

Division(s) affected: *All*

DELEGATED DECISIONS BY CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION & REPAIR

16 JULY 2026

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FURTHER CAPITAL DRAINAGE FUNDING

Report by Director of Environment and Highways

RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet Member is **RECOMMENDED** to:

- a) **Approve the release of £1.7 million to the capital drainage Cat 467 budget in 26/27, and £2.3 million in 27/28 to enable the alignment of resources within the Annual Plan and Contractors Plan for those years against the allocated budget**

Executive Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the release of £4 million from the capital earmarked reserves for Drainage Infrastructure that was allocated by the Councils Cabinet in February 2026.
2. Cabinet approved an additional £4 million in February 2026 to compliment and provide continuation of additional work identified from the annual cleanse of all gullies in 2025/26.
3. An increased budget will help resolve drainage issues identified on the network as well as addressing issues identified from Cllrs, FMS enquiries and officer knowledge of problem locations
4. Last year's full annual gully cleanse programme identified further work which additional funding will support on repairing damaged and missing covers, an increased investigation and jetting operation and programme of schemes. The 2026/27 Annual Plan for drainage works including 49 proposed improvement schemes, as shown in **Annex 1**.

Corporate Policies and Priorities

5. Of the three priorities identified within the newly adopted 'Oxfordshire Strategic Plan 2025-2028' which are listed below, these proposals actively support priority no.1:

(1) Greener Oxfordshire – “We want our communities to enjoy clean air, access to green space, and safe and sustainable ways to move around. This means reducing traffic congestion and investing in public transport, cycling and walking; protecting our natural environment; and helping Oxfordshire respond and adapt to a changing climate.”

(2) Fairer Oxfordshire – “We want all our residents to benefit from the advantages our county has to offer. This means supporting a local economy that benefits everyone; assisting people who face challenges in finding work; making our services as easy to access as possible; and helping communities in need.”

(3) Healthier Oxfordshire – “We want all our residents to be happy, healthy and safe. This means helping children get the best start in life; creating opportunities for young people to reach their full potential; supporting older people to age well and stay independent for as long as possible; and encouraging everyone to make healthy choices.”

Financial Implications

6. The current annual drainage budget for 2026/27 is £2.746 million and remains at £2.746 million in 27/28.

7. Table 1 below identifies the planned allocation of spend for this year and next incorporating the additional funding:

Table 1							
Period	Schemes/ Lid Replacement £m	Investigation/ Jetting £m	Original Totals £m	Additional Funding			Revised Total £m
				Schemes/ Lid Replacement £m	Investigation/ Jetting £m	Total Additional Funding £m	
2026/27	2.746		2.746	0.000	1.700	1.700	4.446
2027/28	2.746		2.746	1.000	1.300	2.300	5.046
	5.492	0.000	5.492	1.000	3.000	4.000	9.492

8. It is proposed that the additional £4 million over two years will be aligned with the required resources to help deliver the increased budget, informing this and next year's Annual Plan as proposed in table 1 above.

Comments checked by:

Andrew Price – Interim Business Partnering Accountant

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Legal Implications

9. No negative legal implications have been identified in respect of the request.

Comments checked by:
Nicole Olavesen – Solicitor (Regulatory)
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Staff Implications

10. There are no negative staff implications in relation to the request – with work having been undertaken by Officers from the Highway Maintenance team as part of their regular day-to-day duties, with no additional or negative impact on capacity expected

Equality & Inclusion Implications

11. No negative implications in respect of equalities or inclusion have been identified in respect of the request.

Sustainability Implications

12. The additional funding will help increase the number of drainage infrastructure repairs and investigations to be undertaken over the next two years and ensure that routine gully cleansing work is as effective as possible.

Risk Management

13. No potential significant health and safety or service provision risks, or potentially significant financial impacts have been identified in these proposals.

Paul Fermer
Director of Environment and Highways

Annex(es): Annex 1 (*separate document*): Proposed Drainage schemes

Contact Officer(s): Daron Mizen (Operational Manager – Highway Schemes)

July 2026