr SEC Garnett</p> <p>S Cherry S Pressel S Epps S Gordon S Fawcett S Rawlins S Gant S Middleton S Malik</p>

	<p>significantly reduced bus travel for children and young people up to age of 18.</p> <p>Such a scheme could be funded from fines from ANPR enforcement and would enable children and young people to get to school and college settings by enabling bus companies to develop routes to school that better meet the travel needs of families and children.</p> <p>This Council notes West of England Mayor Helen Goodwin has funded free travel for children up to 16 this summer.</p> <p><i>Note: The motion, if passed, would constitute the exercise of an executive function in which case it will be referred to the Cabinet together with any advice the Council may wish to give, in accordance with Rule 13.5.1 (i) of the Council Procedure Rules in the Constitution.</i></p>	
<p>18</p> <p>15:15</p> <p>30 mins</p>	<p>Motion by Councillor James Plumb – Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) services across Oxfordshire</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>Council notes the increasing pressures on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) services across Oxfordshire, with rising demand, complex needs, and a need for stronger local support.</p> <p>Previously, Oxfordshire County Council had a dedicated Cabinet Member for SEND Improvement, reflecting the importance of this area.</p> <p>This role was recently removed, diluting specific leadership and focus on one of the most challenging areas of Council responsibility.</p> <p>Council believes that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Children and young people with SEND deserve a dedicated champion at the highest political level within the Council. 	<p>M Plumb SEC Walker</p> <p>S Brighthouse S Gaul S Gregory S Hanna S Leffman S Middleton S Malik</p>

	<p>2. A single Cabinet Member with clear and focused responsibility for SEND would enhance decision-making, oversight, and transparency.</p> <p>3. Reinstating this post would demonstrate a renewed commitment to improving outcomes for families who rely on these vital services.</p> <p>Council therefore resolves to:</p> <p>a) Ask the Leader of the Council to reinstate the Cabinet Member for SEND Improvement as a standalone portfolio within the Cabinet.</p> <p>b) Ensure this role has clear responsibility for SEND policy, provision, and engagement with parents, carers, and stakeholders.</p> <p>c) Request that the Leader provides a written response to this motion, setting out the steps being taken to strengthen leadership and accountability within SEND services.</p>	
19	<p>Motion by Councillor Ian Middleton – Official Opposition of Oxfordshire County Council</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>A well-functioning opposition is a vital part of our democracy. The recent elections returned the first majority controlled council at OCC for years along with 3 main opposition party groups. Labour were the largest single party, but the Conservatives alliance with some independents resulted in two groups of equal size. This led to confusion over which group would be the 'Official Opposition'.</p> <p>As this situation was not envisaged within our constitution, the Monitoring Officer advised that both groups should be considered as the official opposition with Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) available to both. It was also deemed that the Chairs of the 4 main overview and scrutiny committees should be split between them.</p>	<p>M Middleton SEC Jones</p> <p>S Brighthouse S Baines S Fawcett S Levy S Rawlins S Smith S Malik S Barlow</p>

	<p>This has created a constitutional anomaly requiring urgent consideration. It's also an opportunity to consider how financial and operational support for all significant opposition groups could be provided given the changed political landscape of OCC.</p> <p>We therefore request an urgent review of the constitution and allowances scheme in respect of opposition groups, to determine:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How a principal opposition group should be defined where groups have equal numbers. 2. If members of all opposition groups above a certain size should be entitled to SRAs from a single proportionally shared budget. 3. The possibility of providing a support officer for all opposition groups on a timesharing basis, reflecting the relative sizes of recognised groups. 4. If chairs of scrutiny committees should be available to any member of a recognised group outside of the controlling administration, based on proportionality. 	
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