

Divisions- N/A

COUNTY COUNCIL – 9 September 2025

REPORT OF THE CABINET

Cabinet Member: Resources and Deputy Leader

1. Community Banking Hubs Motion

(Cabinet, 15 July 2025)

Cabinet had before it a report which set out the intended approach to take forward the Council Motion on community banking hubs resolved by Council on 1 April 2025. A summary of recent work was included in the report together with an analysis of areas currently lacking banking services.

Cabinet agreed to the continuation of efforts to engage banks to provide community services within library facilities and other suitable locations in areas lacking banking services.

Cabinet Member: Adults

2. Connect to Work: Approval of final Development Plan

(Cabinet, 15 July 2025)

Cabinet received a report on Connect to Work (CtW), a nationally prescribed and locally commissioned supported employment programme, funded by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) through grant funding.

The CtW programme aimed to support individuals outside the workforce and facing disadvantages to get into and to stay in work. Eligible target groups include disabled people, offender/ex-offenders, carers/ex-carers, homeless people, former members of HM Armed Forces or a partner of current or former Armed Forces personnel, people with an alcohol or drug dependency, care experienced young people/care.

The Council had been designated as one of the 43 Accountable Bodies across England which would be responsible for designing the local offer to support people to find and fulfil their potential to work in line with local services and priorities.

Cabinet authorised the Council to enter into grant funding agreement/s with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to develop and deliver the Connect to Work Programme for such period as the programme continues to be funded by DWP.

Cabinet Member: Children and Young People

3. EOTAS Policy (Education other than at School)

(Cabinet, 15 July 2025)

Cabinet had before it a report regarding a policy for the delivery of Education Other Than At School (EOTAS). This was required to be implemented following the SEND inspection in 2023. The policy was crucial to ensure that all children and young people, particularly those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), received a suitable and effective education, even if they were unable to attend 'traditional' school settings. The EOTAS policy was designed to provide a structured framework for delivering personalised educational plans tailored to the unique needs of each child or young person.

Cabinet approved the draft policy and requested a review to be presented in April 2026.

4. Financial and land agreements relating to the conversion of Woodeaton Manor School to an academy

(Cabinet, 15 July 2025)

Cabinet considered a report regarding Woodeaton Manor School, a foundation school without a foundation, catering for children with social and emotional difficulties and was set to convert to academy status on 1st October 2025 following the issue of Directive Academy Order, with Propeller Academy Trust (PAT) as the academy trust.

Cabinet approved the recommendations in the report regarding the strategic intention for the school buildings, the proposal for the Council to retain maintenance responsibilities, and the financial implications of the transition.

Cabinet Member: Place, Environment and Climate Action

5. Climate Action Programme update

(Cabinet, 15 July 2025)

Cabinet had before it a report which provided a six-monthly update on the delivery of the 2024/25 Climate Action Programme workstreams, including the development of a new Circular Economy Plan.

The Circular Economy Plan expanded the council's approach to climate action by focussing additionally on the resources it used. The plan built on work which the

council was already undertaking, such as the Carbon Management Plan, and sought to deliver a culture change which embedded circular economy at the heart of the Council's policy and practice.

Cabinet approved the recommendation to adopt the Circular Economy Plan. Members also noted the climate outcomes dashboard and the update on the delivery of the Climate Action Programme 2024/25 and approved the proposed Climate Action Programme for 2025/26

6. Update on Process of Producing the Minerals and Waste Local Plan

(Cabinet, 15 July 2025)

Cabinet received a report which provided an update on progress with the production of a Minerals and Waste Development Scheme (MWDS) which contained the timetable for Minerals and Waste Local Plan production. The most recent MWDS was approved by Cabinet in December 2022.

Cabinet approved the cessation of the preparation of the new Minerals and Waste Local Plan under the current plan-making process and authorised the production of a new Minerals and Waste Local Plan under the new plan-making process in accordance with the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023.

Cabinet Member: Finance, Property and Transformation

7. Treasury Management 2024/25 Outturn

(Cabinet, 15 July 2025)

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA's) 'Code of Practice on Treasury Management 2021' required that the committee to which some treasury management responsibilities are delegated, will receive regular monitoring reports on treasury management activities and risks. Cabinet had before it the fourth and final update for the 2024/25 financial year which set out the position at 31 March 2025.

The report referred to prudent management, reduction in external debt, strong investment income, and operation within set indicators.

Cabinet recommended the report to Council.

8. Budget & Business Planning 2026/27 - Fair Funding Review 2.0

(Cabinet, 15 July 2025)

Cabinet had before it a report which provided an overview of the proposals included in the “[Fair Funding Review 2.0](#)” consultation, which was published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on 20 June 2025.

Cabinet noted the report and agreed that there would be briefings for all members of the Council when the outcomes of the review became clearer.

9. Business Management & Monitoring Report - Revenue Update and Monitoring Report

(Cabinet, 15 July 2025)

The budget for 2025/26 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to 2027/28 was agreed by Council on 11 February 2025. Cabinet had before it a report which set out the initial revenue forecast and expected outlook for the financial year and included updates on:

- financial risks which were being managed in 2025/26;
- savings and investment position; and
- funding notified since the budget was agreed

Members noted the ongoing deficit in the High Needs Block in Children’s Services was largely due to insufficient government funding, with the statutory override allowing temporary off-balance sheet treatment. Members discussed the exponential increase in EHCP (Education Health and Care Plans) and the potential forthcoming reforms which would aim to address the issues.

Cabinet noted the report and approved a number of financial adjustments as recommended.

10. Capital Programme Monitoring Report

(Cabinet, 15 July 2025)

Cabinet received the first capital programme update and monitoring report for 2025/26 which set out the monitoring position based on activity to the end of May 2025.

The report also updated the Capital Programme approved by Council on 11 February 2025 taking into account additional funding and new schemes. The updated programme also incorporated changes agreed through the Capital Programme Approval Reports to Cabinet during the year as well as new funding.

The following schemes were approved for inclusion into the Capital Programme:-

- a) St Joseph’s, Thame
- b) Safe Space

- c) Redbridge Redevelopment
- d) Cinder Track improvements, Route 2 of the South and Vale Active Travel Network (SVATN)
- e) A420 (Oxford) Safer Roads Fund
- f) Bus Service Improvement Delivery Plan 2025/26
- g) Data Centre Hardware Refresh

Cabinet Member: Transport Management

11. Proposed response to the 2025 Oxfordshire Travel and Transport Citizens' Assembly

(Cabinet, 15 July 2025)

Cabinet had before it a report providing background information about the citizens' assembly on travel and transport which took place in February and March 2025, its 20 recommendations and the council's proposed initial response to these.

Cabinet members expressed support for the Assembly's work and acknowledged its role in shaping bold, evidence-based policy. Members approved the initial response to the initial 20 recommendations by the assembly. They supported the development of a work programme, including an amended prioritisation matrix and further technical development and engagement work to properly assess whether each recommendation could be progressed (including policy, legal and financial considerations), as the next step to take forward the citizens' assembly recommendations. Members also supported the deeper involvement of communities in transport policy development, and scheme design and delivery, including the ongoing involvement of Citizens' Assembly members.

12. Future Civil Enforcement Contract Models

(Cabinet, 15 July 2025)

Cabinet received a report on proposed models for Civil Enforcement contracts. Following Cabinet approval in February 2025 to procure enhanced multi contactor contracts for the civil enforcement and ZEZ operation, Civil Enforcement specialists were appointed alongside legal specialists to work with officers to develop new specifications, pricing schedules and contract terms.

The objectives of the new contract models were to improve enforcement against illegal and dangerous parking county-wide.

Cabinet endorsed the approach set out in the recommendations and authorised officers to commence the procurement of the contracts.

13.Scrutiny Reports

(Cabinet, 15 July 2025)

Cabinet received the following Scrutiny reports and will respond in due course:-

Education and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee reports on:-

- a) S.19 of the Education Act
- b) EOTAS policy
- c) Home to School Transport Policy

LIZ LEFFMAN

Leader of the Council

September 2025