

**To:** Council  
**Date:** 7 October 2019  
**Title of Report:** Questions on Notice from members of Council and responses from the Cabinet Members and Leader republished to include supplementary questions and answers given at the meeting

## Introduction

1. Questions submitted by members of Council to the Cabinet members and Leader of the Council, by the deadline in the Constitution are listed below in the order they will be taken at the meeting.
2. Responses are included where available.
3. Questioners can ask one supplementary question of the councillor answering the original question.
4. This report will be republished after the Council meeting to include supplementary questions and responses as part of the minutes pack.
5. Unfamiliar terms may be briefly explained in footnotes.

## Questions and responses

### Cabinet Member for Culture and City Centre

#### 1. From Councillor Gant to Councillor Clarkson – Historic high street funding

##### Question

The Government recently announced the cities which were successful in bidding for a share of £95m of funding to help historic high streets [\[article here\]](#)

Oxford is not on it.

Given the poor state of our city centre, did the council bid?

If so, were any reasons given for our not

##### Written Response

The Council did submit an expression of interest, focused around the covered market area, but we were unsuccessful. Initial feedback from Historic England said: *“We received over 200 applications for the funding opportunity, and the field was hugely competitive.”*

We have written to Historic England to ask for more detailed feedback on our

<b>1. From Councillor Gant to Councillor Clarkson – Historic high street funding</b>	
being successful?	expression of interest.
<b>Supplementary Question</b> Can you share the feedback with members when you receive it?	<b>Verbal Response</b> Yes.

<b>2. From Councillor Gant to Councillor Clarkson – Regional tourism zone</b>	
<b>Question</b> Can the Cabinet member provide an update on progress towards a bid for a regional tourism zone?	<b>Written Response</b> <p>The Tourism Sector Deal sets out how the government and industry will work in partnership to boost productivity, develop the skills of the UK workforce and support destinations to enhance their visitor offer. The British Tourist Authority (BTA) will project manage Sector Deal's implementation, working with the devolved bodies, businesses and trade associations to manage the delivery of commitments and targets. BTA will gain specific delivery responsibilities, including among others, developing and supporting the delivery of Tourism Zones.</p> <p>As part of the Tourism Sector Deal, BTA have committed to piloting up to five new Tourism Zones across the country. Tourism Zones will be designated via competitive bidding process. Successful Zones will receive targeted support from Government in order to help develop their visitor economy and boost productivity.</p> <p>In respect of an Oxfordshire Tourism Zone, discussions have been held locally including Oxfordshire Growth Board officers group, and the LEP Deal Board on the Tourism Sector Deal and Tourism Zone concept. At this point, the partnership approach to developing a proposal locally has been agreed. A small stakeholder group is being convened to do the initial work on the Tourism Zone concept – this is being jointly chaired by a Board member from both OxLEP and Experience Oxfordshire and involves reps from the sector. There will be an officer to represent the district councils present and Highways and Planning officer viewpoints on the concept will be sought to shape the proposal.</p> <p>However, Experience Oxfordshire has now advised that central government has indicated that the Tourism Zones will now not come forward until 2021/22, as previously the bidding process was to be open by</p>

<b>2. From Councillor Gant to Councillor Clarkson – Regional tourism zone</b>	
	December 2019 and successful zones announced in 2020. This is clearly disappointing news, but we will continue to work with our partners to consider what preparation work can continue to be undertaken.
<b>Supplementary Question</b> It is disappointing but not surprising that the government's timetable has slipped. Please can you keep us informed about progress on this?	<b>Verbal Response</b> Yes.

<b>3. From Councillor Wade to Councillor Clarkson – Coach lay-over points</b>	
<b>Question</b> Tourist coach drivers refer to the excellent facilities available to them at Bicester Village.  Is the Council looking at creating an equivalent facility - a drivers' cafe with free tea and coffee and newspapers - at one of the Park & Rides to encourage drivers to park there after they have dropped their passengers?	<b>Written Response</b> Following the scrutiny committee recommendations on this issue, city council officers have been working with colleagues at the county council to review current arrangements for both drop off and layover by tourist coaches and a number of sites that could be options. City Council officers are currently arranging a workshop with colleagues at County and Experience Oxfordshire to consider potential options. Park & Ride sites are one layover option, being explored further.
<b>Supplementary Question</b> Are interested members able to attend the workshop referred to in the response?	<b>Verbal Response</b> This is not a workshop open to members. It is a meeting of an existing fixed-membership officer and member group set up jointly by Oxfordshire County Council and Oxford City Council to look at city-wide parking issues.

#### 4. From Councillor Wade to Councillor Clarkson – Coach lay-over information

<p><b>Question</b></p> <p>At the Council meeting on 22 July, the Cabinet member advised that 'layover information' was being reviewed and would be issued to coach drivers imminently.</p> <p>In discussions with drivers on 17 August, no such information or maps showing coach parking places in residential streets had been issued.</p> <p>Has this now been done?</p>	<p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>The communication of potential options to coach drivers and operators is planned to follow the reaching of agreement on what are the favoured location(s) for drop off and layover options, and therefore will follow the workshop step referred to in Q3 above.</p>
<p><b>Supplementary Question</b></p> <p>Coach drivers (and residents) are finding the lack of information about suitable parking and lay-over points frustrating. Can at least an interim leaflet be produced to give them basic information?</p>	<p><b>Verbal Response</b></p> <p>We can make sure this is done after the workshop/ meeting.</p>

#### Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management; non-statutory Deputy Leader

#### 5. From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Turner – Non-payment of council tax

<p><b>Question</b></p> <p>Has Oxford City Council sent anyone sent anyone to prison for non-payment of Council Tax in the last ten years?</p> <p>If so, how many, and when was the most recent?</p>	<p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>In the last ten years Oxford City Council has not committed anyone to prison for non-payment of Council Tax (indeed, we have not done so since these powers were introduced in 1993). We would only ever use this method of recovery as a last resort, and would have to prove wilful refusal or culpable neglect before doing so.</p>
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## 6. From Councillor Wade to Councillor Turner – 1-5 George Street

<p><b>Question</b></p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member advise on plans for the short-term future of 1-5 George Street which is looking increasingly dilapidated and is on an important corner site in the shopping centre?</p>	<p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>The Council has issued a brief for the potential meanwhile use of 1-3 George Street, seeking an operator to work with the council on occupying the building on a year-long term, while further assessment of longer term options takes place. It should be noted that 5 George Street has now been let to Ask and will not form part of either the meanwhile use, nor the longer-term options feasibility work</p>
<p><b>Supplementary Question</b></p> <p>In June 2018 there was a 2 day event about the redevelopment of 1-5 George Street, but no progress with that since. What's your view of the effect on Boswells, Debenhams and Cornmarket of a delay in re-development of our building that's much longer than anyone expected?</p>	<p><b>Verbal Response</b></p> <p>Cllr Brown responded in Cllr Turner's absence.</p> <p>We agree this is not ideal, but it would not be ideal to press ahead with a project that wasn't what we hoped. In the city centre generally new tenants are found fairly quickly: there isn't a straightforward pattern to re-letting. We want to move ahead with this but to get it right.</p>

## Cabinet Member for Healthy Oxford

## 7. From Councillor Henwood to Councillor Upton - Promoting bio-diversity on vacant plots or 'Bio-Plots'

<p><b>Question</b></p> <p>Growing on from the portfolio holder's positive response to my question concerning 'Bio-Plots' on vacant city council owned land. Can a potential audit of vacant plots include the following city council owned areas for consideration, football and recreation grounds, verges, cemeteries, allotments and city council maintained parking sites, like the one recently installed in Van Diemen's Lane in Littlemore and the Grates in Cowley, be planted with meadow grass 'like' borders, to promote environmental</p>	<p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>The City Council organise a Green &amp; Blue Spaces Network that includes a wide range of agencies. The next meeting is focussed on how partners can work more collaboratively to improve biodiversity across the city.</p> <p>Council officers are already mapping areas of land that may be suitable for improving biodiversity and creating green corridors.</p> <p>Some areas such as football and recreation grounds need some areas to be kept clear of longer grass to allow for safety around pitches during play and access for other</p>
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<b>7. From Councillor Henwood to Councillor Upton - Promoting bio-diversity on vacant plots or 'Bio-Plots'</b>	
awareness and/or community well-being and further promote green corridors and biodiversity within the city?	site users (such as dog walkers). We are though exploring where we could introduce more unmown borders to help increase the biodiversity of sites.
<b>Supplementary Question</b> When will the mapping of areas suitable for improving biodiversity be complete and can it be made available to members?	<b>Verbal Response</b> It is nearly completed and I can let you have a copy when it is finished.

<b>8. From Councillor Henwood to Councillor Upton - Promoting bio-diversity on private land or 'Bio-Plots &amp; Green Bee Scheme'</b>	
<b>Question</b> On privately owned areas of green space i.e. hotels, University owned land such as sports fields and contribute and privately-owned gardens be encouraged to plants, shrubs and trees to promote environmental awareness and/or community well-being and further promote green corridors and biodiversity within the city?  To facilitate this can the city council engage in promoting a 'Green Bee' competition or award scheme for privately owned 'Bio-Plots' within the city. If approved would the portfolio holder link up with neighbouring authorities to encourage county wide bio-corridors?	<b>Written Response</b> The City Council provide a Green Neighbourhood Grant Scheme. This is a diverse grant application that allows individuals/community groups to positively impact their green space. One of the projects this year has supported the implementation of a bee hive by funding bee friendly shrubs. This scheme allows the community to take the lead. More details of the scheme and the type of activities that have been funded can be found on the council's website.  Oxford University's <u>'Plan Bee' project</u> shows some of the work being undertaken in and around the city.

<b>9. From Councillor Henwood to Councillor Upton - Marketing &amp; Testing of potential Bio-Plot and Green Bee Scheme</b>	
<b>Question</b> With further reference to the introduction of Bio-Plots and a potential Green Bee scheme, can a potential pilot scheme be launched in Cowley?  Along with an amendment to Councillor 'CIL' ward budget expenditure description to facilitate spending on Bio-Plots and the introduction of a 'Green	<b>Written Response</b> Do encourage a community group in Cowley to apply for the Green Neighbourhood Grant Scheme. The Scheme is targeted at projects like this.  Councillors are already free to use their <u>ward member</u> budget on green infrastructure improvements. CIL can only be used for things that are legally

**9. From Councillor Henwood to Councillor Upton - Marketing & Testing of potential Bio-Plot and Green Bee Scheme**

<p>Bee' scheme in localized areas? A further amendment to the CIL scheme to facilitate purchase flora and fauna from Oxford City Council?</p>	<p>definable as infrastructure, so if you want to use your <u>ward CIL</u> budget you will need to check with officers whether your precise proposal would comply.</p>
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**10. From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Upton – Mowing grass verges**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Written Response</b>
<p>What is our policy on the mowing of grass verges and what is the reasoning behind it? Would he not agree that excessive mowing seems like an unnecessary and damaging activity to the environment, and that money and time would be better spent planting many more trees continuously along all our roadside verges to provide shelter, shade, clean air, carbon capture and reduced summer temperatures?</p>	<p>The majority of grass verges are mown every 10 days as part of the Parks and Open Spaces Service Standards. The benefits of urban trees are well known, which is why over the past 5 years 1,362 urban trees have been planted across the City. However planting and maintaining trees on roadside verges is very expensive. To give the best chance of survival in a grass verge it costs £600-£700 per tree and can be up to £3,000 in hard surfaces. For a tree to survive past the first 3 years it also should be watered twice a week. In addition to this, ongoing management costs include surveying, tree works and replacement costs if the tree fails or is vandalised. We are actively working with community groups who are prepared to take on nurturing trees once they are planted. This should result in a larger number of trees being planted than would otherwise be possible with our limited resources.</p>

<b>Supplementary Question</b>	<b>Verbal Response</b>
<p>I'm glad to see we are actively working with community groups on this. It would be good to know what groups are involved in East Oxford so I can liaise with them – is it possible to supply this in writing?</p>	<p>We are still looking for partners so if you know of a group which would be interested in this management work, please let our tree officer know.</p>

## Cabinet Member for Planning and Sustainable Transport

### 11. From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Hollingsworth – Cowley Road cycle markings

#### Question

The Portfolio Holder will no doubt be aware from reports in the press and from local Councillors that there is considerable dissatisfaction with the County Council over the 'maintenance works' being carried out on the Cowley Road. The opportunity presented by these necessary repair works has been used by the County to change the road markings relating to cycling, which were an integral part of the safety scheme introduced in 2005. Will the Portfolio Holder agree to add his weight to the complaints being made to County by writing to the County Portfolio Holder?

#### Written Response

I have raised the issue with the County Councillor with responsibility for this area and asked for an explanation of what changes have been made and why. If I have an answer before the Council meeting I will give it in response to a supplementary question.

### 12. From Councillor Henwood to Councillor Hollingsworth - Enforcement or CPO action at the Priory update

#### Question

Occupied since 1445, the Priory in Littlemore has remained derelict for the past 13 years, and is now considered to be at 'risk'.

The site is owned by Oxford City Council and leased to Firoka, former Oxford United owner Firoz Kassam's company who also own Ozone and the Oxford United Stadium.

As part of the original planning application, a condition was incorporated into the planning application that the applicant repair the grade II listed building. Last year Oxford City Council, sought enforcement action to make Firoka honour the agreement. Can the portfolio holder update council on the status of the enforcement action, and whether city council has imposed or agreed a deadline for achieving the works?

#### Written Response

An external façade condition survey of the Priory Public House has been undertaken by the current tenant's planning agent following which a report and a schedule of works outlining all of the necessary repairs to the external façade of the building has been drawn up. These works have been submitted to, and agreed by the Council's Design and Heritage Team. We are now awaiting the date of commencement for the works.

The Breach of Condition Notice served by the Council will remain in place until the works are completed.

#### Supplementary Question

Will the report referred to be made public?

#### Verbal Response

The report is complete: written by an

**12. From Councillor Henwood to Councillor Hollingsworth - Enforcement or CPO action at the Priory update**

external body on behalf of the landowner, and cannot be published without permission of the author. Provided permission is sought and there is no over-riding legal reason not to publish, it will be published.

**13. From Councillor Wade to Councillor Hollingsworth – Planning site notices**

**Question**

Will the Cabinet Member consider reviewing the practice of putting up a single planning application notice outside a property, and instead consider posting a second notice in a street where properties will also be affected by the application e.g. in a street where properties back on to the application site.

**Written Response**

Our existing guidelines for planning officers already make it clear that where necessary additional notices should be displayed: "If it is for development to the rear or side of the site which would have an impact on gardens and neighbours of properties located on a different road, you must display another site notice on the other road in question."

**Supplementary Question**

Could I ask you to check that this is being done as a matter of course in all cases?

**Verbal Response**

I am aware of only one instance, and as a result of this reminders and the guidelines were issued to all development control staff to prevent a repeat.

**14. From Councillor Gotch to Councillor Hollingsworth – Seacourt signage**

**Question**

Can there be / will there be notices on the ring road informing motorists of the parking - space availability at the expanded Seacourt Park and Ride?

**Written Response**

Yes, the dynamic signs on the approach roads to Oxford will reflect the numbers of spaces available.

**15. From Councillor Henwood to Councillor Hollingsworth - Student Flats or HMO**

**Question**

I have previously raised the question that student flats be classified as HMO's to protect local communities from

**Written Response**

The definition of an HMO (house in multiple occupation) is set in law by the Housing Act 2004. Schedule 14 of that Act lists the types of buildings which cannot be treated as HMOs under the Act,

**15. From Councillor Henwood to Councillor Hollingsworth - Student Flats or HMO**

overdevelopment from excessive privately rented accommodation. In the Cowley area we are experiencing the fall out from not introducing such a policy.

Will the portfolio holder now reconsider this question of poor urban planning by linking the volume and density of either HMO's with student flats, or the proximity of individual student flats to each other, and introduce urgently amendments to the Oxford Plan to reflect a cap on the number of student flats residential areas like Cowley can accommodate?

and Section 4 of the Schedule specifically lists any building "...which is occupied solely or principally by persons who occupy it for the purpose of undertaking a full-time course of further or higher education at a specified educational establishment". This means that student flats cannot be defined as HMOs under the Housing Act. This is not something that the City Council can ignore or amend.

The current Local Plan, and the proposed Local Plan 2016-2036, both include policies which aim to locate student accommodation in suitable locations. It is a longstanding objective of the City Council to continue to reduce the numbers of students at the two Universities who are not living in student accommodation, as reflected in policies in both the current and proposed Local Plans.

**16. From Councillor Henwood to Councillor Hollingsworth - Current student flat demand clarification**

**Question**

Core Strategy Policy CS25 requires each university to have no more than 3,000 full time students living in Oxford outside of university provided accommodation. To avoid worsening the situation, all increases in student numbers at the two universities should be matched by an equivalent increase in student accommodation. City Councils on-line reports were produced but are undated. Could council and planners be provided with current information in order to properly assess the need for current and future student accommodation in Oxford?

**Written Response**

The number of students at the two main universities living in the City but not in purpose built accommodation is reported annually, in considerable detail, in the Annual Monitoring Reports (AMR), all of which are clearly dated. The most recent AMR is used when assessing planning applications under policy CS25.

Current and future need for student accommodation was assessed as part of the gathering of evidence for the Local Plan 2016-2036, and was used as the basis for the proposed new policy H9, which proposes a reduction in the total threshold amount to 4500 students living outside purpose built accommodation by 1st April 2022. The proposed policy will be the subject of discussion at the Local Plan Inquiry hearings later this year.

<b>16. From Councillor Henwood to Councillor Hollingsworth - Current student flat demand clarification</b>	
<p><b>Supplementary Question</b></p> <p>How will the count of the 4500 students 'living out' be broken down by university?</p>	<p><b>Verbal Response</b></p> <p>The policy is set out in the Local Plan 2016-36 documents submitted to the inspector</p> <p>(Note: policy H9 in the PROPOSED SUBMISSION DRAFT13/12/18 states in part <i>Planning permission will only be granted for new/redeveloped or refurbished academic, research or administrative accommodation .....where it can be demonstrated that the number of their full-time taught course students living in Oxford in non-university provided accommodation (excluding those who continue to live at their pre-application home address while studying)</i></p> <p>Does not exceed 1,500 (at 01 April 2022) for University of Oxford</p> <p>Does not exceed 3,000 (at 01 April 2022) for Oxford Brookes University</p>

<b>17. From Councillor Henwood to Councillor Hollingsworth - Will the Independent Flats proposed on Between-Towns-Road meet or count towards Brookes University's unmet need for student accommodation?</b>	
<p><b>Question</b></p> <p>Policy CS25 states that the University shall provide student housing, will privately non-affiliated student accommodation count to towards University provision.</p> <p>An example being the proposed Catay accommodation, will the proposed independent student flats count towards Oxford Brookes' unmet need, or will Brookes needs to build further accommodation?</p>	<p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>Policy CS25 does not "require" the two Universities to build student accommodation; instead it says that any new academic/administrative floorspace will only be allowed if the threshold of students not living in University provided accommodation is not breached.</p> <p>The definition of "university provided accommodation" for the purposes of policy CS25, as spelt out in considerable detail in the Annual Monitoring Report, is that accommodation either owned by the university in question or to which that university has nomination rights.</p> <p>It will be up to Brookes university to demonstrate that any development meets that definition.</p>

**18. From Councillor Henwood to Councillor Hollingsworth - Independent Student Flats**

**Question**

As independent student flats are not covered by CS25, can a condition be imposed that such facilities must include 50% social or affordable housing, and Oxford local plan amended to reflect this?

**Written Response**

Affordable housing contributions are already required from student housing developments, under policy HP6 of the current Sites and Housing Plan. This is proposed to continue in the new Local Plan 2036.

**19. From Councillor Henwood to Councillor Hollingsworth - Cowley Branch Line**

**Question**

Council was informed that a feasibility study to reintroduce the Cowley Branch Line will be conducted in the Autumn this year, can the portfolio holder inform Council of when this study will be made public?

Can council receive assurance that every effort to encourage ticket pricing is an affordable?

**Written Response**

The Oxfordshire Rail Connectivity Study is being carried out by Network Rail with input from Oxfordshire County Council and others and is due to be published by the end of this year and will be in the public domain.

Rail ticket pricing rules are established by national government, and it is likely that these journeys would be unregulated fares. As such it will be up to train operators to decide on the fare levels. Nonetheless I would hope that they would reflect the need to encourage take up of the new services linking the south side of Oxford with the city centre and beyond.

Speaking personally, I believe that there is a strong case for an integrated ticketing system for all forms of public transport in Oxfordshire, of the sort that operates in London and other major cities. Affordable, convenient and easy to use public transport is a critical part of encouraging a shift away from the use of private cars.

**20. From Councillor Garden to Councillor Chapman – Neighbourhood policing**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Written Response</b>
<p>Cllr Hayes and I agree on the importance of neighbourhood policing, especially at a time when there is an increase in hate crime and drug trafficking. It is well-known and supported fact that their relationships with members of the community and intelligence gathering are invaluable.</p> <p>It is therefore worrying that Headington and Marston has only two and half-time PCSO's at the moment and they have to cover each other as need during days off etc.</p> <p>1. How many PCSO hours were assigned to Headington in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018?</p> <p>2. What steps are being taken to increase the number of PCSO's in</p>	<p>The Council does not manage police services in the city, but as portfolio holder for Community Safety I regularly liaise with senior police officer to ensure they are aware of my and councillors concerns.</p> <p>We have written to Thames Valley Police (TVP) and their response is as follows:</p> <p>“Neighbourhood Policing (NHP) continues to be a key resource for the police area, and for Thames Valley Police as a whole. Chief Constable John Campbell continues to emphasise the importance of NHP as a vital pillar of our policing structure, and the work being done by NH teams in Oxford is recognised as being among the effective and advanced in the force.</p> <p>Whilst we don't break down PCSO duty commitments in to the specific detail asked in the question, we do ensure that every ward and neighbourhood is allocated a dedicated PCSO, who works as part of a larger geographic NH police team. In Headington, this is the NE NHP Team which will be led by Sgt Paul Arnold from the start of next week.</p> <p>Headington and Marston are covered by some of our most experienced PCSOs, including Ahmed Mohamed, who was a contender for TVP's PCSO of the Year in 2019, and will be known to many residents as a hugely capable, experienced and knowledgeable member of staff. Rachel Cooper and Dave Atkinson, who also cover the area, as well as the Warneford Hospital, are also among our longest-serving and most experienced PCSOs.</p> <p>TVP is committed to PCSO recruitment, and there are on-going intakes of new staff at our training centre. Oxford is allocated a regular intake of new staff, with two new PCSOs starting very shortly. There is also some flexibility available to police senior management to rotate staff temporarily, to deal with any emerging risks or threats, or provide an enhanced response to incidents such as last week's tragic deaths at Forester's Tower. Staffing levels are reviewed on a monthly basis, with gaps being identified, and steps taken to fill them.</p> <p>The current government has announced an increase in recruitment levels for police forces across the country. Any increase numbers of officers is welcome news, and Oxford police area should benefit from any eventual uplift, as well as other areas in TVP.</p>

## 20. From Councillor Garden to Councillor Chapman – Neighbourhood policing

Oxford?

3. In light of the recent announcements by our Prime Minister, how many new PCSO hours can we expect in: Headington; and across the city?: and by when?

The Force has given a commitment to retaining and continuing to recruit, PCSOs, unlike some forces in other parts of the country, and I do not anticipate that this will change in the foreseeable future.

With new officers arriving on the area regularly, and this influx of new officers will have a positive impact on NHP resourcing, as well as out Incident & Crime Response Teams.”

Any councillors wishing to raise issues around police resources on specific areas across the city, or any other policing matters, are more than welcome to contact me, and I or officers can then raise their concerns with the police area lead for NHP.

## 21. From Councillor Garden to Councillor Chapman – Young care leavers

### Question

Recent reports in the media have highlighted some of the terrible conditions young people find themselves living in, and their vulnerabilities, once they've left the care system.

What safe-guarding provisions are in place for these young people in Oxford?

### Written Response

Care leavers in Oxfordshire are supported by the County Council (detailed information is [here](#) (pdf)

Until they turn 25 they have access to support from a personal advisor. This will be someone from the Oxfordshire Looked After & Care Leavers team. In some cases the young person's social worker will remain as their advisor when they turn 18.

Oxford City Council provides support for young people leaving the care system through:

**Joint Housing Steering Group** – Due to concerns over the number of homeless young people and care leavers , intentionally homeless families and families without recourse to public funds Oxford County Council, City and all district councils agreed to establish a joint housing team to tackle homelessness. - The group puts in place various procedures and process to work in partnership.

**Protocol for assessing and supporting homeless 16 and 17 year olds in Oxfordshire** - The protocol was developed through the Joint Housing Team Steering Group. In line with the protocol a Housing Option officer employed by Oxford City Council attends Oxfordshire Children and Families Office at Knights Court every week (as needed) to carryout joint assessment of 16/17 years olds who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.

**Young Persons Pathway** is for young people (for vulnerable & homeless 16 – 24 year olds) Its primary aim is to safeguard any young person who is assessed as being at risk of immediate and significant harm due to homelessness

<b>21. From Councillor Garden to Councillor Chapman – Young care leavers</b>	
	<p>or housing related issues.</p> <p>Care leavers are highlighted as a vulnerable group in safeguarding training at all levels. Vulnerabilities and risk factors are discussed during training.</p> <p>Whatever their respective roles it is vital we all work together in both the County and the City Councils to ensure we support young people coming out of care. It is a time of special vulnerability for them, and whilst the City Council has the limited role outlined above, the support around housing is valuable and something we can be proud of.</p>
<p><b>Supplementary Question</b></p> <p>What's the definition of 'Intentionally homeless families' and how many 16 and 17yr olds in the city and is one housing options officer enough to deal with the need?</p>	<p><b>Verbal Response</b></p> <p>There is a statutory definition of 'intentionally homeless' which is applied –essentially those who have become homeless through their own (in)actions, and whom we have no duty to house. But they still need to be housed, and clearly any children are not at fault.</p> <p>I am happy to review the level of support we offer, but Oxfordshire County Council is the responsible authority for young care leavers. The city council does offer supplementary support to this extremely vulnerable group coming out of care, but there is a limit to what we can do as we are not the responsible authority.</p>

<b>22. From Councillor Gant to Councillor Chapman – Graffiti removal</b>	
<p><b>Question</b></p> <p>The Cabinet member recently helpfully told me that there is a schedule of ongoing and planned graffiti removals available to be consulted by members to help them keep ward residents informed about cases in individual wards. Can he clarify the status and operation of the list?</p>	<p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>The planned graffiti removal schedule is updated on a monthly basis and is sent to members as well as the relevant portfolio holders.</p> <p>If a member has a particular issue with a piece of graffiti in their ward they can contact the team (<a href="mailto:streetscene@oxford.gov.uk">streetscene@oxford.gov.uk</a>) and ask for it to be prioritised when the team are in that ward.</p>
<p><b>Supplementary Question</b></p> <p>Could you outline the purpose of the list and how can we influence the work?</p>	<p><b>Verbal Response</b></p> <p>This does not show individual pieces of graffiti removal but the areas where the team will be working. This allows councillors to notify the team in good time of any work they consider should be done.</p>

### 23. From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Chapman – Rising bollards

#### Question

Does the Portfolio Holder know why none of the rising bollards in the City appear to be working?  
What is he doing to address this?

#### Written Response

The County Council is managing the project to replace the rising bollards across the City and they are in the process of decommissioning the bollards in readiness for the subsequent replacements, this means that the bollards are not currently working.

Oxford Direct Services is working closely with County colleagues to assist with the replacements with an anticipated commencement date of mid to end of October.

### Cabinet Member for Supporting Local Communities

### 24. From Councillor Garden to Councillor Tidball – Children and Young People's Strategy

#### Question

It's been a year since the introduction of the Children and Young People's Strategy for young people aged 0 - 25.

As part of the preventative-led provision strategy, what new services have been established during this time to support young people and families?

#### Written Response

Positive progress has been made since the Children & Young People's Strategy was launched last year; the following update provides a few examples:

Developed an improved work experience offer providing more structured placements so young people can experience a variety of services across the Council.

We are providing a schools programme that engages young people who are at risk of exploitation through being excluded from school or on part time contracts, the programme is funded by the Police and Crime Commission.

Becoming a Sugar Smart City in 2018 to support the Council's efforts to reduce childhood obesity.

Improved promotion of activities for young people in leisure centres such as U17 free swimming.

The Youth Ambition Programme has achieved the National Youth Agency (NYA) quality mark which shows the quality of the services provided.

The Council's Youth Ambition grants panel included young people from our priority areas. These grants

**24. From Councillor Garden to Councillor Tidball – Children and Young People’s Strategy**

were distributed into the areas where there was most need and to organisations who showed greatest value for money, proof of working with young people with protected characteristics and were as inclusive as possible.

Summer activities coordination has improved with a range of activities being promoted across the city.

The Cultural Education Partnership is progressing well and has drawn in over £150k of external funding to support cultural education in schools.

The Community Impact Zone has developed well and there is a very positive partnerships with Oxfordshire County Council, Thames Valley Police, The Oxford Hub and a number of voluntary and community sector organisations. Data developed through the partnership has identified areas where work should be focussed and a number of national organisations such as Lankelly Chase, Nesta, Enabling Social Action (ESA) and Sport England are now providing funding.

The City’s Children & Young Person Partnership has continued to progress with a focus on overseeing the Cultural Education Partnership, the Community Impact Zone and coordinating partner activities in areas such as holiday activities.

We have a joint approach to safeguarding across all services where training is updated regularly and accessed through our ‘keeping people safe’ webpage. All staff are required to meet a minimum level of training based on their role. Safeguarding concerns are dealt with appropriately and effectively through our MyConcern system, which is monitored daily by our designated safeguarding leads

**25. From Councillor Pressel to Councillor Hayes– Tree planting**

<p><b>Question</b></p> <p>Please can you tell me the City Council's policy on tree-planting?</p>	<p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>In January the Council unanimously declared a climate emergency and clearly developing Oxford's biodiversity will be a major response to meeting this emergency. At the Citizens' Assembly's first weekend bio-diversity and tree planting was explicitly considered and seen as a priority area by the Council and Assembly members. Councillors can expect announcements over the next few months.</p> <p>We have a budget of £15k for tree planting each year. This work is highlighted via the 3 year ward survey. Each year we plant 100+ trees across the city. Over the last 4 years the City Council has planted over 4000 new trees across the city.</p> <p>The overall aim of the tree policy is to ensure that Oxford's tree stock is retained, enhanced and increased in the most proactive manner whilst ensuring the health, safety and well-being of the public and property.</p> <p>All Oxford City Council owned trees are inspected on a three year cyclical programme. This inspection programme is designed to assess the trees' condition and health whilst highlighting any work that may be required to ensure the tree is retained in the best possible condition.</p> <p>We have also introduced a biosecurity policy, which include sourcing only UK grown trees from vetted suppliers wherever possible to reduce the risk of disease and transport impacts. We will continue programme of succession planting of trees in parks and other green spaces, and further increase the overall number of trees, including utilising opportunities of free whips (tree saplings) provided by the Woodlands Trust and carbon offset initiatives. We will also investigate opportunities for natural regeneration.</p> <p>The City Council has a tree management policy which can be read in full on the website: <a href="#">Tree Policy</a></p>
<p><b>Supplementary Question</b></p> <p>Can we work with other public bodies/ private land-owners to get more trees planted and have tree lined avenues in new developments?</p>	<p><b>Verbal Response</b></p> <p>We do and will work with any and all landowners who want to plant trees, and I will consider your point about avenues.</p>

## 26. From Councillor Simmons to Councillor Hayes – Biodegradable bags

<b>Question</b> It has been brought to my attention that the meat stall at Headington market uses 100% biodegradable bags. He says he does this because he also covers markets in London and ALL require him to use these them. Would the cabinet member consider encouraging (and enforcing where possible) of all market stalls in Oxford to do the same?	<b>Written Response</b> The Council's Street Trading Policy requires that all packaging and utensils for use by customers shall be made of recycled or part recycled materials. The Council also already encourage Covered Market traders to use biodegradable and environmentally friendly packaging and we will review whether this can be made a requirement. LSD Promotions who manage the Gloucester Green Market for the Council have required all caterers to use Eco-friendly/compostable food packaging, cutlery & disposables by the end of 2019. There are a number of privately run markets that operate in the City and we will contact them to encourage them to use biodegradable and environmentally friendly packaging.
<b>Supplementary Question</b> The answer refers to those covered by the street trading policy. Does this cover markets?	<b>Verbal Response</b> No: markets are not covered by the street trading policy. I will seek to get specific information to you about policy for the city's markets.

## 27. From Councillor Gant to Councillor Hayes – Citizens' Assembly

<b>Question</b> Can the Cabinet member provide an estimate of the cost to the council in terms of officer time of preparations for the Citizens' Assembly, over and above the budget allocated?	<b>Written Response</b> The decision to establish a Citizens Assembly followed the January Council motion on the Climate Emergency, which received cross-party support. Following the Council's request, we've got on with it, and I'm proud that the Oxford Citizens Assembly on Climate Change will be a UK first. This will provide us with clear insights to how our citizens want us to tackle the climate emergency and we will be modelling something new and insightful that other local authorities and Parliament itself will be following as they call their own National Citizens Assembly. In line with best practice guidance from <a href="#">Involve</a> , the charitable organisation that promotes and advises on participative democracy, we set up an independent Advisory Group to help guide our approach. That group contains experts from Oxford University, representatives from community groups and business
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## 27. From Councillor Gant to Councillor Hayes – Citizens’ Assembly

and councillors of all parties including Councillor Gant on behalf of the LibDems.

A number of officers have been involved in preparations for the Citizens Assembly and part of the allocated budget was used to secure additional temporary resource.

However, as permanent staff don’t use time sheets to record the different activities they undertake each day it is difficult to provide anything but a very rough estimate of the officer time spent.

Since May 2019 the work involved represents around a day a week for one Executive Director and two senior officers, and two to three days a week for two junior officers.

It is important to note that there were no extra costs to the Council for this officer time as it was already fully budgeted within the staff salary costs. For all of the officers involved the work has represented activities they would be expected to undertake in the normal course of their employment and that work to tackle climate change had already been identified by the Chief Executive as among the top 5 operational priorities for 2019/20. Therefore, the only ‘cost’ was the opportunity cost of officer time that might have been spent on other things.

## 28. From Councillor Garden to Councillor Hayes – JR Energy project

### Question

An independent report (“OUH Energy Project, A Headington Resident’s View) was published in July this year setting out the energy consumption, costs and carbon emissions of the JR Energy project for the period 2012 to March 2019 (a copy was sent to Cllr Susan Brown).

The report concludes that although the project has achieved a reduction in costs and total carbon emissions, the energy usage and local carbon emissions have in fact increased.

1. Will the City Council set out to corroborate the findings in the report?
2. If accurate, feedback what action they will take to rectify this increase in local emissions?

### Written Response

I will be reviewing the points made by your resident and writing to seek a meeting with the CEX of OUH to learn more about the hospital's work to reduce carbon emissions in Oxford and beyond. As all Members know we need all organisations across Oxford to reduce CO2 emissions to avert a global climate emergency. I will share the findings of local NHS action on climate when I can.

3. Can the council please respond to the Oxford resident who has taken the time to monitor this project from the outset?	
<b>Supplementary Question</b> Can you tell me when you will have completed your review?	<b>Verbal Response</b> I have written and sent my response: I will send you a copy

**Deputy Leader of the Council; Cabinet Member for Leisure and Housing**

**29. From Councillor Simmons to Councillor Linda Smith – OxSpot service**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Written Response</b>
<p>Can the Portfolio Holder tell me whether our provider of OxSpot outreach service, St. Mungo's, is expected and/or required under the terms of our contract with them to report illegal activity to the police if/when they see it occurring?</p>	<p>The purpose of the Oxford Street Population Service [OxSPOT] is to identify, engage and support into accommodation people who are sleeping rough or at risk of doing so.</p> <p>This necessarily requires OxSPOT to work in partnership with other services and organisations, including Thames Valley Police, OCC's Green Spaces and Community Response Teams, Health Services, Crisis, Turning Point and others.</p> <p>For example, and where appropriate, OxSPOT staff maybe accompanied by colleagues from these organisations on outreach rounds and visits to actual / potential rough sleeping 'hotspots'.</p> <p>In line with the purpose of the service and the need to build and maintain trust with vulnerable homeless people, there is no requirement in the contract for OxSPOT staff to report illegal activity to the police if / when they see it.</p> <p>However, should OxSPOT staff see / be made aware of any illegal activity, whether someone is street homeless or otherwise, we can confirm that this is reported to the police.</p>

**30. From Councillor Simmons to Councillor Linda Smith – OxSpot FOI**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Written Response</b>
<p>I was reluctantly forced to submit a Freedom of Information request to Oxford City Council after repeated</p>	<p>Officers sent a response to the majority of Councillor Simmons' questions on 27 September, with a commitment to follow</p>

### 30. From Councillor Simmons to Councillor Linda Smith – OxSpot FOI

attempts to secure information concerning the activities of our OxSpot was met with resistance. The information I have requested includes statistics on success rates for engaging with rough sleepers and the recorded reasons for failed engagements. This is all information I feel I need to lobby for a more effective service for rough sleepers. At the time of writing, I have not had any acknowledgement of my FOI request (submitted via the Council website form). Nor have I received any information.

When can I expect a response?

up on the remaining questions by 4 October.

However, we recognise the need for better internal communication in relation to Councillor and public requests for information, and are now taking steps to ensure that in future, all requests received by the FOI Team are acknowledged and passed promptly to the relevant internal team(s) for response.

Despite this, the timeliness of officers' reply to the enquiry – received by the FOI Team on 5 September – was still in line with the Information Commissioners' guideline of a maximum of 20 working days.

### 31. From Councillor Wade to Councillor Linda Smith – Floyds Row project

#### Question

Can the Cabinet Member advise whether Floyds Row is on target both for opening date and budget?

#### Written Response

I would draw your attention to the report on Floyds Row to Cabinet on 3rd October, with a recommendation to this meeting of Council.

This reports on the good progress made in developing this scheme and the positive work underway with partners and stakeholders, including the MHCLG, St Mungo's and neighbouring authorities, to ensure it is funded, with the successful and sustained delivery of a comprehensive range of new and transformative services.

The new engagement and assessment centre at Floyds Row is expected to be a step-change in the delivery of services for persons rough sleeping and at risk of homelessness that follows emerging national best practice, with the ambition of eliminating rough sleeping.

The proposal is that interim services operate from an alternative venue from late October 2019; with some services moving to Floyds Row in early January 2020; and the full opening of Floyds Row by April 2020.

#### Supplementary Question

April 2020 is given as the date in the answer, but March is mentioned in the

#### Verbal Response

Interim services and existing provision will continue this winter. It is important that the facilities are completed to a good standard before starting the new services. We

**31. From Councillor Wade to Councillor Linda Smith – Floyds Row project**

Cabinet report. Can we be advised of any further changes in the date for opening?

will keep members informed.

**32. From Councillor Wade to Councillor Linda Smith – Floyds Row project**

**Question**

In October 2018, the No Local Connection Review Group, chaired by Cllr Bely-Summers, produced an excellent report with 25 recommendations, the vast majority of which were accepted by Cabinet. Can the Portfolio Holder update us on which of these recommendations have been implemented?

Review group report [here](#) (pdf)

**Written Response**

Officers provided to [Scrutiny Housing Panel 27th June 2019](#) a comprehensive update on the progress that has been made in implementing the recommendations that had been accepted by CEB.

The No Local Connection Review Group produced 26 recommendations, which covered a range of topics and issues. 17 of these recommendations were accepted by CEB, however, some of these had a number of elements, and so in effect a total of 23 individual recommendations were accepted.

As Officers' reported in June, overall, good progress has been made in implementing these of which 20 of the 23 (17 originally) the accepted recommendations are currently being implemented or have already been implemented. This include the use of a reconnections log by OxSPOT, positive work undertaken with Dogs on the Street (DOTS) to ensure provision for people with dogs at Floyds Row, and recording of decisions to award exemption from the local connection policy to individuals wishing to access Pathway accommodation. Appendix 1 to the [report](#) includes a summary of the implementation status of the recommendations. Appendix 2 collates Officers' more detailed comments on the progress towards implementation.

As requested by the Scrutiny Housing Panel, officers will provide a further update to the Panel at its' 7<sup>th</sup> November meeting.

**Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Partnerships**

**33. From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Brown – Expressway**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Written Response</b>
<p>How does the Leader reconcile the motion passed by the Council opposing the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway (January 2019) with her implied support for the scheme in the 'Statement of Ambition' (March 2019).</p> <p>Oxford Cambridge Arc <a href="#">publication</a> (pdf)</p>	<p>I'm sorry to say that it appears that Councillor Wolff either hasn't read The Statement of Ambition or he is confusing the Expressway with the Arc, something that he is not alone in doing.</p> <p>The Statement by local councils across the arc sets out our willingness to work in partnership with government on future development of the Oxford to Cambridge Arc. The Expressway, unlike the East/West Rail-link is specifically NOT referenced in the Joint Statement.</p> <p>The Oxford-Cambridge Arc region has been identified by Government as a key economic priority because of its importance to the national economy. Engaging collaboratively with government and our partners across the region is the way in which we can influence and shape the development of housing and investment in infrastructure to ensure it reflects our priorities. As the statement itself says, our aim is to make sure this addresses our housing affordability issues, provides necessary transport infrastructure, utilities, digital connectivity, health and education needed to support existing and future communities and supports growth in a way that improves rather than degrades the environment.</p>

**34. From Councillor Gant to Councillor Brown – Regional growth**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Written Response</b>
<p>In its Outline Transport Strategy presented to the Growth Board on 24 September, "England's Economic Heartland" said "The NIC identified the potential to double, if not treble, the region's economy in the next 30 years". Does the Leader regard that as realistic and desirable?</p>	<p>Undoubtedly the Oxford to Cambridge Arc is an area with potential for significant economic growth. The economic assets that exist across the Arc, including world renowned universities, science, technology and innovation, have been recognised by the National Infrastructure Commission and Government. Realising this potential will result in high quality jobs, international investment and exports that will benefit the national economy.</p> <p>The real question is not whether growth will or won't happen, but whether and how we properly plan for our local economy to thrive and ensure that growth is</p>

<b>34. From Councillor Gant to Councillor Brown – Regional growth</b>	
	managed in a way that not only benefits the national economy but also delivers benefits to local businesses and communities. This means securing investment in infrastructure, housing and technology that helps manage and plan for growth in a clean, inclusive and sustainable way
<p><b>Supplementary Question</b></p> <p>Ambition for growth at regional level and local accountability. This will result in growth in jobs and other things. How we (the city council) plan for the impact. Can the Leader guarantee that as much as possible of the impact of decision making will come back to a local level for scrutiny and accountability?</p>	<p><b>Verbal Response</b></p> <p>Yes – as in effect all of the decisions are taken in individual councils.</p>

<b>35. From Councillor Wade to Councillor Brown – BMW</b>	
<p><b>Question</b></p> <p>At Full Council on 22 July, the Leader advised that the Council had initiated discussions locally with larger employers, including BMW, about the repercussions of a possible Brexit. Can the Leader update Council on these discussions which are of urgent concern to the whole city?</p>	<p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>I meet with BMW MINI on a quarterly basis to discuss a range of issues. Meetings are also attended by our local MP, Anneliese Dodds MP, city council officers and county council officers and their leader. City Council officers also seek the views of local businesses and employers on their response to the uncertainty around Brexit. The aim is to understand specific issues and offer support where possible.</p> <p>In order that we can be direct with each other and that BMW can potentially share business confidential information, discussions are held in confidence, so I cannot discuss the content of these sessions directly. It is fair to say that businesses that are potentially directly affected have been stepping up all the contingency planning they can over the last 6-12 months.</p> <p>Concerns of employers are generally linked to supply chain and logistical issues, concerns over the status of EU employees, the future attraction of sufficient labour and expertise and regulatory challenges. There is still a great deal of uncertainty among many businesses on how to plan. Given the uncertainty over a delay beyond 31 October, officers are also pro-actively ensuring the</p>

<b>35. From Councillor Wade to Councillor Brown – BMW</b>	
	availability of government and LEP based business support information for employers. We will ensure they are signposted to all available business support.
<b>Supplementary Question</b> Can you confirm that the plant may be shut down for 2-3 weeks if BMW can't get components?	<b>Verbal Response</b> The discussions are, as you noted, confidential. But BMW have made public what their plans businesses need to be able to plan

<b>36. From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Brown – Fairtrade City</b>	
<b>Question</b> Oxford's status as a 'Fairtrade City' was renewed a year ago by the Oxford Fairtrade Coalition and Fairtrade Foundation. The original motion declaring the Fairtrade City (5 March 2004) committed the council to nominate an officer to liaise with the Oxford Fairtrade Coalition and report annually on progress. Has this been happening? Would the Portfolio Holder agree that the recent launch of the International Fair Trade Charter, provides a reason for the Council to review the implementation of its fair trade policies. Would the cabinet member consider commissioning the Oxford Fairtrade Coalition to conduct this review, granting them access to such information as might be necessary? Going forward, would the Portfolio Holder consider appointing a Councillor as a Fairtrade Champion, an idea proposed by a member of the Fairtrade Coalition and an excellent means of providing a focal point for future working with the Coalition?	<b>Written Response</b> The City Council continues to provide liaison and financial support to the Oxford Fairtrade Coalition. Shelley Ghazi, Policy & Partnerships Officer, is the nominated officer and she is in regular contact with the Coalition, attends steering group meetings as a member and the city council provides an annual grant to support their work. In addition, the Council promotes World Fair Trade Day and covers the cost of design, print and press for the event. This includes displaying posters at bus stops across the city. The International Fair Trade Charter (launched in 2018) enshrines the common vision and fundamental values of the Fair Trade movement and sets out a concise explanation of the generic objectives and approaches that are common to most fair trade initiatives. As a Fair Trade City, Oxford City Council is a signatory to these. The City Council's procurement procedures and due diligence support the general principles of Fairtrade - for better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability and fair terms of trade. The Oxford Fair Trade Coalition doesn't have any directly employed resource and so it is hard to see how it could review

**36. From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Brown – Fairtrade City**

the City Council's implementation of Fair Trade policies.

I am not planning any further champions this municipal year but this is certainly an idea to consider for the future.

**37. From Councillor Simmons to Councillor Brown – Westgate occupancy**

**Question**

It seems that a number of Westgate units have recently closed or are about to. Can the Leader update us on occupancy rates at the Westgate and the impact on business rate income?

**Written Response**

We know from ongoing conversation with Westgate colleagues that there are changes in their brand line up, including a number of new brands moving in. But a question on occupancy rates would need to be addressed to them directly.

We have checked through our business rates occupation records between the 1st April and the 1st September and there is nothing out of the ordinary with regards to the occupation of the Westgate.

As at 1st September there were four units in receipt of Empty Property Relief. Empty rates are payable on retail units if they have remained empty in excess of three months.

**38. From Councillor Simmons to Councillor Brown - ICAN Treaty**

**Question**

Given Oxford's long association with the anti-nuclear weapons movement and our membership of Mayors for Peace, would the Leader agree to write to our MPs asking them to do what they can to ensure the UK signs and ratifies the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (also known as the [ICAN Treaty](#))? The ICAN Treaty was opened for signature at United Nations headquarters in New York on 20 September 2017, which requires 50 countries to have ratified or acceded to it, before it can enter into force.

**Written Response**

Yes

**39. From Councillor Gant to Councillor Brown – Council’s review of Local Industrial Strategy (LIS)**

<p><b>Question</b></p> <p>OxLEP has recently launched its LIS, part of a coordinated group of such documents across the Oxford-Cambridge arc. At its meeting in June, the Growth Board said that “the Local Industrial Strategy will be reviewed by every Council”.</p> <p>How did this council fulfil that undertaking?</p> <p>Given the strategic importance of this document, would the Leader have preferred it to come to full council for scrutiny and debate before adoption?</p>	<p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>The Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) is a document that the Government asked the Local Economic Partnership to develop and it is then subsequently agreed with Government.</p> <p>The document was developed with input from stakeholders including business, higher and further education, health and local authorities. In our case, that input was in detail from council officers in line with our strategies and priorities and from me as Leader both from the City Council and in my roles as the City Council’s representative on the LEP.</p> <p>The council was not asked to sign off or adopt the LIS. The draft document was published in December 2018 and publically available for comment. It was also discussed in public at the Growth Board.</p> <p>There was a lot of uncertainty about the timescales for agreeing the final document with government and when the document would be publically available. My recollection was that the original intention was to arrange a briefing session for Council members. It may be that the changing timetables and considerable input from council leaders and officers meant that this didn’t happen.</p>
<p><b>Supplementary Question</b></p> <p>Would the Leader have preferred that the LIS came to this council for scrutiny and debate?</p>	<p><b>Verbal Response</b></p> <p>This strategy sits with the LEP not the Growth Board. Council Leaders and officers had a lot of input into the LIS. The strategy, involving many more bodies than local councils, was subject to extensive discussions and rewriting, and an extended timescale. We originally intended to have a briefing for councillors on this, but unfortunately g this has not happened.</p> <p>Whenever possible we will engage with as many people as possible, but in this case it was not feasible beyond the open consultation period.</p>

**40. From Councillor Gant to Councillor Brown – Local Industrial Strategy and tourism**

**Question**

Given the importance of tourism to the economy of our region, would the Leader have liked to see more importance attached to it in the Local Industrial Strategy? As our representative on the LEP, will she undertake to make the case for the benefits of this vital sector in plans for the economy of our region?

**Written Response**

The LEP's Visitor Economy Sub-group rightly views Tourism as an important sector and is working towards a Tourism Zone Bid for Oxfordshire.

**Supplementary Question**

Would the Leader have liked to see more importance attached to Tourism in the Local Industrial Strategy

**Verbal Response**

I refer to my written response.

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