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Council

On **Monday 26 January 2026** At **5.00 pm**

Questions on Cabinet Minutes

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This item has a time limit of 15 minutes.

Councillors may ask the Cabinet Members questions about matters in the minutes since the previous meeting of full Council.

The Minutes will be published within a supplement ahead of the meeting.

The agenda, reports and any additional supplements can be found together with this supplement on the committee meeting webpage.

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Oxford City Council, Town Hall, St Aldate's Oxford OX1 1BX

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To: **Council**
Date: **26 January 2026**
Report of: **Director of Law, Governance and Strategy**
Title of Report: **Questions on Cabinet Minutes**

Introduction

1. Council is invited to ask the Cabinet Member questions about the matters in the minutes from the meetings of Cabinet since the previous meeting of Council. The minutes are listed as appendices to this covering report.
2. As per part 11.11 (c) of the Council's Constitution, up to 15 minutes is reserved for this item.

Appendix 1 – Minutes from the Special meeting of Cabinet held on 10 December 2025

Appendix 2 – Minutes from the meeting of Cabinet held on 10 December 2025

Appendix 3 – Draft Minutes from the meeting of Cabinet held on 21 January 2026

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Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet on Thursday 4 December 2025

Committee members present:

Councillor Brown	Councillor Chapman
Councillor Hollingsworth	Councillor Munkonge
Councillor Railton	

Officers present for all or part of the meeting:

Caroline Green, Chief Executive
Emma Jackman, Director of Law, Governance, and Strategy
Mish Tullar, Transition Director
Bill Lewis, Financial Accounting Manager
Dr Brenda McCollum, Committee and Member Services

Apologies:

Councillor(s) Turner, Arshad and Linda Smith sent apologies.

95. Declarations of Interest

None.

96. Addresses by members of the public

None received.

97. Councillor addresses on any item for decision on the Cabinet agenda

None received.

98. Councillor addresses on Neighbourhood Issues

None received.

99. Items raised by Cabinet Members

None.

100. Reports from the Scrutiny Committee

The Scrutiny Committee met on 2 December 2025 to consider the Cabinet report on Devolution. Cabinet took the report from Scrutiny as read and noted that no recommendations arose from their consideration of the report.

101. Devolution Expression of Interest for Oxfordshire within a Thames Valley Mayoral Strategic Authority

The Chief Executive had submitted a report requesting that Cabinet endorse the submission by Oxfordshire County Council on behalf of Oxfordshire councils of an Expression of Interest to Government for the inclusion of the Thames Valley area in the next wave of its Devolution Programme.

Councillor Brown presented the report. She said that this was the result of a significant amount of work for counties to come together to consider how they could form a mayoral authority across the Thames Valley. She noted that there was not currently a devolution program in front of them, but they were preparing for when the announcement would come on devolution. She said that this was collaborative, important work, to make sure that they take advantage of the opportunity from government to devolve power to regions of the country.

Caroline Green, Chief Executive, highlighted a few key points. She noted the importance of devolved power and the opportunities to see important strategic functions carried out at a more local level, such as a regional transport strategy. She said that there had been work commissioned over the last few months to see what this opportunity might be and evidence a case to put forward to government. She said that their proposal was presenting a case to government arguing that, given their priorities, it would make sense to devolve power in this way. She said that they hoped this work strengthened their case for a Thames Valley authority.

Councillor Hollingsworth endorsed the remarks from the Leader and Chief Executive. He asked about the Devolution Board mentioned in the report and how this Board would have oversight over devolution and reorganisation proposals. He asked what response the Leader and Chief Executive were getting at the Whitehall level on this issue and the timing of the reorganisation and devolution.

Councillor Brown responded that the Devolution Board would be an informal structure to bring together leaders of councils who are willing, to draw up the kind of authority they want to create. She said that they would be drawing information and lessons from existing mayoral authorities in other areas of the country. She clarified that the report was only asking for agreement of the letter and was not asking for any further approval for the formation of the mayoral authority. She said that would come back to Councils to formally agree at a later date. Councillor Brown said that they were making points regarding the strategic advantage of a mayoral authority for the Thames Valley to central government wherever possible.

The Chief Executive said that leaders and Chief Executives of Councils involved in this project had been having informal conversations to get to the point of putting forward an expression of interest. They want to turn those informal conversations into formal, informal meetings, so that they had clearer records of their conversations and debates.

Regarding the timetable, she said that they would next expect to receive a response from central government on their expression on interest and would then have ongoing conversations, culminating in development proposals. She said that they were making the case that it would be sensible for the development of a mayoral strategic authority to progress alongside Local Government Reorganisation. She noted that this approach would support the growth and development aims of the City and central government.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Endorse** the benefits from the proposed devolution of powers and functions to a future Thames Valley Mayoral Strategic Authority, and agrees to continue building on the collaborative approach across the region to date;
2. **Endorse** the Expression of Interest (EOI) to be submitted by Oxfordshire County Council as the upper-tier authority to Government, noting that the EOI is designed to proactively position our region for early consideration in the next wave of the Devolution Programme;
3. **Acknowledge** the EOI as an initial invitation to Government, opening further dialogue and engagement, and not a decision to establish a Strategic Authority;
4. **Agree** that a further report will be brought to Cabinet prior to any final decision by Oxfordshire County Council as upper-tier authority on the creation of a Strategic Authority; and
5. **Note** an informal Devolution Programme Board will oversee discussions with Government, ensuring robust governance and stakeholder engagement by elected members throughout this process.

102. Dates of future meetings

Cabinet noted the dates of future meetings.

Matters Exempt from Publication

If Cabinet wishes to exclude the press and the public from the meeting during consideration of any of the items on the exempt from publication part of the agenda, it will be necessary for Cabinet to pass a resolution in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 4(2)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 on the grounds that their presence could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in specific paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Cabinet may maintain the exemption if and so long as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

The meeting started at 17:35 and ended at 17:53

Chair
2025

Date: Wednesday 10 December

When decisions take effect:

Cabinet: after the call-in and review period has expired

Planning Committees: after the call-in and review period has expired and the formal decision notice is issued

All other committees: immediately.

Details are in the Council's Constitution.

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet on Wednesday 10 December 2025

Committee members present:

Councillor Brown	Councillor Turner
Councillor Arshad	Councillor Chapman
Councillor Hollingsworth	Councillor Munkonge
Councillor Railton	Councillor Linda Smith

Officers present for all or part of the meeting:

Caroline Green, Chief Executive

Nigel Kennedy, Group Director Finance

Emma Jackman, Director of Law, Governance, and Strategy

Tom Hook, Deputy Chief Executive - Citizen and City Services

Nerys Parry, Director of Housing

Mariam Salawu, Senior Data Analyst and Reporting Officer

Lorraine Freeman, Team Leader - CIL, Data Analysis and Reporting

Rachel Williams, Planning Policy and Place Manager

Stephen Cohen, Refugee and Resettlement Manager

Clare Paterson, Strategic Finance Manager

Pete Davies, Resident Involvement Manager

Annette Osborne, Strategic Procurement Manager

Bill Graves, Landlord Services Lead

Uswah Khan, Committee and Member Services

Dr Brenda McCollum, Committee and Member Services

Jonathan Malton, Committee and Member Services Manager

Also present:

Pete Sayers, tenant with the resident co-design group

Celeste Reyeslao, Scrutiny and Governance Advisor

Apologies:

No apologies were received

103. Declarations of Interest

None.

104. Minutes of the previous meeting

Cabinet resolved to approve the minutes of the meetings held on 19 November 2025 and 04 December 2025 as true and accurate records.

105. Addresses by members of the public

None received.

106. Councillor addresses on any item for decision on the Cabinet agenda

None received.

107. Councillor addresses on Neighbourhood Issues

None received.

108. Items raised by Cabinet Members

None.

109. Reports from the Scrutiny Committee

The Scrutiny Committee met on 2 December 2025. The Committee considered the following items.

- Authority Monitoring Report and Infrastructure Funding Statement
- Housing Complaint Handling Performance (Q1 and Q2)

- Building Safety & Compliance (Q1 and Q2)
- Draft Resident Involvement Strategy 2025-28
- Decarbonisation update: Impact of Energy Efficiency Funding programmes (LAD1b and SHDF) and EPC programme
- Net Zero Tracker
- Air Quality Action Plan
- Biodiversity Strategy and Environment Act update
- Treasury Management Annual Report

Celeste Reyeslao, Scrutiny and Governance Advisor, presented the comments and recommendations from Scrutiny Committee regarding the Authority Monitoring Report and Infrastructure Funding Statement.

- **Recommendation 1:** For Cabinet to review the reporting of housing delivered, separating out those on sites of under 10 units where the requirement for affordable housing is not triggered within the covering report for future years.
- **Recommendation 2:** For Officers to identify, if possible, the complex set of reasons as to why the housing completions reported are currently under the target or if not possible, explicitly state this.
- **Recommendation 3:** For Cabinet to request officers to investigate bottlenecks with the current processes.

Councillor Hollingsworth presented Cabinet's response to the recommendations. He said that they agreed the first two recommendations from the Committee. Regarding the third recommendation, he said that they had a productive conversation and debate about this matter, and they acknowledged the issue they face around the pressure of resource. He said that they welcome the recommendation as it highlights their work to help resolve this challenge.

The Scrutiny and Governance Advisor presented the comments and recommendations from Scrutiny Committee regarding the Housing Complaint Handling Performance (Q1 and Q2), Building Safety & Compliance (Q1 and Q2), Draft Resident Involvement Strategy 2025-28, Decarbonisation update: Impact of Energy Efficiency Funding programmes (LAD1b and SHDF) and EPC programme, Net Zero Tracker, and Air Quality Action Plan. She noted that no recommendations arose from their consideration of these reports.

The Scrutiny and Governance Advisor presented the comments and recommendations from Climate and Environment Working Group regarding the Biodiversity Strategy and Environment Act Update.

- That Cabinet draw on the expertise of community and voluntary groups to provide input and support the delivery of the Biodiversity Strategy; and actively inform the public about the criteria for good habitat, clearly promoting what good biodiverse habitat looks like so as to strengthen public understanding and support for practices (such as leaving verges uncut) that protect local species.

Councillor Railton responded to the recommendation from the working group and noted that they were in agreement with the recommendation.

The Scrutiny and Governance Advisor presented the comments and recommendations from Finance and Performance Working Group's consideration of the ODS Group Performance Report. She noted that these recommendations were originally presented to the Shareholder and Joint Venture Group, but it was recognized that these recommendations would be more adequately addressed by Cabinet.

- **Recommendation 1:** To increase the use of CCTV given that it has been the most effective measure for preventing fly-tipping.
- **Recommendation 2:** That repairs of play area equipment be reverted to a delegated budget arrangement, as this model has previously demonstrated greater efficiency and addresses the backlogs in maintenance.

Councillor Railton responded to the second recommendation regarding the ODS Report and stated that Cabinet did not agree this recommendation.

110. Quarterly Integrated Performance Report - Q2 2025/26

The Group Finance Director submitted a report for Cabinet to note the update on Finance, Risk and Corporate Performance matters at 30th September 2025.

Councillor Turner presented the report. He said that the quarterly reports were useful for identifying trends and their progress in the year. He noted the costs of cyber security, challenges around costs in law and governance, and that there was a favourable increase in interest. Overall, he noted that they were down a bit on the general fund but had mitigation strategies in place to address this. He asked that colleagues keep the ongoing matters in mind as they set the budget in February of 2026. He noted the trends in the Housing Revenue Account and the Capital Program.

Cabinet resolved to:

- Note the financial position for quarter 2 (Q2) 2025/26 including forecast outturn, as well as the current position on risk and performance at 30th September 2025.

111. Medium Term Financial Strategy 2027-28 to 2029-30 and 2026-27 Budget for Consultation

The Group Finance Director submitted a report to propose a Medium-Term Financial Strategy and the 2026/27 Budget for consultation.

Councillor Turner presented the report. He reminded Cabinet of the process for the approval of their budget, and that they were presenting the current report for budget consultation, and they would be agreeing the full budget in February of next year. He said that they were awaiting information on their funding settlement from central government and that this had caused delays in their budget setting process. He noted that their approach had been cautiously optimistic and that he anticipated that there would be more change between the consultation and final recommendation than normal, due to the delays they had faced. He outlined some of the implications of Local Government Reorganisation on the four-year MTFS but said that it was their view that it was still sensible to have this four-year plan in place. He said that there were positive points in the budget, including funding for council homes. Councillor Turner commended the officers involved for their work in putting the budget together for consultation.

Nigel Kennedy, Group Finance Director, outlined the lack of certainty they had in this budget process, in part due to the implications of Local Government Reorganisation and the delays from central government.

Councillor Arshad thanked the officers and team for their hard work in putting the budget together for consultation.

Councillor Turner noted that there was a change in the recommendation 1 b in the report. It would now read as following:

The HRA budget for 2026-27 of £68.2 million and an increase of 4.8% + up to £2 for rent convergence (max) for 2026/27 (subject to any subsequent cap on increases imposed by central government) in social dwelling rents from 1st April 2026 giving an average weekly increase of £8.47 per week, and a revised weekly average social rent of £143.40 as set out in the Financial Implications section of this report.

Councillor Turner said that the change in the recommendation was to provide cover for the Council in the event of central government proposing any unforeseen restrictions or changes.

Including the change in recommendation 1b,

Cabinet resolved to:

1. Approve the 2026-27 General Fund and Housing Revenue Account budgets for consultation and the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Medium Term Financial Strategy as set out in Appendices 1-10, noting:
 - a. The Council's General Fund Budget Requirement of £30.945 million for 2026/27 and an increase in the Band D Council Tax of 2.99% or £10.67 per annum representing a Band D Council Tax of £367.38 per annum assuming it is confirmed that the authority is able to do so.
 - b. The HRA budget for 2026-27 of £68.2 million and an increase of 4.8% + up to £2 for rent convergence (max) for 2026/27 (subject to any subsequent cap on increases imposed by central government) in social dwelling rents from 1st April 2026 giving an average weekly increase of £8.47 per week, and a revised weekly average social rent of £143.40 as set out in the Financial Implications section of this report.
 - c. The increase in shared ownership rental in accordance with the lease as shown in paragraph 93-94
 - d. The General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme as shown in Appendix 6.
2. Agree the fees and charges shown in Appendix 7
3. Delegate to the Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Board Member for Finance and Assets the decision to determine whether it is financially advantageous for the Council to enter into a Business Rates Distribution Agreement as referred to in paragraphs 29-30 of the report.

112. Annual Monitoring Report and Infrastructure Funding Statement

The Director of Planning and Regulation submitted a report to seek Cabinet's approval of the Authority Monitoring Report and Infrastructure Funding Statement for publication.

Councillor Hollingsworth presented the report. He highlighted key points from the report, such as the housing land supply issue facing this and many other councils. He noted the changes in housing land supply, due to the national framework which required them to use a new method to calculate their housing need. This points to the fact that they have an undersupply of housing and housing land, an issue the Council has been grappling with for some time. Councillor Hollingsworth outlined the issues beyond their control which had impacted their ability to deliver housing. He explained how the Infrastructure Funding Statement was structured and how the value of affordable housing provided on site was left out of this methodology.

Rachel Williams, Planning Policy and Place Manager, noted that when a new local plan is adopted, the basis for the calculation reverts and the dip they're seeing currently should be temporary.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Approve** the Authority Monitoring Report and Infrastructure Funding Statement 2024/25 for publication.
2. **Authorise** the Director of Planning and Regulation to make any necessary minor corrections not materially affecting the document prior to publication.

Councillor Arshad left the meeting during this item at 18:24.

113. Approval of the revised Local Development Scheme 2025-2030

The Director of Planning and Regulation submitted a report to request Cabinet's approval of the Local Development Scheme 2025-2030, which sets out the work programme for the revised Oxford Local Plan 2045.

Councillor Hollingsworth presented the report. He said that they were proposing an adjustment to the timetable, but there were no other significant changes to the local plan as it had been presented previously.

The Planning Policy and Place Manager added that they were now referring to the Local Plan as the Local Plan 2045. She said that they adjusted the time period after receiving advice, to ensure that they included enough time after the adoption of the Plan.

Councillor Hollingsworth noted the changes that central government was making in the planning system. He said that the National Policy Planning Framework was due to be updated sometime in the next week.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Approve** the Local Development Scheme 2025-2030;
2. **Authorise** the Director of Planning and Regulation Services to make any necessary minor corrections not materially affecting the document prior to publication.

3. **Agree** the change to the Oxford Local Plan period from 2022-2042 to 2025-2045

114. Tenancy Strategy and Tenancy Policy

The Director of Housing submitted a report to Cabinet to request that Cabinet recommend to Council approval of the updated new Tenancy Strategy and Tenancy Policy.

Councillor Linda Smith presented the report. She noted the differences between the tenancy strategy and tenancy policy. She said both reflect their key priorities regarding the provision of affordable housing in the City. She noted that the report sets out that this is not just about tenants and immediate homes, but also about addressing issues in the broader community and providing good quality neighbourhoods for tenants.

Stephen Cohen, Refugee and Resettlement Manager, said that the tenancy strategy sets out the Council's expectations for registered providers in the City. He said that the strategy seeks to ensure that registered providers are in line with the Council's priorities and wider objectives. He said that the strategy has been brought into line with new legislation. He noted that the Tenancy Policy was for Oxford City Council tenants and sets out their policy as a social housing landlord.

Councillor Hollingsworth noted the risks flagged in an earlier report in relation to social housing regulation. He asked if this report related to that risk.

Nerys Parry, Director of Housing, said that it was part of the issue. She said that this was contributory work towards their compliance with standards.

Councillor Brown asked how they would enforce the principles with other registered providers, as some housing associations fail to meet their responsibilities as social landlords.

The Director of Housing responded that they have regulatory powers to enforce on specific matters. She said that they were required to lead in the collaborative effort with registered providers and that they needed to pull their collaborative work into one place and focus their conversations. The Director of Housing outlined the work they would be doing to achieve this aim in the new year and that there was still work to be done in this area, but it was being addressed.

Councillor Smith added that the registered providers in Oxford had been consulted on this report and had been involved in its construction.

Councillor Brown thanked the team for their work in this area and said that it was good to hear how they were continuing to establish better cooperation and enforcement measures.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Approve** the draft Tenancy Strategy and Tenancy Policy.
2. **Recommend to Council** to approve and adopt the draft Tenancy Strategy and Tenancy Policy.
3. **Delegate** authority to the Director of Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, authority to update the Tenancy Strategy and Tenancy Policy with minor amendments to keep the documents up to date with any future changes in legislation, regulations, governance and best practice.

115. Resident Involvement Strategy

The Director of Housing submitted a report to Cabinet to request that Cabinet recommend to Council to approve the new Resident Involvement and Engagement Strategy – 2025/28.

Councillor Smith presented the report. She thanked the officers, tenants, and leaseholders who were involved in the creation of the report. She emphasised that the strategy involved a broad range of opportunities for tenants and leaseholders to get involved, in informal and formal ways. She commended the team on the report and said that they were really proud of the work they were doing in this area.

Pete Sayers, a tenant with the resident co-design group, further presented the report. He outlined the work that had been undertaken to engage with residents and that the feedback had been that trust had been broken with the Council as landlord. He noted the ways that resident feedback had been integrated into the strategy, including in the strategy's core principles, vision statement, and resident priorities. He emphasised how collaborative the work had been to create the strategy and how the strategy would allow them to continue undertaking positive work in this area.

Pete Davies, Resident Involvement Manager, said that in their conversations with residents it was clear that they needed to reset the relationship. He discussed the momentum they had built over the past several months and how this strategy would help them continuing pushing this forward.

Councillor Brown commended the work that had gone into the strategy and how the strategy would allow them to continue the team's positive work in this area.

Councillor Chapman thanked the team for their efforts and said that it was an excellent piece of work. He noted how this strategy would support the Council when they were scrutinized by the social housing regulator in a few years' time and how the housing team was filling an important vacuum with this work.

Councillor Hollingsworth asked how they were working to engage with leaseholders, who were often difficult to get engaged with in this type of work.

The Resident Involvement Manager said that they had surveyed leaseholders regarding their understandings of the lease and are inviting expressions of interest to join a Leasehold Management Policy Review Group in the new year. As a result of that work, it's expected that leaseholders will recommend that Oxford CC establishes a Leaseholder Forum. He noted how the forum would amplify this group's voice and bring them into the housing team's efforts to engage with all residents.

Bill Graves, Landlord Services Lead, noted the enthusiasm he had seen from working with leaseholders already and that they were looking forward to working more closely with leaseholders.

Councillor Brown thanked the officers for their work and expressed her enthusiasm for this important area of work.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Approve** the draft Resident Involvement and Engagement Strategy (2025 – 2028) and action plan attached to the strategy which outlines how the priorities for resident involvement and engagement will be taken forward.

2. **Recommend to Council** to approve and adopt the new Resident Involvement and Engagement Strategy 2025-2028.
3. **Delegate** authority to the Director of Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for housing and Communities, on approval of the strategy, to put in place the necessary governance and monitoring arrangements to oversee the implementation and delivery of the strategy as well as to make any minor amendments reflective of legislative changes or best practice.

116. Procurement Strategy

The Group Finance Director submitted a report to request that Cabinet recommend to Council approval to a three-year Procurement Strategy.

Councillor Turner presented the report. He noted the substantial value of the Council's procurements. He said that the strategy would help them to continue complying with the law, procure things at good value, and help them to pursue ethical procurement practices. He commended officers on their work in bringing the strategy together.

Annette Osborne, Strategic Procurement Manager, outlined how they had sought to balance Council, local, and national priorities in the strategy. She said that they had tried to create an agile strategy, particularly in the face of Local Government Reorganisation. She noted the changes from central government that they expected, which would impact their ability to reserve the bidding of contracts to a specific geographic area.

Councillor Munkonge commended the team for their work and expressed his support for the strategy and its efforts to support small businesses and the living wage in Oxford.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Consider** the draft Procurement Strategy 2026-2029 (at appendix 1); and
2. **Recommend** to Council that the draft Procurement Strategy be adopted.

117. Fleet Procurement Report

The Group Finance Director submitted a report to request that Cabinet delegate authority to the Group Finance Director for the remainder of the current financial year to award any fleet contracts valued in excess of £750k following a compliant procurement process.

Councillor Chapman presented the report. He said that the report was before them to delegate authority to the Group Finance director for the remainder of the current financial year to award any fleet contracts valued in excess of £750k following a compliant procurement process. He outlined how this would give them more flexibility and renew the fleet to ensure they avoid any service delivery impacts.

The Strategic Procurement Manager said that this decision would help to be more agile and avoid the bottleneck they had around renewing fleet contracts. She noted that a table in the report had missed off a noting of 27 commercial vans which they intend to buy.

Noting the addition to the report,

Cabinet resolved to:

- **Delegate** authority, for the remainder of the current financial year, to the Group Finance Director to award contracts with values in excess of £750k for the purchase of fleet vehicles.

Councillor Turner left the meeting during this item at 19:05.

118. Land Quality Strategy 2025

The Head of Environmental Sustainability submitted a report to request that Cabinet agree the adoption of the Land Quality Strategy 2025.

Councillor Railton presented the report. She said that this was a statutory document that they had to review every five years. She outlined the differences to the strategy from five years prior and said that the changes were deemed so minor that it was not proposed for consultation.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. To approve the revised Land Quality Strategy for adoption.
2. To continue to endorse the approved procedure for dealing with contaminated land by:
 - Using the development control regime wherever possible in order to assess and remediate land affected by contamination.
 - Where this is not possible we will utilise powers under Part 2a of the Environmental Protection Act (1990) in order to ensure contaminated land is remediated.
3. Note that if works are required under Part 2a Of the Environmental Protection Act (1990), then this will be funded from contingencies and reserves.

119. Treasury Annual Report

The Group Finance Director submitted a report to Cabinet which sets out the Council's Treasury Management activity and performance for the financial year 2024/25, (including any prudential borrowing limits which are in line with the capital programme and proposed financing), in line with requirements from CIPFA's code of practice.

Nigel Kennedy, the Group Finance Director, presented the report. He said that the report highlighted how the Council manage their funds and their adherence indicators. He noted the highlights in the report including their investments, how they have spent

their cash balances to fund the capital program, and net interests. He outlined their loans at the end of the year and stated that there was no debt in the general fund, that the debt was for the HRA.

Councillor Munkonge thanked the Group Finance Director for the report and asked how Local Government Reorganisation might impact the Council's investment holdings.

The Group Finance Director responded that that would depend on the outcome of Local Government Reorganisation. He said that when the time came, they would work with other local authorities to address this issue.

Cabinet resolved to:

- Note the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2024/25 and the Council's compliance with the Prudential and Treasury Indicators.

120. Dates of future meetings

Cabinet noted the dates of future meetings.

Matters Exempt from Publication

If Cabinet wishes to exclude the press and the public from the meeting during consideration of any of the items on the exempt from publication part of the agenda, it will be necessary for Cabinet to pass a resolution in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 4(2)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 on the grounds that their presence could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in specific paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Cabinet may maintain the exemption if and so long as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

The meeting started at 18:00 and ended at 19:12.

Chair

Date: Wednesday 21 January 2026

When decisions take effect:

Cabinet: after the call-in and review period has expired

Planning Committees: after the call-in and review period has expired and the formal decision notice is issued

All other committees: immediately.

Details are in the Council's Constitution.

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Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet on Wednesday 21 January 2026

Committee members present:

Councillor Brown	Councillor Arshad
Councillor Chapman	Councillor Hollingsworth
Councillor Munkonge	Councillor Railton
Councillor Linda Smith	

Officers present for all or part of the meeting:

Caroline Green, Chief Executive
Nigel Kennedy, Group Director Finance
Tom Hook, Deputy Chief Executive - Citizen and City Services
Tom Bridgman, Deputy Chief Executive – Place
Emma Jackman, Director of Law, Governance, and Strategy
Nerys Parry, Director of Housing
Jason Jones, Finance Business Partner
Sarah Harrison, Team Leader (Planning Policy)
Ted Bowler, Corporate Asset Manager
James Watkins, Housing Policy and Projects Officer
Gail Malkin, Head of People
Sobia Afridi, Diversity and Inclusion Specialist
Dr Brenda McCollum, Committee and Member Services
Jonathan Malton, Committee and Member Services Manager

Also Present:

Apologies:

Councillor Turner sent apologies.

121. Declarations of Interest

None.

122. Minutes of the previous meeting

Cabinet resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on **10 December 2025** as a true and accurate record.

123. Addresses by members of the public

Cabinet received one address from a member of the public.

Dominic Woodfield, representative of Friends of Iffley Village

I address you on behalf of Friends of Iffley Village, but also as an ecological and environmental planning consultant with longstanding experience of the Local Plan process and the concept of 'soundness'.

I wish to explain why I and many others believe strongly that your planning policy department's proposed retention of the "Land at Meadow Lane, Iffley" site allocation (SPS 8), is unsound and why the allocation should be deleted and the land properly (and belatedly) zoned as a vital part of the city's Green Infrastructure network.

This is a site that this Council has rejected as unsuitable twice previously. It passed muster in the preparation of the last Local Plan only due to a series of technical and procedural errors. Surveys since 2021 have outed those errors, revealing beyond question that this is a site of at least city-wide importance for nature conservation, comfortably meeting the criteria for formal designation, and harbouring rare, scarce and protected species. The recently published Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Oxfordshire duly recognises this importance.

These ancient meadows are also a designated and integral part of Iffley's Conservation Area, close to the Thames (and partly in flood zone 3). Any development would require road traffic to be introduced along a designated Principal (and very popular) Quiet Route for Active Travel which adjoins the site, directly compromising its function and value for non-car transport.

Applying the Council's criteria for Green Space multifunctionality (agenda pack p109-110) not only does this site tick all 6 environmental functions, but also several social / health and wellbeing functions, and economic functions giving a total score of 13/17. With such a high score it is clear that the meadows should be re-zoned and protected as a 'Core (green) space' under Policy G1A.

The unsuitability of this site for development is further reflected in the Council's own sustainability appraisal process.

The relevant Sustainability Appraisal Site Assessment Forms (pp664-670 of the agenda report) demonstrate that (compared to other sites in the emerging plan), the Land at Meadow Lane site is a clear outlier, with 15 negative flags raised against it: 2 red (conservation, biodiversity) and 13 amber (including flood risk, access and transport, and poor use of land). These constraints act cumulatively to provide no certainty of delivery of any housing, hence the absurd 'ZERO' figure in the proposed allocation. The next most sensitive site (with 11 negative flags) is the Kassam overflow carpark (SPS11) which as a previously developed site dominated by hardstanding is in no way comparable and will actually deliver a substantive number of 100 homes.

Moreover, this sustainability appraisal, as damning as it already is, remains infected by factual errors and very questionable assumptions carried over from its flawed LP2036 predecessor, despite these having been highlighted via 2 rounds of consultation feedback. For example, the appraisal still fails to accurately note or record that the ancient meadows are an integral part of the Iffley Conservation Area, which is of course about protecting setting as well as material structures. The meadow is a crucial part of that setting. Further, the list of notable ecological features, while correctly mentioning that the site is of *at least* City Wildlife Site status, fails to mention that the site is wholly within the LNRS not just part of it as the appraisal and draft policy claims. These are base errors and their correction will worsen the site's sustainability score still further.

This cabinet is presented with an opportunity to rectify these past and ongoing mistakes. There can be no remaining question that it was a mistake to allocate Land at Meadow Lane for housing in LP 2036. The Council's own work on a planning application, and its abandonment of a minimum target for the delivery of homes at this location, merely exposes the magnitude of that mistake and the extent to which this meadow is an unsuitable and unsustainable site for any development.

Circumstances around housing need have also, changed considerably since the 2036 LP was adopted:

The availability of sites for residential delivery has expanded via:

- redundant retail and long-unused commercial;
- new employment site policies;
- expansion onto the greenbelt that could bring a vast number of new homes.

Meanwhile:

- The severity of the climate and ecological emergencies has worsened;
- The mental and physical health of children and young people has become a more acute issue, related to their diminishing contact with nature, for which there is little structured provision for them in this City.

There is growing support for an alternative beneficial use of the meadows in Iffley as a dedicated, safe site for outdoor education to benefit the learning and wellbeing of young people in East Oxford, where there are very high rates of deprivation. At just under 1 hectare, the meadow is just large enough to accommodate managed footfall whilst at the same time protecting and enhancing its important biodiversity. Supporting agencies are poised to secure funding for the delivery of this initiative, at little or no cost to the Council.

To conclude, there is simply no policy or moral justification for re-allocating Land at Meadow Lane in the draft LP 2045. Please remove it so that the draft Plan can go forward for adoption on a sound basis and so that the outdoor education proposal can

be advanced. This would be a win not just for sustainability but also a win for this Council, demonstrating it that it is capable of recognising and reacting to changed circumstances and is genuinely forward thinking in planning the future resilience of this City.

Thank you.

Councillor Alex Hollingsworth responded to the address from the member of the public and said that he would ask Council officers to address the issues and concerns raised in their discussion of the report under agenda item 10.

124. Councillor addresses on any item for decision on the Cabinet agenda

None received.

125. Councillor addresses on Neighbourhood Issues

None received.

126. Items raised by Cabinet Members

None.

127. Reports from the Scrutiny Committee

The Scrutiny Committee met on 13 January 2025 and considered the following items.

- Workforce Equality Update
- Proposed Submission Draft Oxford Local Plan 2045

Councillor Alex Powell presented the Scrutiny Committee's discussions and recommendations regarding the Workforce Equality Update. He said that the Committee had noted the progress that the Council had made in this area of work.

- **Recommendation 1:** That the current target for workforce representation of 17% for employees from minority ethnic groups be increased to a higher, evidence-based, figure in order to restrengthen the Council's recruitment from these groups.
- **Recommendation 2:** That Cabinet fully implement an anonymised, third-party reporting system, reflecting standard practice across the public and private sectors, to enable employees to raise concerns relating to harassment, bullying, discrimination, corruption and other workplace-related issues with confidence.
- **Recommendation 3:** Acknowledging there are challenges posed by low staff numbers and reliability of available data in this area, that future workforce equality reports include a dedicated section on gender reassignment, recognising this as a protected characteristic.

Councillor Chapman presented Cabinet's response to this discussion and recommendations. He said that Cabinet accepted the first recommendation and would consider what the figure could be raised to. He said that Cabinet also accepted the second recommendation. Regarding the third recommendation, he said that Cabinet would accept the recommendation in part, due to issues of staff privacy.

Councillor Alex Powell presented the Scrutiny Committee's discussions and recommendations regarding the Proposed Submission Draft Oxford Local Plan 2045. He noted that there had been a lot of discussion about local centres in the Committee's consideration of the report. He noted that the Committee also discussed the removal of the Meadow Lane allocation, concerns about addressing the needs of children and young people, and the feasibility to deliver greater levels of affordable housing.

- **Recommendation 1:** For officers to undertake a further review of the areas in Greater Leys, in particular Dunnock Way, and other sites such as Littlemore to be allocated Local Centres under Policy C1, noting their similarities to Underhill Circus.
- **Recommendation 2:** That the evidence-base is thoroughly examined to determine whether 10% biodiversity net gain is conclusively the most ambitious minimum the council could set.
- **Recommendation 3:** For officers to explore whether a higher threshold for the acceptability of loss of sports facilities could be incorporated in the Local Plan.
- **Recommendation 4:** For officers to reconsider the language in Policy C2(h) encouraging the development of city centre play amenity.

Councillor Hollingsworth responded to the recommendations from Scrutiny Committee. Of the four recommendations, he noted that the questions had been raised by previous local plans and that they were working within distinct definitions and limitations. He said that officers were thinking about the first recommendation and were considering how they could address the challenge raised by this recommendation. Regarding the second recommendation, he said that the minimum they had set was the most ambitious which was possible for the Council to pursue, so they were not accepting the recommendation.

On the third recommendation, Councillor Hollingsworth said that the Local Plan was already setting higher thresholds than required and that they did not think it was possible to go any further than they had proposed. Councillor Hollingsworth said that they did reconsider the language referenced in recommendation four and that Cabinet and Officers believed that the language was sensible as it read and should not be changed as requested in the recommendation. Councillor Hollingsworth said that there was a larger issue in how Local Plans treat children and play. However, he said that the wording in Policy C2(h) was sufficiently broad to indicate the Council's support for play areas.

128. Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Rent Setting 2026/27

The Group Finance Director submitted a report to Cabinet to present the outcome of Oxford City Council's (the council's) annual rent review and associated rent setting proposal for 2026/27 in respect of all council dwellings within the Housing Revenue Account, including the setting of associated services and facilities charges.

Councillor Linda Smith presented the report. She discussed the ongoing cost of living crisis and the unfortunate position that the Council is in, causing their need to raise rents and service charges. She said that the changes will allow them to continue to invest in Council properties and into new homes. She said that they still do not have an update on rent convergence, but that the report gives them space to raise legacy rents, which she explained are sometimes lower than those of individuals who are currently moving into Council properties. She said that addressing this would also help them address inequality, but that they were not yet sure to what level they could raise legacy rents as they were awaiting further information from central government. Despite the raise in rents, she said that the rents would still be very good value for money and affordable for the city.

Councillor Arshad asked about legacy rents and how much the increase in rent prices would be.

Councillor Smith said that the rise would be between one to two pounds a week, in addition to the raise in rents which all residents of Council housing would be facing.

Councillor Brown expressed her support for rent convergence and how this would address inequality in this sector.

Cabinet resolved to:

Recommend to Council to:

- a. Approve an increase of 4.8% + up to £2 for rent convergence (max) for 2026/27 (subject to any subsequent cap on increases imposed by central government) in social dwelling rents from 1st April 2026 giving an average weekly increase of £8.47 per week, and a revised weekly average social rent of £143.40 as set out in the Financial Implications section of this report.
- Approve an increase to rents for shared ownership dwellings as outlined in paragraph 21 of the Financial Implications.
- Approve an increase to service charges by 4.8% (CPI + 1%) to enable the HRA to recover the associated cost of supply.
- Approve an increase to the charge for a garage of 5.0%, equating to an increase of £1.00 per week for a standard garage within a curtilage with a revised charge of £21.00 per week.
- e. Approve an increase to the rent and service charges for General Fund Temporary Accommodation as set out in the Financial Implications section of this report.

129. Proposed Submission Draft Oxford Local Plan 2045

The Director of Planning and Regulation submitted a report which requested Cabinet to recommend that Council approve the Proposed Submission Draft Oxford Local Plan 2045 for public consultation and, subject to the outcome of the consultation, if no matters are raised that materially impact upon the Plan strategy, to submit the Submission Draft Oxford Local Plan 2045 to the Secretary of State for formal examination.

Councillor Hollingsworth presented the report. He noted that the Local Plan draft would be proceeding to Council, and that amendments to the draft were being submitted by fellow Councillors. He said that they were at the final consultation stage before the plan goes to a planning inspector and through the public hearing process. The last Local Plan was adopted in June 2020, more than 5 years ago. He noted the technical impacts of not having an updated Local Plan for over five years. He said that the previous draft Local Plan that they had taken to public hearing was rendered as not appropriate, so they were undergoing the process again.

Councillor Hollingsworth highlighted the minimal policy changes in this Local Plan. He noted the differences caused by central government's proposed new MPPF, but that this Local Plan needed to be in line with the existing MPPF. He addressed the housing need in the city of Oxford and their inability to meet this need, causing them to have an unmet housing need which they would address by working with neighbouring authorities.

Sarah Harrison, Team Leader (Planning Policy), outlined the housing numbers, the city's need, and their capacity to address the challenge. She said that they have done as much work as they can to identify potential for new homes. She said that they were having continuous conversations with neighbouring authorities to address the housing need and that they welcomed challenges to show that they're doing all they can to find housing in the city.

The Team Leader (Planning Policy) responded to the address from the member of the public regarding the allocation of Meadow Lane. She noted that rejections previously do not mean that a site would always be rejected. She said that the meadows were within the designated conservation area, but it was considered for a potential for a scheme to respond to the setting. She noted that traffic would have to be investigated as part of any proposals and that traffic was likely to be limited and suitable for surrounding roads. She added that a site being in a conservation area does not mean that it cannot be developed. She said that the sustainability appraisal form flagged issues, and proposals would have to mitigate these sensitivities.

The Team Leader (Planning Policy) said that there was still a limited availability of housing sites in the city. She said that the potential to look at all opportunities was vital and that further work undertaken to support that was important. She added that there was still likely potential for development of the site to respond appropriately to the city's need and the wildlife value of the site. She said that they had removed the minimum housing requirement to respond to the sensitivities of the site.

Councillor Brown asked about the LNRS and if that would be amended before the draft plan was presented to Council. The Team Leader (Planning Policy) said that it would not be amended prior to Council but would be amended before the public consultation.

Councillor Hollingsworth said that there were two elements on the advice they had received. He said that there were not grounds that Officers had put forward to remove the site. He added that they had not received advice which suggests that the site should be taken out. Secondly, he noted that they clearly have a very significant housing need. Over the course of the Local Plan, they would require 21,740 homes to be built and they only have sites to meet around 9,267 of those needs. Councillor Hollingsworth said that neighbouring authorities would have to find the rest.

Regarding the gap in housing need, Councillor Hollingsworth said that neighbouring authorities would not be pleased to see the city removing sites and then asking for neighbours to have more housing for the city's need. He also noted the government advice that they have to look at every single potential site, and if there are no reasons

to remove it, then they should be including all sites. He said that removal of this site would send the message that they are not serious about meeting their housing need.

Councillor Brown asked if because the site was allocated did that mean it would be developed. About this site, she said that there were reasons to think that if it was developed it would be done so sensitively and with perhaps relatively fewer houses.

The Team Leader (Planning Policy) said that the allocation does not mean that the site had to be developed. An application would be decided independently. She said that the allocation sets out that if an application does come forward, it must respond to the sensitivities which had been raised.

Councillor Chapman said that they could not see housing in isolation from the broader services needed to help people live quality lives in the city. He said that all of the Councillors meet people in housing distress and if they are going to do anything about that they need to increase the amount of housing being built in the city. He thanked Councillor Hollingsworth and the officers for their work on this report.

Councillor Brown said that the key issue to her were the risks of not having a local plan approved and that they needed to make sure that whatever they put forward can get through. She said that the risks for not having a local plan were significant and it was important that they get through the process.

Councillor Hollingsworth thanked Officers for their work on the plan.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Recommend** Council to approve the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan 2045 document for public consultation;
2. **Recommend** Council to approve all the supporting statutory documentation including the Sustainability Appraisal, Habitats Regulation 18 October 2019 . Assessment, Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP), Policies Map and Equalities Impact Assessment;
3. **Recommend** Council to authorise the Director of Planning and Regulation, after consultation with the Lead Cabinet Member, to make any necessary minor editorial corrections to the Submission Draft Oxford Local Plan 2045, IDP, Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment, Policies Map, and to agree the supporting evidence base prior to going out to consultation.
4. **Recommend** Council to authorise, following publication, the Director of Planning and Regulation, after consultation with the Lead Cabinet Member, to make any minor changes to the document deemed necessary as a result of the consultation.
5. **Recommend** Council to authorise submission of the Oxford Local Plan 2045 to the Secretary of State for examination, following Regulation 19 consultation and any minor amendments made according to recommendation 3 or 4 and subject to there being no matters raised in the consultation that are considered to materially impact upon the Plan strategy.
6. **Recommend** Council to authorise the Director of Planning and Regulation, after consultation with the Lead Cabinet Member, to invite the examining inspector(s) to recommend any modifications considered to be necessary in accordance with section 20(7C) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

130. Write-off of Commercial Tenant Rent Arrears

The Director of Property and Assets submitted a report to request that Cabinet approve the write-off of commercial rent arrears above the limit which officers can approve under the scheme of delegation.

Ted Bowler presented the report. He said that the report related to writing off a debt that had been outstanding. He said that there was no ability for them to recover any of the arrears, so they were recommending that they were written off.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Approve** the write-off of arrears relating to the property identified in the Exempt Appendix 1.

131. HRA Policies

The Director of Housing submitted a report to request that Cabinet recommend to Council to approve the following policies: electrical safety, and legionella policies to ensure the maintenance of the housing stock.

Councillor Linda Smith presented the report. She said that it was two policies for them to recommend to Council for approval. She said that the policies set out the high standards that they have for their Council properties. She said that these were not just operational guidance but are published policies that will be there for residents to refer to and hold them to account.

James Watkins, the Housing Policy and Projects Officer, thanked the residents who participated in the residents' policy review group. He thanked them for their work and commitment and noted that their views had shaped and changed the policies that they had submitted for consideration. Regarding the policies, he said that the electrical safety policy reflects the needs for EICRs, which is a legal requirement. He said that if there was an immediate issue, there would be an immediate response. He said that the policy shows their commitment to the safety of residents.

The Housing Policy and Projects Officer presented the legionella policy. He said that there was a need for this policy on a systematic basis, as well as a regulatory one. He said that this policy states what needs to be put in place to protect individuals who are particularly vulnerable to legionella. The policy states that for vulnerable residents, there would be weekly checks. He outlined the mechanisms that would be introduced to address the risks of legionella and approaches to mitigating the bacteria that leads to legionella. He added that the robustness of the policies and their measures were in the best interest to keep their residents safe.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Recommend** to full Council to approve and adopt the Electrical Safety Policy.
2. **Recommend** to full Council to approve and adopt the Legionella Policy.

132. Leasehold consultation and tender process

The Director of Housing submitted a report to Cabinet to request that they approve the commencement of a tender process for a four-year framework for capital works on leasehold properties and delegate authority to award the placement of contractors on the framework and award call-off contracts to those contractors under the framework as and when works are required.

Councillor Smith presented the report. She said they were planning to spend about £9 million on council properties, in areas including fencing, gates, internal and external communal areas, doors, and windows. She said that the report sets out a tender process, to set up a framework, to handle the procurement of the works and to speed up the process and simplify it. She said that it would make it easier for them to reclaim those costs from their leaseholders.

The Housing Policy and Projects Officer said that the report states that there should be a systematic approach from now on, in terms of sensible recovery of costs related to the HRA budget. He said that there would be a full consultation process once the procurement team agrees on the framework. He said that the costs and quality of contractors would be presented to leaseholders for their consideration and there would be a full democratic consultation process. He said that the report states that the Council would work with each individual leaseholder in terms of repayment and be sensitive to their needs on a case-by-case basis.

Councillor Hollingsworth said that he was supportive of this report. He said that with leasehold properties maintenance was not quite as predictable as one would like. This creation of clear program to cover all leaseholder properties was critical. He said that there are a lot of properties which might be ad hoc, and he asked if those older properties would be included in this program. He asked if they would have a program with a timetable by address available to members and leaseholders.

Councillor Brown said that many of their leasehold properties were tenanted to other people. She asked how they could ensure that those tenants don't have the costs passed on to them from leaseholders.

The Housing Policy and Projects Officer said that the policy would cover all ad hoc properties. In terms of timetable, by address, he said that yes, they would have one on each financial year once the capital works program was confirmed and that it would be advertised on the Council's website. Regarding costs being passed on, he said that was something they would take away and consider how they could keep this from happening.

Councillor Smith noted the renter's right act and how this would impact the situation in Oxford.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Approve** the commencement of a tender process for a four-year framework for capital works on leasehold properties, subject to the required statutory consultation with leaseholders as detailed in this report
2. **Delegate** authority to the Deputy Chief Executive for Communities and Citizens, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, to:
 - a. award the placement of contractors on the framework and enter into the framework agreement with the successful contractors; and

- b. award call-off contracts procured from the framework to deliver capital works required on the leasehold properties throughout the duration of the framework
- c. finalise any and all contractual arrangements

3. **To approve** the expenditure against the budget for the capital works pursuant to the decision of the Cabinet in December 2024 in respect of the approval of the HRA Asset Management Strategy.
4. **Note** the statutory consultations required with leaseholders when carrying out works on leasehold properties as detailed in this report.

133. Workforce Report

The Head of People Services submitted a report to Cabinet to share current progress on the Workforce Equalities Report and Action Plan. The report also presents and seeks approval for the publication of the annual Workforce Equality Report 2024/2025, the Gender Pay Gap Report, Ethnicity Pay Gap Report and Disability Pay Gap Report.

Councillor Chapman presented the report. He said that the report provides a view of the Council as of March 2025 and covers areas such as the gender pay gap and ethnic minority pay gap. He said that the report provides a positive story, demonstrating that the Council is working hard in this area. Councillor Chapman said that they do not shy away from positive action work with their staff and that the Council's workforce is becoming more diverse. He said that they tried to make a workforce plan to reflect the city. He said that he was proud of the report and thanked the Officers for their work to bring the report together.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Approve** the contents of the Workforce Equality Report 2024/2025;
2. **Delegate** authority to the Head of People to publish the Workforce Equality Report and to make any typographical changes and any changes as may be required before publication to reflect the Cabinet decision;
3. **Approve** the contents of the Gender Pay Gap, Ethnicity Pay Gap and Disability Pay Gap reports for this year; and
4. **Delegate** authority to the Head of People to publish the Gender Pay Gap table at paragraph 30 before 30 March 2026, the Ethnicity Pay Gap table at paragraph 40 and the Disability Pay Gap table at paragraph 47 on the Council website.

134. Treasury Management Mid-Year Review for April – September 2025

The Group Finance Director submitted a report to Cabinet to report on the performance of the Treasury Management function for the 6 months to 30 September 2025.

Nigel Kennedy, the Group Finance Director, presented the report. He said that this was the mid term report, as of the end of September 2025. He said that the report shows that investments are around 66 million, and they have favourable variance on interest. He said that this would be reflected in the latest budget report coming to Cabinet in the next month. He presented how investments in the core funds were performing. He said that they had fared well compared to other local authorities and that they had fared well considering the risk they had taken on.

Councillor Munkonge said that it was a good report. He noted the concerns in the broader market and indications that it could have a downturn. He asked what mitigation work they would be doing to prevent any negative impacts of this possibility on the Council.

The Group Finance Director discussed how their investments operated and to what extent this provided them with protection. He said that they have certain overrides as a local authority and that they have significant reserves to protect them.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Note** the performance of the Treasury Management function for the six months to 30th September 2025.

135. Dates of future meetings

Cabinet noted the dates of future meetings.

Matters Exempt from Publication

If Cabinet wishes to exclude the press and the public from the meeting during consideration of any of the items on the exempt from publication part of the agenda, it will be necessary for Cabinet to pass a resolution in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 4(2)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 on the grounds that their presence could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in specific paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Cabinet may maintain the exemption if and so long as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

The meeting started at 18:00 and ended at 19:20.

Chair

Date: Wednesday 11 February 2026

When decisions take effect:

Cabinet: after the call-in and review period has expired

Planning Committees: after the call-in and review period has expired and the formal decision notice is issued

All other committees: immediately.

Details are in the Council's Constitution.

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