

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING OF COUNCIL – 8 SEPTEMBER 2026

SCHEDULE OF BUSINESS

ITEM/TIME	ITEM	PROPOSALS (M = Motion; SEC = Seconders; Am = Amendment S = Statement; Q = Question; REC = Recommendation to be determined)
1 10:00	Minutes (Pages 11 to 25) To approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 30 June 2026.	
2	Apologies for Absence	
3	Declarations of Interest	
4 10:05 20 mins	Official Communications Oxfordshire has become one of just seven places in the UK to receive the Sustainable Food Places Gold Award, recognising its commitment to creating a healthier, fairer and more sustainable food system. The achievement reflects the work of Good Food Oxfordshire and partners across the county to make healthy, affordable and sustainable food more accessible to everyone. Congratulations to all involved. A list of events attended by the Chair and Vice-Chair of Council is attached as Annex 1. Since the last Council meeting the death has occurred of former Cllr Richard Webber. He was the Liberal Democrat Member for Sutton Courtenay and Marcham from May 2013 until he stood down in May 2024 for health reasons.	

	Former Cllr Webber served as Deputy Chair of the Planning & Regulation Committee, and as a member on the Audit and Governance Committee, Pension Fund Committee, Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Remuneration Committee and the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel. He was also the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group on the County Council from May 2015 to May 2021. Former Cllr Webber was also a member and former Leader of the Liberal Democrats on Vale of the White Horse District Council. Our thoughts are with his family and friends. Council will observe a minute's silence.	
5	Appointments	
6 10:25 20 mins	Petitions and Public Address <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> Petitions – 3 minutes to speak (10.1.2(i)) Public Address – 3 minutes to speak (10.2.1)	Petitions Mick Heath: Benson to Cholsey Active Travel District Councillor Ian Harwood: Right turn filters on Oxford Road, Banbury Parish Council Chair, Councillor Gill Austin: Pedestrian Crossing on the A4130 in Nuffield Public Address Item 9 Report of the Cabinet - Adult Social Care Contributions Policy John Power
7. 10:45 10 mins	Questions from Members of the Public See Annex 2 for questions and responses. One supplementary question allowed for each.	

	1. Robin Tucker 2. Bernadette Evans 3. Geoffrey Sutton 4. Peter West	Cllr Epps Cllr Gordon Cllr Epps Cllr Epps
8 10:55 30 mins	Questions with Notice from Members of the Council See Annex 3 for questions and responses. One supplementary question allowed for each. 1. Sargent to Fawcett 2. Sargent to Gregory 3. Cherry to Leffman 4. Sargent to Bearder 5. Cherry to Leffman 6. Coles to Leffman 7. Coles to Epps 8. Evans to Gordon 9. Field-Johnson to Epps 10. Cherry to Leffman 11. Snowdon to Gordon 12. Robertshaw to Gordon 13. Robertshaw to Leffman 14. Robertshaw to Gordon 15. Henwood to Epps 16. Henwood to Epps 17. Henwood to Edwards 18. Phillips to Epps 19. Phillips to Epps 20. Evans to Epps 21. Baines to Epps 22. Baines to Leffman 23. Baines to Levy 24. McLauchlan to Fawcett 25. McLauchlan to Fawcett 26. Withdrawn 27. Evans to Edwards 28. McLean to Leffman 29. McLean to Leffman 30. McLean to Leffman 31. Snowdon to Gordon 32. Snowdon to Leffman 33. Malik to Gaul 34. Malik to Gaul 35. Walker to Gregory 36. Walker to Bearder 37. Walker to Levy 38. McLauchlan to Gaul	

	39. Brighouse to Epps 40. Barlow to Epps 41. Barlow to Leffman 42. Barlow to Gregory 43. Middleton to Levy 44. Middleton to Gregory 45. Middleton to Gordon 46. Creed to Epps 47. Creed to Epps 48. Pressel to Leffman 49. Pressel to Gaul 50. Pressel to Fawcett 51. Plumb to Leffman 52. Plumb to Leffman 53. Plumb to Epps 54. Jones to Levy 55. Jones to Gordon 56. Crichton to Epps 57. Crichton to Epps 58. Fry to Gordon 59. Fry to Epps 60. Fry to Epps 61. Malik to Epps 62. Garnett to Epps 63. Garnett to Epps 64. Garnett to Epps 65. Ashby to Epps 66. Ashby to Epps 67. Ashby to Leffman	
9 11:25 30 mins	Report of the Cabinet (Pages 27 to 34) <u>Children and Young People (Cllr Gaul)</u> Page 27: Item 1- SEND Reform Plan Page 27: Item 2 - Best Start Family Hubs Strategy <u>Finance, Property and Transformation (Cllr Levy)</u> Page 28: Item 3 - Business Management and Monitoring Report – Performance and Risk Quarter 4 2025-26 and Provisional Revenue Outturn 2025-26 Page 28: Item 4 - Capital Outturn Report 2025/26	Q Jones (1) Q Markham (1) Q Brighouse (1) Q Creed (1) Q Jones (2) Q Markham (2) Q Brighouse (2) Q Worgan (2) Q McLauchlan (3) Q Baines (3) Q Graham (3) Q Middleton (4) Q Baines (4)

	Page 28: Item 5 - Treasury Management Annual Performance Report 2025/26	Q Fry (4) Q Middleton (5) Q Baines (5)
	Page 29: Item 6 - Revenue Update and Monitoring Report 2026/27	Q McLauchlan (6) Q Baines (6)
	Page 29: Item 7 - Capital Programme Monitoring Report	Markham (7) McLauchlan (7) Q Baines (7) Q Fry (7)
	Page 29: Item 8 - Governance Arrangements for Oxford Castle Apartments Limited (OCAL)	Q Middleton (8) Q Baines (8)
	<u>Environment and Economy (Cllr Gordon)</u> Page 30: Item 9 - Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy	Q McLauchlan (9) Q Pressel (9) Q Baines (9) Q Fry (9) Q Ashby (9)
	Page 30: Item 10 - Thames Valley Spatial Development Strategy (SDS) Development and Governance	Q Kerr (10) Q Baines (10)
	Page 30: Item 11 - Cowley Branch Line – Enterprise Zone Funding	Q Garnett (11) Q Baines (11) Q Roberts (11)
	Page 31: Item 12 - Acquisition of Solar Farm in Oxfordshire	Q Middleton (12) Q Crichton (12) Q Fry (12) Q Walker (12) Q Garnett (12)
	<u>Local Government Reorganisation and Human Resources (Cllr Edwards)</u> Page 31: Item 13 - Local Government Reorganisation – Strategic Partner Recruitment	Q Phillips (13) Q Brighthouse (13) Q Plumb (13)
	<u>Resources and Deputy Leader (Cllr Fawcett)</u> Page 32: Item 14 - HR and Culture Change Quarterly Report	Q Jones (14) Q Phillips (14) Q Pressel (14)
	Page 32: Item 15 - Protocol for Flag Flying	Q Baines (15)
	<u>Highways Construction and Repair (Cllr Leffman)</u>	Q Middleton (16) Q Cherry (16)

	Page 32: Item 16 - Tree Care Framework Contract <u>Adults (Cllr Fletcher)</u> Page 33: Item 17 - Adult Social Care Contributions Policy <u>Transport (Cllr Epps)</u> Page 33: Item 18 - Citizens' Assembly Update Scrutiny Reports Education and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee report on Best Start in Life Family Hubs People Overview and Scrutiny Committee report on Adult Social Care Charging Policy Performance and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee reports on:- a) Customer Service Centre Update b) Commercial Strategy c) Shaping Oxfordshire's Future Economy Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee Reports on:- a) Minerals and Waste Planning b) School Streets c) Bus Services and Rural Transport (including Mobility Hubs) d) Temporary Congestion Charge Scheme Monitoring e) Unauthorised Waste Site near Kidlington: Interim Report f) Protocol for Flag Flying	Q Pressel (16) Q Ashby (16) Q Jones (17) Q Phillips (17) Q Edosomwan (17) Q Baines (17) Q Markham (17) Q Garnett (18) Q Pressel (18) Q Smith (18) Q Middleton c) Q Pressel c) Q McLauchlan e)
10 11:55 10 mins	Treasury Management Annual Performance Report 2025/26 (Pages 35-49) Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2 Council is RECOMMENDED to note the council's treasury management activity and outcomes in 2025/26.	M Levy SEC Bearder S Baines S Markham

11 12:05 10 mins	Committees and Review of Political Balance Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2 Council is RECOMMENDED to note: a) the election of Councillor Dr James Hartley to the Chesterton and Launton division in the by-election that took place on 3 September 2026; b) that Councillor Hartley has joined the Liberal Democrat Group on the Council; and c) that there is no change to the overall political balance since the last review agreed at Council on 30 June 2026.	M Chair SEC Vice-Chair S Middleton S Gordon S Epps S Fawcett
12 12:15 10 mins	Notification of Amendments to the Constitution by the Monitoring Officer under Delegated Powers (Pages 51 to 59) Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2 Council is RECOMMENDED to: a) Note the amendments undertaken by the Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer, in accordance with Part 7.2 of the Constitution (Scheme of Delegation to Officers), paragraph 6.4 (v) as set out in Annex 1 to this report; b) Request the Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer to ensure the necessary changes are made; and c) Note that a final edit of the Constitution covering layout and grammar will be undertaken prior to publication.	M Chair SEC Vice-Chair S Middleton S Brighthouse S Fawcett
13 12:15	Motion from Councillor Paul-Austin Sargent	M Sargent SEC Snowdon

30 mins	Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2 Council recognises that access to high-quality healthcare is fundamental to the wellbeing of Oxfordshire residents and that the County Council has an important role in supporting its anchor partners in the NHS to improve local services. The Council understands the importance of ensuring that high-quality cancer treatment remains accessible closer to home. The Brodey Cancer Centre in Banbury is integral to our shared ambition. Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust identified a building on the Horton General Hospital site over two years ago as an appropriate location for the re-housing of the Brodey. Council therefore resolves to: 1. Express its support for the re-housing of the Brodey Cancer Centre into the identified, refurbished building on the Horton General Hospital site. 2. Request that the Leader of the Council writes to Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust to urge the necessary steps for the relocation to be taken expeditiously and to request a clear timetable for the re-housing project be shared with the Council and the public by the Trust.	S Garnett S Cherry S Crichton S Creed S Walker S Gregory S Hanna S Hingley S Epps
12:45 45 mins	LUNCH	
14 13:30 45 mins	Motion from Councillor Emma Markham Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2 Large-scale developments continue to be approved and built while roads, water, sewerage and electricity capacity often fail to keep pace. Developers also frequently build infrastructure, including roads and sewers, which are never formally adopted by the	M Markham SEC McLauchlan S Middleton S Pressel S Creed S Saul S Snowdon S Field-Johnson S Ashby S Walker

	Highway Authority or water company, leaving residents reliant on unmaintained systems with no clear responsibility for upkeep. Statutory undertakers such as Thames Water are only consultees on planning applications. Under the Water Industry Act 1991 they cannot lawfully refuse a connection on capacity grounds, even where evidence suggests they should. This is acknowledged by water companies, Ofwat and the Environment Agency, yet national housing targets take no account of it. This council has statutory responsibilities over important infrastructure considerations such as flooding and highways, but we should also be representing residents' serious concerns over national planning policy to ensure timely provision and adoption of local infrastructure. This Council believes that government cannot keep ignoring contradictions between housing targets and infrastructure capacity. This impacts new and existing communities and undermines the credibility of planning decisions. We should also consider more robust mechanisms to ensure adoption standards, safety audits and materials. Council therefore requests that: 1. The Leader writes to the Secretaries of State for Housing and DEFRA calling for housing targets to be matched to genuine infrastructure capacity. 2. Cabinet reviews our Section 38 agreements to ensure appropriate development standards are applied and, where possible, to ensure adoption of infrastructure is achieved in the timeliest and most efficient way possible. <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,</i>	S Leffman S Rawlins S Bearder S Epps S Levy
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	<i>in accordance with Rule 13.5.1 (i) of the Council Procedure Rules in the Constitution.</i>	
15 14:15 30 mins	Motion from Councillor Bethia Thomas Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2 This Council: • Recognises the county was officially declared in drought after multiple heatwaves this summer. • Notes the number of wildfires and uncontrolled burns that have been linked to extreme heat and dry conditions. • Recognises these conditions are very different to those experienced previously and may set a new pattern due to climate change. • Seeks to support and protect our fire service, our communities, and our rural landscape which is susceptible to uncontrolled burning. Council therefore: 1. Asks the Cabinet Member for Resources to work with the Fire and Rescue Service and the Fire Brigades Union to understand their needs considering the conditions they now face. 2. Asks Cabinet to consider measures to minimise the risk of uncontrolled fires by: a. Ensuring that wildfire prevention and management is a priority for the Climate Adaptation Team; b. Working with rural communities to reduce the risk of outbreaks in open country; c. Reviewing the management of verges and land owned by the Council taking this into account; d. Working with Trading Standards and Licencing Authorities to ensure the sale of fireworks, and firework displays are managed responsibly. 3. Requests the Leader of the Council writes to the appropriate Minister to request resources ensuring our fire service is equipped to fight fires like these at scale, urging them to work with	M Thomas SEC Webb Am1 Middleton SEC McLauchlan Am2 Snowdon SEC Malik S Middleton S Saul S Lygo S Coles S Snowdon S Plumb S Walker S Malik S Gordon S Fawcett S Garnett

	other governments nationally and internationally to understand best practice, including the idea of a total fire ban when required, and a broad approach to reducing the risk of fire. <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>	
16 14:45	Motion from Councillor Liz Brighthouse Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2 This Council notes: 1. Social Care is one of the biggest issues of our time. The system is unsustainable. 2. The Prime Minister has committed to fixing the broken social care system by working across party lines, and drawing a line under decades of governments leaving this issue unaddressed. 3. Baroness Louise Casey, chair of the Independent Commission on Adult Social Care, has launched the Big Conversation on Care. This Council welcomes: 4. The Independent Commission on Adult Social Care commitment to bring forward its reporting timetable by a year, recognising the urgency for lasting reform felt by all relying on and working in the system. 5. The Prime Minister's willingness to reach across party lines, and the engagement of all opposition parties with this process, in the belief that a problem of this scale will only be solved through a settlement built to outlast any single Parliament.	M Brighthouse SEC Edosomwan S Middleton S Phillips S Baines S Cherry S Fletcher S Bearder S Garnett

	This Council resolves to ask Cabinet to: 6. Promote the Big Conversation on Care across Oxfordshire. 7. Offer full support and participation in the conversation whether that is through local engagement events, sharing local data and case studies etc. 8. Work constructively with all political groups recognising that social care reform will only endure if it is built on cross-party consensus. 9. Council also asks the Leader to send a report to the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the outcomes of local engagement with the Big Conversation on Care, and on the Commission's findings as they are published <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>	
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