

# OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## MEETING OF COUNCIL – 4 NOVEMBER 2025

### SCHEDULE OF BUSINESS

ITEM/TIME	ITEM	PROPOSALS (M = Motion; SEC = Second; Am = Amendment S = Statement; Q = Question; REC = Recommendation to be determined)
10.30	<b>Address by the Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, Mrs Marjorie Glasgow BEM</b>  The Lord Lieutenant will speak about her role as representative of the King in Oxfordshire, followed by questions from councillors.	
1  11:00	<b>Minutes (Pages 1 to 14)</b>  To approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 9 September 2025 (CC1) and to receive information arising from them.	
2	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	
3	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
4  11:05  5 mins	<b>Official Communications</b>  Thank you to His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Marjorie Glasgow, for addressing Council this morning.  The County was honoured to have visits from the Prince and Princess of Wales and Princess Royal in October.  A list of events attended by the Chair, Vice-Chair and past chairs since the last Council meeting is attached in Annex 1.  On 6 October, the United Kingdom's Ambassador to the European Union, Lindsay Appleby, came to Oxfordshire to build	

	<p>connections with local firms that he will use to boost investment and trade with the EU. The Ambassador remarked afterwards that it had been the best organised visit he had participated in. The Chair would like to thank staff who made that occasion possible.</p> <p>November is Men's Mental Health Awareness Month. International Men's Day will be marked in County Hall on 19 November. This day aims to highlight the positive contributions of men to society, raise awareness about men's health issues, and promote gender equality.</p> <p>The Chair would also like to thank everyone who came to the second charity quiz, held on 22 October, which raised £253 for his chosen charities: OXSRAD, Abingdon RDA, and Oxford United in the Community. The Chair's Charity Christmas Quiz will take place in Common Hall from 4 pm on Wednesday, 3 December.</p> <p>The Chair's Christmas Carol Service will take place at St Nicholas Church in Marston from 6.30 pm on Monday, 15 December. Invitations will follow.</p>	
<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>11:10</b></p> <p><b>30 mins</b></p>	<p><b>Petitions and Public Address</b></p> <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>Petitions – 3 minutes to speak (10.1.2(i))</p> <p>Public Address – 3 minutes to speak (10.2.1)</p>	<p><b>Petitions</b></p> <p>Brenda Boardman 'Transport Hub at Oxford Rail Station'</p> <p><b>Public Address</b></p> <p><u>Item 15 Motion from Councillor Walker</u></p> <p>Richard Parnham Danny Yee Thaila Carr Bernadette Evans Paul Major Anne Gwinnett Lydia Jansson Robin Tucker Emily Scaysbrook Geoffrey Sutton</p>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Questions from Members of the Public</b>	

<p><b>11:40</b></p> <p><b>15 mins</b></p>	<p>See Annex 2 for questions and responses. One supplementary question allowed for each.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. City Cllr James Taylor</li> <li>2. John Skinner</li> <li>3. Phillipa Gibbons</li> <li>4. Kostandia Isidoros</li> <li>5. Linda Elms</li> <li>6. Richard Parnham</li> <li>7. Bernadette Evans</li> <li>8. Sara Nixon</li> <li>9. City Cllr Ajaz Rehman</li> <li>10. Ingra Nicholas</li> <li>11. Jenny Wells</li> <li>12. Kajsa Wilhelmsson</li> <li>13. Nicholas Hardyman</li> <li>14. Mehmet Karakus</li> <li>15. Robin Hagues</li> <li>16. Geoffrey Sutton</li> <li>17. Peter West</li> <li>18. Anne Stares</li> <li>19. Sam Hardaker</li> <li>20. Paul Petrillo</li> <li>21. Stephen Longthorp</li> <li>22. Zack Iqbal</li> <li>23. Dr Anne Gwinnett</li> <li>24. Amir Steve Ali</li> <li>25. Matthew Broadway</li> <li>26. Laura Jansson</li> <li>27. Eric Jansson</li> </ol>	<p>All for Cllr Gant</p>
<p><b>7.</b></p> <p><b>11:55</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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fry to Gant</li> <li>2. Fry to Roberts</li> <li>3. Cherry to Roberts</li> <li>4. Cherry to Gant</li> <li>5. Coles to Gant</li> <li>6. Henwood to Gant</li> <li>7. Henwood to Gant</li> <li>8. Henwood to Gant</li> <li>9. Cherry to Gant</li> <li>10. McLean to Gant</li> <li>11. McLean to Roberts</li> </ol>	

	<p> 12. McLean to Gaul  13. Malik to Gant  14. Robertshaw to Roberts  15. Robertshaw to Roberts  16. Garnett to Roberts  17. Garnett to Gant  18. Worgan to Gaul  19. Worgan to Gant  20. Ashby to Gant  21. Ashby to Gant  22. Ashby to Gant  23. McLauchlan to Fawcett  24. McLauchlan to Fawcett  25. Middleton to Leffman  26. Middleton to Gant  27. Plumb to Gant  28. Plumb to Gant  29. Snowdon to Roberts  30. Snowdon to Gant  31. Snowdon to Gant  32. Evans to Gaul  33. Evans to Gant  34. Evans to Fawcett  35. Walker to Roberts  36. Walker to Gant  37. Walker to Hannaby  38. Pressel to Hannaby  39. Pressel to Gant  40. Pressel to Gant  41. Barlow to Gant  42. Barlow to Gaul  43. Fenton to Gant  44. Thomas to Gant  45. Crichton to Gant  46. Crichton to Gant  47. Edosomwan to Bearder  48. Edosomwan to Gant  49. McLauchlan to Levy  50. Rawlins to Leffman  51. Barlow to Gant  52. Baines to Levy  53. Baines to Gant  54. Baines to Gant  55. Epps to Leffman  56. Epps to Roberts  57. Garnett to Roberts  58. Jones to Gant  59. Jones to Gant  60. Jones to Roberts  61. Middleton to Gant </p>	
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	<b>62. Creed to Gant</b> <b>63. Creed to Gant</b>	
<b>8</b>  <b>12.25</b>  <b>10 mins</b>	<b>Appointments (Pages 15 – 18)</b>  Council is RECOMMENDED to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) appoint a Member to the current vacant position on the Planning and Regulation Committee;</li> <li>b) delegate to all council committees the authority to appoint to its vacant committee seats in accordance with legislation.</li> </ul>	M Lugova SEC Worgan
<b>9</b>  <b>12:35</b>  <b>30 mins</b>	<b>Report of the Cabinet (Pages 19 to 26)</b>  Leader (Cllr Leffman)                      Page 19: Item 1  Resources and Deputy Leader (Cllr Fawcett) Page 19: Item 2  Transport Management (Cllr Gant) Page 19: Item 3  Page 20: Item 4  Place, Environment & Climate Change (Cllr Roberts) Page 20: Item 5  Page 21: Item 6  Page 21: Item 7  Page 21: Item 8	Q Baines (1) Q Brant (1)  Q Pressel (3) Q Baines (3) Q Fry (3) Q Graham (3) Q Epps (3)  Q Baines (4) Q Middleton (4) Q Garnett (4) Q Kerr (4)  Q Cherry (5) Q Pressel (5) Q Fry (5) Q Creed (5) Q Rawlins (5) Q Snowdon (5)  Q Pressel (6) Q Barlow (6) Q Garnett (6)  Q Pressel (7) Q Barlow (7) Q Middleton (7)  Q Pressel (8)

	<p>Future Economy &amp; Innovation (Cllr Higgins) Page 22: Item 9</p> <p>Finance, Property and Transformation (Cllr Levy) Page 22: Item 10 Page 22: Item 11 Page 23: Item 12 Page 23: Item 13 Page 23: Item 14 Page 24: Item 15 Page 24: Item 16</p> <p>Community Wellbeing &amp; Safety (Cllr Hannaby) Page 24: Item 17</p> <p>Children &amp; Young People (Cllr Gaul) Page 24: Item 18</p> <p>Adults (Cllr Bearder) Page 25: Item 19 Page 25: Item 20 Page 25: Item 21</p> <p>Scrutiny Reports Page 25: Item 22</p>	<p>Q Epps (8) Q Middleton (8) Q Snowdon (8)</p> <p>Q Baines (9) Q Creed (9) Q Crichton (9) Q Hanna (9) Q Filipova-Rivers (9) Q Middleton (9)</p> <p>Q Baines (10)</p> <p>Q Baines (11) Q Middleton (11)</p> <p>Q Baines (12) Q Graham (12)</p> <p>Q Baines (13) Q Brant (13)</p> <p>Q Baines (14)</p> <p>Q Baines (15) Q Brighthouse (15)</p> <p>Q Fry (16) Q Brighthouse (16)</p> <p>Q Gawrysiak (17) Q Crichton (17) Q Saul (17) Q Ashby (17)</p> <p>Q Brighthouse (18) Q Plumb (18)</p> <p>Q Brighthouse (20)</p>
<p><b>13:05</b></p> <p><b>40 mins</b></p>	<b>LUNCH</b>	
<b>10</b>	<b>Strategic Plan (Pages 27 - 82)</b>	M Fawcett

<p><b>13:45</b></p> <p><b>30 mins</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 Strategic Plan 2025-28.</p>	<p>SEC Gaul</p> <p>S Pressel S Baines S Phillips S Brighthouse S Graham S Smith S Gregory S Barlow S Middleton</p>
<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>14:15</b></p> <p><b>20 mins</b></p>	<p><b>Financial Regulations (Pages 83 - 96)</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:</p> <p>a) amendments to Section 5 of the Financial Regulations increasing the limit for Cabinet approval for new inclusions and variations to capital schemes from £1.0m to £2.0m to align with the key decision threshold of £2m.</p> <p>b) that in exceptional circumstances up to £0.500m funding for exploratory feasibility works can be approved by the Executive Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer (following discussion and recommendation at, and with the support of the Strategic Capital and Commercial Board).</p>	<p>M Levy SEC Fawcett</p> <p>S Phillips S Baines S Middleton S Barlow</p>
<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>14:35</b></p> <p><b>20 mins</b></p>	<p><b>Youth Justice Annual Plan 2025-26 (Pages 97 – 152)</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 adopt Oxfordshire's Annual Youth Justice Plan 2025-2026.</p>	<p>M Gaul SEC Fawcett</p> <p>S Pressel S Brighthouse S Plumb S Epps</p>
<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>14:55</b></p> <p><b>5 mins</b></p>	<p><b>Use of Special Urgency (Pages 153 – 156)</b></p> <p><b>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</b></p>	<p>M Fawcett SEC Levy</p> <p>S Brighthouse</p>

	Council is RECOMMENDED to note the use of Special Urgency for a Key Decision taken on 1 September 2025 by the Leader of the Council	
<b>14</b>  <b>15:00</b>  <b>5 mins</b>	<b>Calendar of meetings 2026/27 (Pages 157 – 164)</b>  <b>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</b>  COUNCIL IS RECOMMENDED to approve the calendar of meetings for the 2026- 27 Council year attached to the report as Annex 1.	M Chair SEC Vice-Chair
<b>15</b>  <b>15:05</b>  <b>30 mins</b>	<b>Motion by Councillor Liam Walker</b>  <b>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</b>  This Council notes:  The strong opposition from some residents, businesses, and key workers to the Oxford Congestion Charge scheme and their ongoing concerns about its impact on the cost of living, local trade, and access to services across Oxford.  This Council believes:  The scheme is unfair, harmful to the local economy, and does not have public support and it's time to end the scheme.  This Council therefore resolves to:  Call on the Leader and Cabinet to immediately end the operation of the Oxford Congestion Charge scheme and ensure no further expansion or reintroduction of similar charging schemes without full public consultation and support.  <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</i>	M Walker SEC Henwood  S Evans S Malik S Edosomwan S Creed S Fry S Baines S Plumb S Ashby S Snowdon S Gant S Gaul S Epps S Boucher-Giles S Kerr S Garnett



	<i>wish to give, in accordance with Rule 13.5.1 (i) of the Council Procedure Rules in the Constitution.</i>	
<b>16</b>  <b>15:35</b>  <b>25 mins</b>	<b>Motion by Councillor Gavin McLauchlan</b>  <b>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</b>  Council notes that in July 2025 a judicial review upheld the Secretary of State for the Environment's decision to approve the proposed Thames Water Resources Management Plan which includes the South East Strategic Reservoir Option in Abingdon.  As a result, Thames Water has to have an Emergency Discharge facility in place including the ability to empty the reservoir at a rate of 1 metre per day, possibly over a period of 3 to 4 weeks. This would put water back into the Thames at a rate of 75 m <sup>3</sup> /s just south of Abingdon c.3x greater than its normal flow.  Such a discharge could cause havoc along the Thames, endangering Life, residences, businesses, wildlife and the environment, yet there is no requirement for the reservoir operator to have an emergency plan before building the reservoir, only before filling it. Dealing with the emergency in the wider area will be the responsibility of this Council as the local emergency planning authority along with the emergency services.  This Council makes clear its deep concern that we could be made responsible by default for safely managing such an emergency, leaving us with impossible decisions about which lives, homes and businesses to save in a crisis situation.  We therefore call on the Leader to write to the Secretary of State to request clarity on how such an emergency discharge would be managed and to provide a commitment	M McLauchlan SEC Jones  S Malik S Pressel S Plumb S Stevens S Thomas S Barlow S Middleton

	that we will be provided with the resources to do so before any Development Consent Order is considered.	
17	<p><b>Motion by Councillor Nathan Ley</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. Clean and well-maintained pavements make people feel good about their neighbourhood, reduce accidents, and prevent more costly problems later. Neglect leads to uneven footways, hazards for those with mobility difficulties, and higher long-term repair bills.</p> <p>Routine weed clearance on county pavements was part of highways maintenance until 2007/08, when budget cuts removed the programme. Some parishes now commission their own weed spraying and may be using glyphosate, increasingly opposed by residents because of its risks to health, pets, rivers, and biodiversity. Other parishes are now beginning to trial alternative approaches.</p> <p>Council resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Note the historic withdrawal of routine weed clearance and the resulting concerns about accessibility, safety, and neighbourhood appearance.</li> <li>2. Recognise the Council's statutory duty to keep pavements free of hazards, and that neglect increases both risks and costs.</li> <li>3. Request an officer report with options for re-establishing pavement weed clearance and scheduled maintenance, including alternatives to glyphosate, and how the Council can support towns and parishes to reduce reliance on chemical spraying.</li> <li>4. Request that the Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Transformation give</li> </ol>	<p>M Ley SEC Greenaway</p> <p>S Malik S Cherry S Crichton S Walker S Ashby S Henwood S Filipova-Rivers S Worgan S Middleton S Snowdon</p>

	<p>due consideration to the findings of this report as part of the next round of budget setting.</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>	
18	<p><b>Motion by Councillor Liz Brighthouse</b></p> <p><b>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</b></p> <p><b>Please note a correction in the wording shown in bold below.</b></p> <p><b>Amendment is in Annex 4.</b></p> <p>This Council, being deeply concerned by the impact of poor mental health on adults and children in the County, asks the Health and Wellbeing Board to request an appropriate overview and scrutiny committee to investigate and report back on how services provided by Oxford Health and other organisations are tackling this issue.</p> <p>Such an investigation needs to address issues of accessibility to services including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• assessment,</li> <li>• therapeutic support,</li> <li>• medication,</li> <li>• emergency interventions such as “sectioning” and</li> <li>• inpatient beds.</li> </ul> <p>How these <b>interventions</b>, or the lack of them, impact on other public services such as Community Safety, Public Health, Housing, Schools, Fire and Rescue and the Police also needs to be understood. Most of all, poor mental health impacts on individuals, families and communities around the County.</p> <p>Council requests that the outcome of the investigation be sent to the appropriate Secretaries of State.</p>	<p>M Brighthouse SEC Creed</p> <p>AM Hanna SEC Epps</p> <p>S Malik S Crichton S Baines S Phillips S Snowdon S Plumb S Henwood S Middleton</p>

19	<p><b>Motion by Councillor Fillipova-Rivers</b></p> <p><b>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</b></p> <p>Council notes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxfordshire residents have endured successive crises in recent years: Covid, the cost-of-living emergency, underfunding of public services by successive governments, leaving many residents in precarious situations, creating a climate of uncertainty and fear.</li> <li>• Research shows that rising inequality fuels support for far-right movements, eroding trust in institutions and creating fertile ground for scapegoating and division.</li> <li>• Against this backdrop, right-wing media and far-right groups have wrongly blamed migrant communities to further their agendas.</li> <li>• Extensive research, including the Migration Observatory's 2024 study, finds that migration contributes positively to the UK economy by expanding the labour force, addressing skill shortages, and supporting productivity and growth, with little evidence of wage suppression for native workers. Migrants' net fiscal impact is generally positive, with greater contributions in taxes than cost to public services.</li> <li>• Oxfordshire is proud to be the first County Council of Sanctuary, committed to ensuring that everyone who lives here, whether newly arrived or long settled, is treated fairly.</li> </ul> <p>Council therefore resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognise the risks to our communities if the disinformation, suspicion, and intolerance disinformation generates go unchallenged, and commit to addressing them wherever they occur.</li> <li>• Work with partners to ensure the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our communities and that racism is confronted wherever it occurs, in schools, workplaces, and on our streets.</li> <li>• Request that Cabinet supports the co-production of a community cohesion action plan with key stakeholders in consultation</li> </ul>	<p>M Fillipova-Rivers SEC Markham</p> <p>S Malik S Pressel S Brighthouse S Levy S Gregory S Heritage S Epps S Hanna S Barlow S Middleton S Snowdon</p>
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	<p>with councillors, including actions to support community-led dialogue and ensure appropriate resourcing is considered during budget setting.</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>	
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