

# Council

## Briefing note and supplementary papers

Date: **Monday 13 July 2026**

Time: **5.00 pm**

Place: **Council Chamber - Oxford Town Hall**

The Council agenda, reports, this briefing note, and any other supplementary papers should be considered together.

This briefing note forms part of the papers to be considered at the Council meeting. It contains additional information; councillors' questions, public addresses; and amendments to motions.

All papers for this meeting can be accessed through the council's website.

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*All public papers are available from the calendar link to this meeting once published*

# Briefing note

Information for councillors and additional papers to be considered.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Pages   |
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| <p><b>6 Public addresses that relate to matters for decision at this meeting</b></p> <p>Public addresses and questions to the Leader or other Cabinet member received in accordance with Council Procedure Rules in the Constitution relating to matters for decision in Part 1 of this agenda.</p> <p>Up to five minutes is available for each public address.</p> <p><b>The request to speak accompanied by the full text of the address must be received by the <a href="#">Director of Law, Governance and Strategy</a> by 5.00 pm on Tuesday 7 July 2026.</b></p> <p>The briefing note will contain the text of addresses submitted by the deadline, and written responses where available.</p> <p><i>A total of 45 minutes is available for both public speaking items. Responses are included in this time.</i></p> | 7 - 10  |
| <p><b>14 Questions on Notice from Members of Council</b></p> <p>Questions on notice from councillors received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.11(b).</p> <p>Questions on notice may be asked of the Lord Mayor, a Member of the Cabinet or a Chair of a Committee. One supplementary question may be asked at the meeting.</p> <p>The full text of questions must have been received by the Director of Law, Governance and Strategy by no later than 1.00pm on Wednesday 1 July 2026.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 11 - 50 |
| <p><b>15 Public addresses that do not relate to matters for decision at this Council meeting</b></p> <p>Public addresses to the Leader or other Cabinet member received in accordance with Council Procedure Rules in the Constitution and <u>not</u> relating to matters for decision in Part 1 of this agenda.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 51 - 54 |

Up to five minutes is available for each public address.

**The request to speak accompanied by the full text of the address must be received by the [Director of Law, Governance and Strategy](#) by 5.00 pm on Tuesday 7 July 2026.**

The briefing note will contain the text of addresses and questions submitted by the deadline, and written responses where available.

*A total of 45 minutes is available for both public speaking items.  
Responses*

## **16 Scrutiny Committee Annual Report**

55 - 66

The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee has submitted a report which updates Council on the activities of the Scrutiny Committee over the last year.

**Council is invited to comment on and note the report.**

## **17 Scrutiny Committee update report**

67 - 86

The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee has submitted a report which updates Council on the activities of scrutiny and the implementation of recommendations since the last meeting of Council.

**Council is invited to comment on and note the report.**

## **18 Motions on Notice July 2026**

87 - 114

**This item has a time limit of 60 minutes.**

Motions received by the Director of Law, Governance and Strategy in accordance with the rules in Section 11 of the Constitution by the deadline of 1.00pm on Wednesday 1 July 2026 are listed below.

Cross party motions are taken first. Motions will then be taken in turn from the Labour Group, Green Group, Liberal Democrat Group, Oxford Independent Group, Real Independent Group, in that order.

Substantive amendments to these motions must be sent by councillors to the Director of Law, Governance and Strategy by no later than 10.00am on Friday 10 July 2026 so that they may be circulated with the briefing note.

Minor technical or limited wording amendments may be submitted

during the meeting but must be written down and circulated.

**Council is asked to consider the following motions:**

- a. E-bikes (Proposed by Cllr Turner, Seconded by Cllr Railton)
- b. The EHRC Code of Practice and Trans Rights (Proposed by Cllr Morris, Seconded by Cllr Jarvis)
- c. Make Every Vote Count (Proposed by Cllr Smowton, Seconded by Cllr Altaf Khan)
- d. Ensuring the Oxford Living Wage is delivered where it would impact most (Proposed by Cllr Taylor, Seconded by Cllr Rowley)
- e. The Oxford Union and the Far Right (Proposed by Cllr Davis, Seconded by Cllr Dhall)
- f. Use of Park and Rides to facilitate pupil transport services (Proposed by Cllr Gant, Seconded by Cllr Miles)
- g. Pregnancy Support Services (Proposed by Cllr Turner, Seconded by Cllr Diggins)
- h. Inequity of Public Transport Provision and Safe Segregated Cycle Path provision across the City (Proposed by Cllr Elphinstone, Seconded by Cllr Ottino)

**This briefing note is published as a supplement to the agenda and should be considered along with the agenda; reports; and other supplementary papers.**

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**To:** Council

**Date:** 13 July 2026

**Report of:** Director of Law, Governance and Strategy

**Title of Report:** Public addresses that relate to matters for decision – as submitted by the speakers and with written responses from Cabinet Members

## Introduction

1. Addresses made by members of the public to the Council, and questions put to the Cabinet members or Leader, registered by the deadline in the Constitution, are below. Any written responses available are also below.
2. The text reproduces that sent in the speakers and represents the views of the speakers. This is not to be taken as statements by or on behalf of the Council
3. This report will be republished after the Council meeting as part of the minutes pack. This will list the full text of speeches delivered as submitted, summaries of speeches delivered which differ significantly from those submitted, and any further responses.

Addresses and questions to be taken in Part 1 of the agenda

1. Address from Martin Reed

## Addresses and questions to be taken in Part 1 of the agenda

### 1. Address from Martin Reed

Today councillors have the opportunity to delete an unsound policy from the draft Local Plan 2045 and smooth the wheels to the Plan's adoption by heading off a key cause for argument at Public Examination. Requesting the removal of this unsound policy would render the whole plan sound (a statutory obligation) before its submission to the inspector.

### Policy SPS8 is unsound

Land at Meadow Lane in Iffley is 2.5 acres of biodiverse meadow habitat which is an integral part of the rural Iffley Conservation Area. It has the worst sustainability score of any proposed allocation site in the plan and (in recognition of the site's problems) no minimum housing number.

The evidence for the unsoundness of Land at Meadow Lane is in your agenda packs. You should take into account the results of the Regulation 18 and Regulation 19 consultations which were not before you when Full Council met in January.

The absence of that essential public consultation material, and its relevance to your decision-making, was the reason Friends of the Fields Iffley took legal advice and was granted a Judicial Review and an injunction to prevent the submission of the Local Plan.

The Reg 18 consultation summary for the SPS8 site extends over 8 pages with many material objections including from Environment Agency, Oxford Preservation Trust, BBOWT, and Cyclox. Objections include:

- Substantial harm to the rural Iffley Conservation Area
- Biodiversity interest qualifying for Oxford City Wildlife Site status
- Essential part of Core Green Infrastructure.
- Poor access and harms to the adjacent Quiet Route for Active Travel

The Reg 19 consultation summary notes the absence of support for the allocation. Rather, a total of 45 responses found this policy to be unsound concluding that the policy is

- not positively prepared, justified or effective, and not compliant with national policies
- not compliant with the Council's policies on spatial strategy; green infrastructure, flood risk, heritage, housing and sustainability.

Two of the officers' responses are notable:

1. Responding to the lack of the requisite ecological assessment 'The horse prevented the surveyor from gaining full access to the site so a best assessment was made from the edges'

This is symptomatic of the lackadaisical approach when originally allocating this site to Local Plan 2036. Whilst that was a past mistake, it is now being perpetuated in its flawed re-allocation. The Council now knows that the site has biodiversity interest of ample weight to protect it as Core Green Infrastructure. They also know that the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment has declined to deliver off-site BNG due to its sensitivity.

2. In terms of the site's contribution to housing need the officer says that '*the site was assumed to have a capacity of more than 10 units*' but gives a curious justification for not putting 10 in the allocation, saying "*because it may be interpreted as saying that the number in [the current dormant planning] application is too high*". This justification would only be valid if 10 + houses was a maximum not a minimum. The actual reason appears much more straightforward – due to the site's constraints the site is unable to deliver even 10 homes in a policy compliant manner.

## Dispelling 'myths'

Myth 1: The site is suitable for housing '*Because it was allocated to LP 2036*' [1](#)

The Council's surveys since allocation to the Local Plan 2036 now show that its high sensitivity cannot deliver any minimum housing number. Re-allocation is at odds with the Council's processes to filter out unsustainable sites.

Myth 2 '*There is considered to be a potential scheme that responds appropriately to this setting*'

There is no evidence that a potential scheme can respond appropriately and the planning application has run into a brick wall for this reason. Even a small amount of housing around the edge of the site would lead to significant harm to the conservation area and biodiversity, for example by:

- Blocking the rural conservation area views accessible from the ancient lanes
- Removing ancient hedgerows and listed walls

Myth 3: Removing the site is not legal because there is a '*clear requirement that the Local Plan identify all viable housing sites to contribute towards meeting the housing need within the cities boundaries*'

There is no requirement to identify all viable housing sites either in law or policy. The requirement is to identify **sound** sites sufficient to meet the spatial strategy of the plan (e.g. enough housing sites in the right places to deliver the economic, social and environmental vision of the plan). Moreover there is no evidence that SPS8 is viable given the constraints.

Myth 4: removing it would '*treat one specific site as an exception to the process used and that this inconsistency would undermine the plan*'

On the contrary, removal of SPS8 would be consistent with processes that led to many other proposed sites being rejected due to heritage, biodiversity or no capacity for at least 10 homes.

In fact, it is very common, if not routine, for Councils to propose modifications to the inspector at this stage of the Plan making process.

Myth 5: '*The suitability argument is one that needs to be looked at by the Local Plan inspector at examination or determined as part of the planning application*'

The decision on soundness cannot be delegated to the inspector or the planning committee. Elected members have a different role to the planning inspector by making decisions that reflect local circumstances and achieve balance to meet other needs in the city.

I hope that there will not be any additions to the mythology today!

## **Conclusion**

For all these reasons I ask that members take this hard-won opportunity and vote for the only sound course of action, which is to remove SPS8 from the Local Plan 2045, and thereby send a Local Plan to Examination that is sound and ready for approval.

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**To:** Council  
**Date:** 13 July 2026  
**Report of:** Director of Law, Governance and Strategy  
**Title of Report:** Questions on Notice from members of Council and responses from the Cabinet Members and Leader

## **Introduction**

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.

Responses are included where available.

Questioners can ask one supplementary question of the Cllr answering the original question.

This report will be republished after the Council meeting to include supplementary questions and responses as part of the minutes pack.

Unfamiliar terms may be briefly explained in footnotes.

## Questions and responses

Cabinet Member for Partnership Working, Inclusive Economic Growth and Culture; Leader of the Council

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### SB1: From Cllr Henwood to Cllr Brown

#### Question

Can the Leader explain what process was followed to identify and select the successful candidate for Lord Mayor, and which group leaders were consulted before a recommendation was brought to Council?

#### Written Response

I approached members of the council in order of the longest serving councillors who have not yet served as Lord Mayor and to ask them in turn if they would wish to be Lord Mayor.

### SB2: From Cllr Henwood to Cllr Brown

#### Question

Given that the appointment of Lord Mayor is one of the most significant civic appointments made by the Council, does the Leader believe it is appropriate that discussions on the preferred candidate take place between a limited number of political groups rather than through an open and transparent process involving all group leaders?

#### Written Response

It is not a discussion between political groups.

**SB3: From Cllr Henwood to Cllr Brown****Question**

While recognising that length of service does not guarantee appointment as Lord Mayor, can the Leader explain what criteria were applied in this year's selection process and how those criteria were communicated to councillors prior to the appointment being made?

**Written Response**

The criteria used this year were the same as every previous year and as usual an announcement was made at council.

**SB4: From Cllr Smowton to Cllr Brown****Question**

What footfall has been observed at the Museum of Oxford in the period January-June this year compared with 2025 or previous years?

**Written Response**

The footfall total for January – June 2026 = **11,797**

This has been calculated by adding the following together:

- Tickets sold **7,362** (source = ticketing system data)
- Visitors to hires, events and activities (source = event tickets and hire forms) **2,967**
- Schools and group visits (source = booking forms and group tickets) **1,468**

The estimated footfall total for January – June 2025 is known to be inaccurate and to likely include double counting.

- Of actual bookings, visitors to hires, events and activities **4,258** (source = event tickets and hire forms)
- Schools and group visits **1,788** (source = booking forms and group tickets)

The footfall figures have been calculated using different methods; therefore, no direct comparison can be made.

**SB5: From Cllr Yeatman to Cllr Brown****Question**

Given recent FOI data suggests Museum of Oxford visitor numbers have fallen by around two-thirds since charging was introduced, while net income from admissions remains relatively modest, does the administration still believe the charging policy is consistent with widening access to Oxford's civic history?

**Written Response**

The business plan will be reviewed by Cabinet in Autumn 2026 when sufficient data has been collected on footfall and income including over the summer season. Changes if required, will need to ensure a balanced business plan as well as meeting aspirations to widen free access.

**SB6: From Cllr Davis to Cllr Brown****Question**

The recent election was unfortunately followed by concerns regarding student voter disenfranchisement, including through an article in the Cherwell in which several student voters claimed they had been 'removed' from the electoral roll without their knowledge. I have also spoken to several of my constituents who experienced this and faced this myself as a student. Will the portfolio holder commit to ending the process of 'bulk removing' students in student accommodation to avoid disenfranchising young and student voters?

**Written Response**

The registration of students in Oxford is complex, particularly since the introduction of individual electoral registration in 2014. Given that many students move address each year and sometime more, the electoral register quickly becomes very out of date for students. The Council, along with other university cities have, since informal guidance from government in 2014, followed a process to enable control of the register through the review of those students in formal student accommodation on the basis of both information confirming residents for the following year and return of Polling Cards.

In light of the election bill which is progressing through parliament we will seek to encourage government, working closely with other university cities and the universities in Oxford, to formalise an approach to management of the electoral role in the draft legislation specifically in relation to students. In any event we will review the process in advance of the elections to

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|  | the Shadow Authority resulting from the decision on LGR. In addition, we will continue to work closely with the universities and the Students Unions to ensure appropriate and timely communication with students. |
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| <b>SB7: From Cllr Davis to Cllr Brown</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Question</b><br><p>Given the changes incoming to our national government, can the portfolio holder outline any conversations she may have had with national government officials regarding Local Government Re-Organisation since the prime minister announced his resignation and if there are any doubts over whether it is still to go ahead?</p> | <b>Written Response</b><br><p>I and council officers have continued to speak regularly to ministers and civil servants and continue to expect an announcement before parliamentary recess. At LGA Conference last week this was reconfirmed repeatedly by ministers.</p> |

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| <b>SB8: From Cllr Muddiman to Cllr Brown</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Question</b><br><p>As a City of Sanctuary and following the motion passed at full council in Oct 2024, can the portfolio holder confirm whether the Council is making a submission to the Planning Inspectorate to object to the planning application to expand Campsfield by the consultation closing date of 24 July?</p> | <b>Written Response</b><br><p>Yes. Several weeks ago, I commissioned officers to draft such a letter, and this has now been sent.</p> |

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| <b>SB9: From Cllr Mundy to Cllr Brown</b>                                                                                                                 |                         |
| <b>Question</b><br><p>In response to question AH3 at Full Council 20 November 2025, then Cllr Hollingsworth stated that “evidence from [the Museum of</p> | <b>Written Response</b> |

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| <p>Oxford]... confirms that if entry is free then visitors are less likely to perceive the offer as positive” and “less likely to spend time in the location and therefore money in the museum shop.”</p> <p>Can the portfolio holder confirm whether we are now seeing more visitors spending more time in the Museum and in the shop since charges were introduced?</p> | <p>Dwell time data has not been collected. Total shop income from January – June 2025 was £19,898 compared to £14,641.70 January – June 2026.</p> |
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| <b>SB10: From Cllr Mundy to Cllr Brown</b>                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| <p><b>Question</b></p> <p>Can the portfolio holder explain whether the Council is still pursuing grants to help fund our museum, or has this been stopped since the new charges have been introduced?</p> | <p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>The Council is still pursuing grants to help fund the museum. 9 grant bids have been submitted since the new charges have been introduced and a further 7 are in process. Grant successes since charges have been introduced, including Arts Council England £84,409 for Sounds of the City Exhibition and grassroots music project; William Delafield Foundation £9950.13 for a loan box project with older people and OCVA £4997.24 for the older people’s programme.</p> |

| <b>SB11: From Cllr Mundy to Cllr Brown</b>                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
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| <p><b>Question</b></p> <p>Can the portfolio holder set out what the change in levels of donations at the Museum has been since the introduction of entry fees?</p> | <p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>From January-June 2026 we have taken £993.44 in donations compared to £5,265.89 for January-June 2025. Expanding donation schemes will form part of revisions to the MOX business plan to be considered by Cabinet Autumn 2026.</p> <p>I note that no Group in the council proposed ending charging for the Museum in their budget proposals, and that the business plan for the Museum does need to add up.</p> |

**SB12: From Cllr Powell to Cllr Brown****Question**

Many residents of Oxford were dismayed by the decision of the Oxford Union to extend an invitation to Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, commonly known as Tommy Robinson, to a debate in Oxford on June 17. I note that the leader offered a clear response. As the portfolio holder for partnership working would she undertake to write to the Oxford Union asking that they adopt a more considered and thoughtful approach to inviting speakers going forward?

**Written Response**

I have tried that approach, but they do not seem to pay much attention! From several weeks prior to the occasion, I have asked council officers to work with all other public and other bodies who incurred costs as a result of the Oxford Union's activities to seek reimbursement from the Oxford Union. The cabinet member for Community Safety and I have written to the PCC and Thames Valley Police to invite them to join us in so doing.

**SB13: From Cllr Powell to Cllr Brown****Question**

Does the portfolio holder agree that local businesses that were forced to close in order protect the safety of their staff and the community at the time of Tommy Robinson's appearance at the Oxford Union should be compensated by the union for their losses?

**Written Response**

That is the approach that I am taking, and I am supportive of others doing so too.

**SB14: From Cllr Powell to Cllr Brown****Question**

Regarding the invitation of Stephen Yaxley Lennon, commonly known as Tommy Robinson, and Laurence Fox to speak at the Oxford Union, does the leader agree that the Oxford Union owes a civic duty to consider the residents of the city which hosts it and will she undertake to write to the union requesting the generation of a set of agreed principles between the city and the union for speakers at future events?

**Written Response**

As per my response above, unfortunately that approach does not seem to get any traction.

**SB15: From Cllr Powell to Cllr Brown****Question**

I was very concerned to see the collapse of negotiations regarding the formation of a Thames Valley Foundation Strategic Authority after 18 months of negotiations and work. Given the significant benefits of regional devolution, can the portfolio holder confirm what steps the council will be taking to encourage a resumption of work towards a Thames Valley FSA?

**Written Response**

The negotiations did not collapse – the new Leader of the County Council imposed his personal views and vetoed a deal at the final moment, entirely contrary to the position that the County Council had been progressing up until that moment and without any warning.

As I reported to cabinet (and via cabinet to this council), the City Council is doing its best to continue to work with other councils in the Thames Valley to campaign to see how we can ensure that councils in Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Swindon (and Buckinghamshire should they choose to join us) can form a Foundation Strategic Authority and benefit from the powers and investment that would come to our area as a result.

**SB16: From Cllr Powell to Cllr Brown****Question**

Can the portfolio holder please confirm what processes are applied when the council becomes aware of an event with potential equalities implications and which is going ahead without appropriate permissions?

**Written Response**

To the extent that an event requires permissions from the Council they would be required to submit an application for the necessary approval. I would expect any event to do a proper equalities impact assessment and make any mitigations necessary. Depending on the nature of the event, this is not a matter for determination by the Council as a general rule.

**SB17: From Cllr Powell to Cllr Brown****Question**

The County Council has recently seen proposals to give parking wardens civil enforcement powers to target pavement parking. Will the portfolio holder take this opportunity to lend public support for the introduction of these powers, in light of the significant disruption and frustration that residents of our city are frequently forced to endure by those selfishly using pavements as parking spaces?

**Written Response**

I am supportive of measures taken to tackle unwarranted pavement parking which causes problems for pedestrians, particularly those in wheelchairs or pushing prams and buggies. However, as I have said to other members who have raised this, the county council will have to decide what it is then going to do about the rather large number of roads in the city where it has drawn lines on pavements to encourage pavement parking.

**SB18: From Cllr Robinson to Cllr Brown****Question**

With the recent release of visitor numbers and income since the introduction of the entrance fee to MOX, we can see a dramatic and unsurprising reduction in footfall of approximately 70% and income of about 60% of the council's projections. In light of these marked changes, what does the Cabinet Member suggest that the City Council can do – to stop a potentially huge shortfall in income by the end of the year? Can the portfolio holder offer some urgent solutions; such as stopping the entrance fee and working with the MOX team to promote alternative revenue streams as soon as possible?

**Written Response**

A range of revenue streams are already in existence at MOX and additional ones are in process. Revisions to the MOX business plan will be considered by Cabinet in Autumn 2026.

I note that no Group in the council proposed ending charging for the Museum in their budget proposals, and that the business plan for the Museum does need to add up.

**SB19: From Cllr Robinson to Cllr Brown****Question**

Can the portfolio holder explain whether there is currently a plan or strategy to collaborate with Oxfordshire County Council to create a Cool Shelters Policy or a Cool Shelters Map, such as there is in London. If so, what is the criteria for a cool shelter and which wards in the city are included in this?

**Written Response**

The following information is available on the council website: <https://www.oxford.gov.uk/approach/severe-weather-updates>

**SB20: From Cllr Powell to Cllr Brown****Question**

Can the portfolio holder confirm how disability is considered when undertaking considerations for granting event licenses?

**Written Response**

When determining an application for a Premises Licence, including applications that may authorise a range of events and regulated activities, the Council considers each

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|  | <p>application on its individual merits and against the four licensing objectives. The Council's Statement of Licensing Policy also recognises its duties under equality legislation and its expectation that licensed premises do not discriminate against people with protected characteristics, including disability. Where relevant representations are received, conditions may be imposed where necessary and proportionate to promote the licensing objectives, including supporting the equal treatment of disabled people.</p> <p>The specific policy provisions can be found at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Section 2.5.6 – General licensing principles</li><li>• Section 2.5.16 – Equality Act 2010 considerations</li><li>• Section 2.5.18 – Equality and access to the licensing process</li><li>• Appendix 8, Sections 6 and 7 – Disability discrimination and licensing conditions relating to the licensing objectives.</li></ul> |
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**Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management; Deputy Leader of the Council (Statutory)**

**ET1: From Cllr Miles to Cllr Turner**

**Question**

How many and where are the commercial properties that are owned by the city council in Oxford? When will the council publish a list of these properties on its website?

**Written Response**

The list of properties has been prepared, and the Property team will discuss with ICT how best to upload on the website.

**ET2: From Cllr Powell to Cllr Turner**

**Question**

During the last budget setting process, council agreed to £40,000 for a survey of public toilet provision in the city. Can the portfolio holder please confirm a timeline for the completion of this work?

**Written Response**

A stock condition survey is underway, and the output is expected by the end of July. This data will then need to be assimilated into an options appraisal which will be expected in October. Our ambition is to bring forward improvement work on public toilets as far as possible.

**AR1: From Cllr Henwood to Cllr Railton**

**Question**

The original Armstrong Road development was approved on the basis that developer contributions of approximately £1,000 per dwelling would be used to support improvements to local bus services. Given that a significant proportion of this funding appears to have been allocated to bus service enhancements in Wallingford, can the Cabinet Member confirm how much of the developer funding generated by the Armstrong Road development has been invested within the Armstrong Road, Littlemore and Sandford-on-Thames area, and what specific transport improvements have been delivered for local residents as a result?

**Written Response**

The outline permission for Littlemore Park, Armstrong Road (14/02940/OUT) secured circa £200k contributions towards public transport routes. The obligation required improvements to existing bus services including additional daytime and evening journeys and a Sunday service within the Littlemore section of the route.

It should be appreciated that this obligation was with the County Council as the Local Highways Authority. The County Council have confirmed that all the S106 funding from the Armstrong Road developments have been used to fund an enhancement of Service 3A from its previous every 30-minute frequency to its current 15-minute frequency, including better services in the evenings and on Sundays. This contract runs from February 2025 to August 2027.

They have also confirmed that none of this funding has been used on the X40 service, which were improved using S106 from Benson and Wallingford.

**AR2: From Cllr Henwood to Cllr Railton****Question**

The Warneford Hospital development has recently undergone scrutiny at both Planning Committee and Planning Review Committee, with considerable attention given to the number of parking spaces provided on site.

Would the Portfolio Holder agree that maintaining adequate parking provision at hospital sites should be regarded as a strategic priority, recognising the needs of patients, visitors, carers and NHS staff, and that decisions on healthcare parking provision should be driven by operational need and accessibility rather than political ideology?

**Written Response**

The application for the Warneford Hospital was approved by both the Oxford City Planning Committee and the Planning Review Committee. The officers' report set out the assessment of the parking provision for the development as a whole, including the entire range of uses that were being provided across the site. The level of parking put forward by the applicant was supported by a transport assessment which explained the operational need for this level of parking. The officers' assessment, as accepted by both committees, was that the level of parking satisfied the objectives of the Local Plan.

**AR3: From Cllr Turkson Wood to Cllr Railton****Question**

Some years ago, Oxford City Council allowed the old pavilion in the Five Mile Drive recreation ground to literally fall down, causing Summertown Stars football club to be held to account by the F.A. for not providing adequate facilities. This council eventually replaced the pavilion not with a new-build but with pre-assembled buildings and a shipping container, with much of the cost landing on Summertown Stars. Since then, Summertown Stars has delivered remarkable growth, particularly among girls, with huge benefits for public health. Over 500 children now play at Five Mile Drive each weekend. However, Oxford City Council has failed to

**Written Response**

Oxford City Council work closely with Summertown Stars and have done so for a number of years. This has included working closely with the club to enable significant inward investment enabling the full funding of the redevelopment of the club's main pavilion at Cutteslowe Park and the pavilion at Five Mile Drive historically.

Both projects utilised funding from the Council as well as external funding through the Football Foundation and Sport England.

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| <p>conclude a lease for the shipping container with the club for eight years. When will the council issue and sign the lease?</p> | <p>The building at Five Mile Drive was a new build of modular construction and was built in 2019 with regular engagement with the club at the time, which helped meet the needs of the club at the time of delivery. The shipping container was purchased separately by the football club and is used for storage.</p> <p>The significant growth of the club has been incredible and is testament to the work of the Chair and volunteers. Officers continue to support them with their future ambitions, meeting them regularly including formal meetings twice per year.</p> <p>In addition, Cllr Linda Smith and Cllr Mark Lygo met Summertown Stars on 20<sup>th</sup> June at their tournament in Cutteslowe Park. Cllr Railton met them on 7<sup>th</sup> July, and the ongoing lease issue was one of the action points taken up. The Council is in active discussion with Summertown Stars but the proposal for the lease is broader than just the shipping container. The proposal under consideration would better support the long-term provision of community benefit from Summertown Stars at this location.</p> |
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| AR4: From Cllr Goddard to Cllr Railton                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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| <p><b>Question</b></p> <p>Oxford City Council has failed to agree a lease for the cricket nets in Cutteslowe Park with Wolvercote Cricket Club for over 7 years and 6 prime ministers. HS2, and the Botley Rd Bridge will take less time. This delay has caused and is still causing considerable frustration, inconvenience and worse, and limiting the club's</p> | <p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>The Council is actively engaging with the club on what will be included in the lease as the club's requirement has changed and expanded and the Council is supportive of this in principle. The terms of the lease are now broadly agreed. A binding date cannot be provided as it is a negotiation with a third party and not entirely in the Council's control.</p> |

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| ability to deliver its vital services locally. Will the Cabinet Member finally give a binding date for when this will be done? | As per my emails of 10 <sup>th</sup> April, 12 <sup>th</sup> April, 26 <sup>th</sup> April, and 23 <sup>rd</sup> May I am more than happy to meet with the club to help sort this out. |
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| <b>AR5: From Cllr Fouweather to Cllr Railton</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| <p><b>Question</b></p> <p>Having asked the same question at the Council meetings of March 26th and November 24th 2025, I find that the promised actions have still not been carried out. A survey at the weekend of June 27th/28th showed that none of the promised basketball net replacements have been carried out. Cutteslowe Park has two hoops, one without a net and one with a damaged net. Sunnymead has four hoops, none with nets. Alexandra Park has three hoops, one with no net and two with partial nets. Players report that not only does the absence of a net affect their ability to score but that injuries can happen, and have occurred, when a hand or wrist gets caught in a damaged net. Can the Cabinet member ensure that all nets are replaced as soon as possible and that regular inspections (as claimed by ODS on notices on the fence around the court) are carried out to pick up damage to nets and replace them?</p> | <p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>We trialled rope nets at Alexandra Courts, Aristotle Lane rec, Court Place Farm and Margaret Road rec in March and all of the nets have failed due to damage and general use.</p> <p>RoSPA (The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) recommend not using rope nets at all. Chain nets are around £500 a set and also require a complete replacement of hoop and fixings, as well as the on-going cost of net replacement and maintenance.</p> <p>We will therefore not be replacing these nets with rope nor chain nets.</p> |

| <b>AR6: From Cllr Yeatman to Cllr Railton</b>                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| <p><b>Question</b></p> <p>Does the administration consider small-site intensification to be a core delivery model under the emerging Local Plan, and if so, what concrete safeguards will ensure that densely populated</p> | <p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>We need housing to come forward in all locations, and small sites in already built-up areas are an important part of this. Unlike other authorities which have the opportunity to plan for</p> |

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| <p>communities across Oxford are not over-intensified without matching infrastructure?</p> | <p>large scale new development, most of Oxford's new development comes from small to medium sized sites and almost all from the redevelopment of sites in existing use.</p> <p>Unfortunately, this means that we have to look beyond Oxford's existing boundaries for the sites that will make a real difference to tackling Oxford's huge housing need.</p> <p>Sites contribute to infrastructure requirements, usually through Section 106 agreements. Development cannot be asked to pay to resolve pre-existing issues, but officers will be pushing hard for all relevant infrastructure requirements, and this Council will continue with its judicious use CIL funding to provide much needed infrastructure such as the recently delivered Community Centres.</p> <p>We are working with the Growth Commission around proposals for a Development Corporation which would be a way of helping to resolve some of Oxford's bigger infrastructure problems.</p> |
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| AR7: From Cllr Yeatman to Cllr Railton                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| <p><b>Question</b></p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member explain whether Equality Impact Assessments for new housing schemes, including Bertie Place, consider not only individual protected characteristics in isolation, but also the cumulative effects of densification, overcrowding and reduced access to family-sized green spaces on vulnerable communities?</p> | <p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>Equality Impact Assessments for new (direct delivery) affordable housing schemes consider the direct impact of development and also wider impacts such as addressing housing needs and the lack of affordable housing supply in Oxford.</p> <p>Broader city-wide assessments of housing growth and community needs are considered and balanced more widely</p> |

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|  | <p>in the development of the Local Plan, with its own detailed evidence base and standalone assessment. This is because the Local Plan is where the principle of development is established through site allocations.</p> <p>The evidence is very strong that living in unstable, overcrowded accommodation has very severe impacts on people's health, welfare and children and young people's attainment prospects. Building more affordable housing provides hope and better prospects for families.</p> |
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#### AR8: From Cllr Bala to Cllr Railton

##### Question

Given the deaths and injuries caused by wild swimming in Oxford, please can the portfolio holder explain why sufficient water safety signage at key sites was only installed after a heatwave and following a death?

##### Written Response

In June 2025 OCC commissioned a review of the Council's water management including ownerships and conditions of assets. As part of this work the Royal Life Saving Society reviewed the Public Rescue equipment (PRE) provision and signage along with Risk Assessments on the higher risk sites.

This concluded in March 2026. Recommendations from the reviews were started from April 2026 including the updating of the council web pages, initiation of water safety awareness campaigns and installation of additional PRE and signage. These actions were ongoing at the time of the heatwave and tragic death.

**AR9: From Cllr Dhall to Cllr Railton****Question**

Can the portfolio holder explain why in the Jericho Conservation Area a change to an external appearance of a property would be refused as it would affect the character of the Conservation Area, while other infrastructure may be permitted directly outside the property?

**Written Response**

There is an Article 4 Direction in place in the Jericho Conservation Area which has removed a number of the available permitted development rights afforded to properties to make alterations to their properties. This does not mean that all external alterations are automatically refused, but that the Local Planning Authority are able to consider the impact that changes have on the conservation area through the determination of planning applications for such developments.

The Article 4 Direction also specifies the parts of the conservation area that are considered to be most significant.

The removal of these rights does not mean that other pieces of infrastructure cannot be provided throughout the public realm of the conservation area. There are other available permitted development rights available to various parties to undertake works in these areas without planning permission. For example, Local Authorities can install various pieces of infrastructure without the need for permission (e.g. lampposts, street furniture, etc). This would also include works the Local Highways Authority undertake on the highway.

**AR10: From Cllr Robinson to Cllr Railton****Question**

The Bellway Housing Development in Mill Lane, Old Marston has been a nightmare for the residents of Old Marston throughout the past eight months. The construction traffic management plan has been breached; listed buildings, pavements and verges in

**Written Response**

I understand Cllr Robinson has recently met with council officers regarding these concerns, and they discussed the matter in depth with her, outlining some of the challenges the City Council faces in dealing with some of the issues raised

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| <p>conservation areas have been damaged and the notion of a safe quiet lane for wheelers and walkers has been completely lost. As a second housing development starts in Old Marston this month, can the portfolio holder let us know what lessons have been learnt; if the council will now demand a Banksman at this dangerous junction and whether CCTV will be positioned to monitor construction traffic moving forward?</p> | <p>previously. Looking forward, we have spoken to OX Place who are developing the new site and have advised them that they need to monitor the impact of construction traffic and ensure they act accordingly in conjunction with their planning permission, in particular the agreed Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP).</p> <p>Regarding, the request for a permanent Banksman and CCTV, this is not something that the City Council can enforce. Both the planning permissions for Bellway development on the former paddocks site and OX Place development were consulted upon by the County Council as the Highway Authority. They did not deem it necessary to ask for these requirements when the decision to approve was being made nor when the respective CTMPs conditions were being discharged.</p> |
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#### AR11: From Cllr Robinson to Cllr Railton

##### Question

As part of the Air Quality Action Plan, the City Council's top two priorities are: 1) encourage active travel and reduce car use and 2) accelerate zero-emission transport. Can the portfolio holder therefore explain why Marston residents are continually frustrated by the irregular, infrequent and expensive bus services, and the total lack of any public e-charging points or EV car clubs?

##### Written Response

Provision of on-street charging infrastructure moved to be entirely delivered by the county council with the announcement of the central government LEVI grant.

The last on-street charger in the city was put in 2024 with the bulk delivered some years before that. Since then, the focus has been on the Government Grant, local electric vehicle infrastructure (LEVI) which was successfully awarded in July 2025 and has since been out to tender and awarded in March 2026.

County Council have plans to install chargers on-street in Marston are in a tranche to be delivered in the first half of 2027.

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|  | <p>Car club cars (not always EV) are more commercially driven, with the county needing to put in a TRO for a designated bay. Unfortunately, take-up has been very slow by users across the city, but we remain committed to ensuring that we keep the car clubs, especially focussing on EV hire cars where possible.</p> <p>Whilst Marston has historically had limited public EV charging provision within the ward itself, residents are able to access public charging facilities in nearby Headington. Oxford City Council's LEVI programme has also identified both Court Place Farm Car Park and Northway Community Centre as potential locations for future public charging infrastructure, subject to feasibility.</p> <p>In addition, the wider Park &amp; Ride facilities at Pear Tree, Seacourt and Redbridge provide further charging opportunities across the city transport network.</p> <p>It may be useful for residents to attend the upcoming EV event in Oxford at Seacourt Park and Ride, EV GO ELECTRIC Saturday 25th July 2026, where the City Council EVI Team will be in attendance and looking to obtain information from residents about future sites for EV charging.</p> <p>It is useful if residents flag where they would like to see chargers in the county's online tracker.</p> <p><a href="https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshire-electric-vehicle-charger-and-car-club-demand-tracker">https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshire-electric-vehicle-charger-and-car-club-demand-tracker</a></p> <p>Finally, the city continues to lobby for equitable access to bus routes across Oxford.</p> |
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**AR12: From Cllr Davis to Cllr Railton****Question**

Can the portfolio holder explain whether the council has been assessing the impact that the additional cut of grass verges has had on biodiversity in the city? Are there any concerns regarding the impact of this additional cut on the populations of insects, small mammals and other urban wildlife?

**Written Response**

When we moved to fund extra cuts, after the County Council unilaterally reduced the number to one across the whole year, our City Ecology officer assessed all the verges across the city and found discernible biodiversity gain in around seven of them and these have remained with a single cut (and collect) a year.

In all the other cases, there was no worthwhile biodiversity gain by leaving them uncut, so I am confident it is appropriate to respond to the overwhelming views of the public and instigate the extra cuts. Our move has been widely welcomed.

**Cabinet Member for a Safer Oxford****LA1: From Cllr Davis to Cllr Arshad****Question**

Can the portfolio holder outline what conversations they had with Thames Valley Police with regards to policing relating to the debate featuring Tommy Robinson at the Oxford Union on June 17, and if there were any additional costs incurred by the council in relation to the event? If additional costs were incurred by the council, what efforts - if any - has the council made to recoup these costs from the Oxford Union?

**Written Response**

Please see the previous answer to the question to Cllr Brown.

**LA2: From Cllr Davis to Cllr Arshad****Question**

Can the portfolio holder explain what impact the Oxford Union's decision to invite Tommy Robinson to speak has had on the council's approach to the Oxford Union and its events? Will the council be changing its approach to help ensure that no taxpayer money will be used to help platform divisive far-right figures?

**Written Response**

Please see the answers given to the questions to Cllr Brown.

**LA3: From Cllr Davis to Cllr Arshad****Question**

A number of my constituents have contacted me about hate crimes they have personally experienced whilst in the city centre, leaving them fearful to leave the house at night. However, they are also understandably mistrustful of the police to assist them in this matter. As far-right narratives continue to demonise minority communities, can the portfolio holder explain how the city council has been working to combat the threat that hate crimes pose to our community, particularly efforts beyond policing?

**Written Response**

Oxford is known as city of internationalism and solidarity, rich in cultures and heritage. This is reflected in the city's commitment to being a recognised City of Sanctuary, demonstrating a formal pledge to create a welcoming, inclusive environment where all residents, particularly those seeking refuge, are supported, respected and able to contribute to community life. The Council, police and other organisations share information, align resources, and work together to strengthen local resilience against hate crime, manage the right to peaceful protest, and promote community cohesion.

The Council are a member of the Oxfordshire Civic, Community and Faith Leaders Group who come together to promote tolerance and understanding between communities, including the Oxford Peace and Friendship Walk of Faiths event.

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|  | <p>I remind the Councillor of the Council's Anti-Racism Charter adopted by this Council on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2019. It sets out the principles which guide this Council's commitment to being both anti-racist and lays the foundation to advancing equality of opportunity for all ethnic minorities, people of colour and those with protected characteristics in our city</p> <p>As a member of the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel that holds the Police and Crime Commissioner to account, I review the levels of hate crime across the force area. This issue has become more prevalent across the Thames Valley in recent years and is reflected in the crime figures reported to the police. Hate crime is also discussed at the annual Oxford City Council meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable. This is scheduled for January 2027, and I encourage all councillors to attend this extremely useful meeting. More information will follow closer to the time.</p> |
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| <b>LA4: From Cllr Mundy to Cllr Arshad</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| <p><b>Question</b></p> <p>Complaints about antisocial driving and moving vehicle offences are very common. This includes speeding, excessive vehicle noise and riding motorcycles on pavements and cycle paths. Enforcement appears to be limited. What conversations is the portfolio holder having with Thames Valley Police to ensure residents' concerns about safety are being heard?</p> | <p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>Complaints about antisocial driving, speeding, excessive vehicle noise, dangerous parking, and motorcycles being ridden on pavements and cycle paths are concerns that we hear regularly from residents across Oxford. These issues have a real impact on people's sense of safety and quality of life.</p> <p>While the enforcement of moving traffic offences, speeding, and most road traffic offences is primarily the responsibility</p> |

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|  | <p>of Thames Valley Police, the City Council works closely with the police and other partners to ensure residents' concerns are raised and acted upon wherever possible.</p> <p>The recent Oxford City Residents survey highlighted residents' concerns regarding the anti-social use of motor vehicles and scooters. This information has been shared with local Neighbourhood Police Teams.</p> <p>The police encourage Community Speed Watch in locations of local concern and residents should get in contact with their local Neighbourhood Policing Team.</p> <p>I meet regularly with senior officers from Thames Valley Police through partnership meetings, including discussions on community safety priorities. I continue to press for targeted enforcement in areas where residents report persistent problems and encourage intelligence-led operations based on local complaints.</p> <p>We encourage residents to continue reporting incidents directly to Thames Valley Police, particularly where there is an immediate danger, as this evidence helps inform deployment and enforcement priorities.</p> <p>I would also encourage the councillor to support the motion that the Labour Group have later on the council agenda.</p> |
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| <b>LA5: From Cllr Robinson to Cllr Arshad</b>                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| <p><b>Question</b></p> <p>Could the portfolio holder explain what measures the City Council has put in place to help reduce illegal use of e-bikes and unregistered mopeds along cycle lanes and pavements? Has the</p> | <p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>The management of cycle lanes and pavements is the responsibility of the County Council and police depending upon the nature of the issue.</p> |

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| <p>portfolio holder engaged with TVP and Operation Brake – and how do you see the future of enforcement?</p> | <p>As a member of the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel that holds the Police and Crime Commissioner to account, I raised concerns about the increasing number of modified e-bikes and mopeds being used for antisocial behaviour across Oxford.</p> <p>The PCC confirmed that the police are continuing to carry out stop, seize and destroy operations and highlighted that enforcement alone will not solve the issue and believes new national legislation is needed to better regulate modified e-bikes and mopeds.</p> <p>The Commissioner reported that in April alone, 38 e-bikes, scooters and similar vehicles were seized in Oxfordshire, and he has committed to continuing this work with the local policing team and partners.</p> <p>Between April 2025-March 2026, 247 e-bikes and e-scooters were seized across Oxfordshire, and the police conducted 366 patrols relating to the issue.</p> <p>I encourage all councillors to contact their local neighbourhood police team through the TVP website to report these issues and help identify people and vehicles causing the anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>I would also encourage the councillor to support the Labour Group motion on the council agenda.</p> |
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| LA6: From Cllr Miles to Cllr Arshad                                                                                                        |                                                                                            |
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| Question                                                                                                                                   | Written Response                                                                           |
| <p>How many fines for littering have been handed out by the council to businesses over the last 12 months? Specifically, can you break</p> | <p>Over the last 12 months there has been 17 Fixed Penalty Notices issued to business.</p> |

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| down the data by type of business receiving the fine if it is categorised. | 10 – S47 Environmental Protection Act 1990 (waste)<br>4 – S34 Environmental Protection Act 1990 (Duty of care)<br>3 – S33 Environmental Protection Act 1990 (fly tipping)<br>It is not possible to break the data down to the type of business. |
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## Cabinet Member for Citizen Focused Services and Council Companies

### NC1: From Cllr Davis to Cllr Chapman

#### Question

Can the portfolio holder explain what potential there will be for the voices of local LGBTQ+ and trans residents to be included in the council's implementation of the EHRC's Code of Practice to ensure that trans voices are protected and centred as much as possible in the process of implementing the EHRC guidance?

#### Written Response

The work of the Council to review and assess the impact of the ECHR's code of Practice is at an early stage and there will need to be several stages, including establishing a policy position and then reviewing each service and space provision for current compliance against the code and next steps for each on a case-by-case basis. As the work continues the Council will consider the impact and input of all affected persons with the protected characteristics upon which it impacts, given that the scope of the changes spans many areas beyond single sex spaces.

I would add that where there is a need as a result of the guidance to implement any changes to specific sites or services, we will ensure engagement and consultation is undertaken as required.

**NC2: From Cllr Mundy to Cllr Chapman****Question**

Can the portfolio holder set out how much making bulky waste collection free has cost the council since charging was abolished?

**Written Response**

The free service has cost just over £100,000 since it was introduced in April. This provides citizens with 2 free scheduled collections of up to 3 items annually, and their items are collected within 20 days of the booking. To date we have collected over 6200 items from 3600 sites. There has been widespread public approval of this service, and we want to see its use increase as more people become aware of it.

**NC3: From Cllr Mundy to Cllr Chapman****Question**

Can the portfolio holder explain what the change in frequency of fly tipping reports has been since bulky waste collection charging was abolished?

**Written Response**

It is too soon to see what the long-term impact the bulky waste service will have on fly tipping since it was only introduced in April 2026. Our current data shows a marginal decrease, averaging 6.5%, in the number of recorded incidents compared with Q1 2025/26. However, these should not be considered as indicative for the rest of 2026/27, as incidents can fluctuate over the course of 12 months. We will continue to monitor these figures closely.

**ML1: From Cllr Davis to Cllr Lygo**

**Question**

With the recent hot weather making wild swimming and swimming at leisure centres increasingly popular, can the portfolio holder explain what efforts, if any the council has been making to ensure swimming and swimming lessons are accessible to marginalised communities, particularly ethnic minority communities (who are historically less likely to be able to access swimming lessons in the UK) and the LGBTQ+ community?

**Written Response**

The Council recognises that some communities continue to face barriers to learning to swim and accessing swimming opportunities. Through our leisure contract, we provide around [37 hours of free swimming each week](#) for Oxford residents aged 16 and under, alongside school swimming programmes, water safety assemblies for schools, and free taster swimming lessons during Big Splash Weekends, most recently on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> June.

We have also supported a range of targeted initiatives aimed at widening participation, including swimming lessons for refugee families through the [in-kind Leisure Community Fund](#), weekly female-only swimming sessions at our leisure centres, support for Oxford Pride summer swimming sessions at Hinksey Pool, and water-confidence courses delivered in partnership with a local community group at Leys Pools and Leisure Centre, aimed at women from ethnic minority backgrounds.

We recognise there is more to do, both as a local authority and across the wider system and are currently exploring options for additional targeted swimming lessons for children and young people who are least likely to be able to swim safely, alongside further opportunities to improve access to swimming across the city. We're also working with the River Learning Trust and Radley College to explore further initiatives.

**ML2: From Cllr Mundy to Cllr Lygo****Question**

Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre has been closing the shallow/learner pool during opening hours. Can the portfolio holder explain whether this has been happening due to not having enough lifeguards on duty to cover all pools at the Centre during opening hours?

**Written Response**

The learner and splash pools are not open throughout all opening hours, as the pool timetable varies during the day to accommodate different activities, including public swimming, lessons and school use. The Council has not been advised of any unplanned closure of these pools.

**ML3: From Cllr Powell to Cllr Lygo****Question**

Can the portfolio holder please confirm whether he has been in contact with More Leisure regarding the EHRC Code of Practice and what intentions, if any, they have communicated to him in regard to this?

**Written Response**

Officers have been kept informed of communications regarding the implications of the Supreme Court judgment and subsequent EHRC guidance. We've received an interim position statement confirming that the operator was actively reviewing its policies, awaiting final EHRC guidance and sector advice before making any policy changes. The operator advised that, pending publication of the final Code of Practice, existing arrangements would remain in place, staff should continue to treat all customers with dignity and respect, and the organisation's aim would remain to provide an inclusive environment while ensuring compliance with legal requirements. The Council will continue to engage with More Leisure through normal contract management arrangements to understand any changes required following the final EHRC Code of Practice.

**ML4: From Cllr Powell to Cllr Lygo****Question**

Will the portfolio holder undertake to encourage More Leisure to engage proactively with the Council regarding service delivery in their moves to implement the EHRC code of practice?

**Written Response**

The Council would expect More Leisure to engage proactively with officers regarding any changes to service delivery arising from the EHRC Code of Practice, and this would be managed through the Council's established contract management and partnership arrangements. As noted in the previous response, More Leisure has already kept the Council informed of its interim position and has indicated that it is reviewing its policies in light of the evolving legal and regulatory framework. The Council will continue to engage constructively with the operator to understand any implications for service delivery and to ensure services are delivered in accordance with legal requirements and contractual obligations.

**ML5: From Cllr Robinson to Cllr Lygo****Question**

As the new member for health inequalities, can you let the residents of Marston know how you plan to help make improvements to the inadequate health services in their ward: there is no GP, optician, dentist or community health centre and the one pharmacy that is left has been poorly managed for many years?

**Written Response**

Challenges of limited GP provision across the city have been raised at a strategic level through several channels including with the Oxford Growth Commission. The council's ability to make improvements directly are fairly limited as this is reliant on Integrated Care Board (ICB) funding. I have asked officers to raise the issues faced by Marston residents at their meetings with the ICB covering our area.

These issues are not unique to Oxford or Oxfordshire. They are the sorts of issues that would be good to be raising at a Foundation Strategic Authority level.

## Cabinet Member for Regulation of the Private Rented Sector and Preventing Homelessness

### MR1: From Cllr Miles to Cllr Rowley

#### Question

Are there any costs associated with triggering the SWEP protocol and if so, what does it cost each time it is triggered for extreme heat or cold temperatures, and how is it currently funded?

#### Written Response

There are costs associated with triggering Severe Weather Emergency Provision (SWEP) in both cold and hot weather. When SWEP is triggered due to cold weather, the Council has arrangements in place with venues and providers in three locations in the city to provide overnight accommodation. This incurs both venue rental and staff costs. In some instances, we will also make discretionary hotel/B&B placements where the circumstances require it. During a red heat alert, the Council will offer discretionary placements into hotels/B&Bs where there is a risk to health/life. This will also incur costs for the bookings. The Council funds SWEP through its Preventing Homelessness Budget. The cost for triggering SWEP will be different each time, depending on how many persons are estimated to be needing access to the provision. Other costs, such as bedding, camp beds, transport to venues, sunscreen, and hats for example, will also be funded through this budget as needed. During winter 2025/26, SWEP opened a total of 28 nights, with 394 attendances, with the total cost to the City Council £48,612.00. The average cost to the Council for SWEP per night was £1,736, with an average of 14 people attending SWEP per night. During the recent red heat alert, 15 bedspaces were offered across 4 nights, of which 9 were utilised to a total cost of £1,038. No other cost where incurred, as arranged by organisations through a range of means including donations.

**MR2: From Cllr Mundy to Cllr Rowley**
**Question**

Recent hot weather has triggered the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol. But this is currently limited to 10 people during day times only. Homeless people are still at risk after the hottest part of the day, especially if they are sleeping in a location that easily overheats like a car. Does the portfolio holder agree that it is time to extend the SWEP support available during heatwaves?

**Written Response**

During amber and red heat alerts, O'Hanlon House in Oxford will open up for 10 additional people to access the building during the day. Other venues and homelessness support providers, such as The Porch, also provide shelter from the heat and sun as well. Outside of our commissioned services there are a number of cool spaces available for people to attend in the city, and details of these are published on the Council's website [www.oxford.gov.uk/severeweather-](http://www.oxford.gov.uk/severeweather-) The St Mungo's outreach team will provide advice to all individuals experiencing rough sleeping on how to protect themselves during periods of intense heat, and the importance of hydration. In red alerts, we work with our outreach team to ensure that those most at risk can be offered accommodation so that they have shelter from the heat and sun. We review operations of SWEP regularly, and together with partners, will seek to amend processes where needed to ensure there are offers of support in place. This will include looking at further provisions of shelter during the daytime and during heat alerts, if the current provision is exhausted. We do not believe that anyone should be sleeping rough, at any time of the year, and we are working closely with commissioned providers to ensure that those who are experiencing rough sleeping can access long-term accommodation and support.

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|  | <p>In relation to the 10-day time spaces at O'Hanlon House, these are available every day when there is an amber or red heat alert. We are not asking staff to track attendance at present, as we do not want to add additional work for their staff. We have very good working relationships with O'Hanlon House, and they would alert us if there started to be concerns that the provision would be oversubscribed. Similarly, the team here is in regular contact with outreach, The Gatehouse and The Porch, to ensure that we are aware of what is happening on the ground and reviewing arrangement if needed. As mentioned in the answer, there are also a number of cool spaces across the city where people can access shelter from the heat. In relation to the overnight bedspaces that are in operation during red alerts, the team will work with outreach to ensure that those at risk are offered a space. Not everyone has this far taken up this offer, but the outreach team will continue to engage with individuals on a daily basis to make sure they are aware that the offer of a bedspace is open to them should they change their mind or their circumstances change.</p> |
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LS1: From Cllr Fouweather to Cllr Smith

Question

As a landlord, the Council has a duty to its tenants to ensure that safety inspections including damp and mould, gas and electrical installations, fire and CO2 alarms are carried out on a regular basis. Can the Cabinet member provide data for Council owned properties showing the number of safety inspections carried out annually over the past 5 years both in total and as a percentage of the total housing stock? Can she also provide the number of properties which have had to be visited more than once because of difficulties in gaining access?

Written Response

As a landlord, the Council monitors compliance through a range of building safety management information measures. Performance data shows that the Council has consistently maintained high levels of compliance over the last five years.

Gas, water and lift safety inspections achieved 100% compliance over the last five years. Fire safety compliance remained consistently high, improving from 99.0% in 2021-22 to 100% in 2022-23 and 2023-24, before a slight reduction to 98.6% in 2024-25 and returning to 100% in 2025-26. Asbestos compliance was maintained at 100% between 2021-22 and 2023-24, fell temporarily to 70.1% in 2024/25 and increased to 100% in 2025-26. Electrical safety compliance was 97.30% in March 24-25 and increased to 98.8% in 2025-26. Fire alarm and carbon monoxide (CO) alarm compliance were both maintained at 100% in 2024-25 and 2025-26.

In preparation for the introduction of Awaab's Law, which came into force on 27 October 2025, the Council has enhanced its monitoring of damp and mould cases. As at the end of March 2026, 100% of emergency damp and mould hazards investigated and safety works completed within 24 hours, 73.3% of significant damp and mould cases were investigated within

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|  | <p>10 working days and 88.9% had any relevant safety work undertaken within 5 working days at the end of the investigation.</p> <p>These results demonstrate the Council's continued commitment to meeting its landlord safety obligations and maintaining safe homes for tenants. Where access difficulties arise, officers make repeated attempts to contact residents and arrange appointments. Where necessary, the Council follows formal escalation and legal processes to secure access and ensure mandatory safety inspections are completed.</p> |
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| <b>LS2: From Cllr Yeatman to Cllr Smith</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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| <p><b>Question</b></p> <p>With nearly 4,000 households still on the housing waiting list and many overcrowded families facing acute cost-of-living pressures, can the Cabinet Member advise what specific proportion of the Council's current approved and proposed affordable housing pipeline consists of larger three and four-bedroom family homes, rather than one and two-bedroom flats?</p> | <p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>In the current (committed) affordable housing supply programme – expected to deliver over 1,500 affordable homes to rent – 27% of the programme are 3, 4 and 5 bed homes, and 69% are 1 and 2 bedrooms (41% of which are one beds).</p> <p>The programme has deliberately increased the proportion of one beds in newly added schemes to address high housing need for one beds. Over 50% of households in temporary accommodation have a one bed need, and just over 50% of applicants in Bands 1 -3 on the housing register also need 1 or 2 bed homes. The 'match' between demand and supply is regularly monitored.</p> <p>The mix is in broad accordance with the Local Plan 2036 (Policy H4) which is based on broad housing needs data and supports 50 to 70% of new build homes as 1 &amp; 2 bed, to best meet needs.</p> |

**LS3: From Cllr Jarvis to Cllr Smith**
**Question**

Can the portfolio holder set out the usage levels of the East Oxford Community Centre and how this compares to levels prior to its closure for redevelopment?

**Written Response**

The Council undertook a soft launch of East Oxford Community Centre on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025. A soft launch enables the return of a reduced number of community users, that enables effective engagement with communities and tenants, tests new systems within the building and helps enable effective training for staff members.

This helps mitigate the risk of smaller things going wrong but with a larger impact and helps ensure that any defects can be managed appropriately. It also supports tenants in effectively and carefully being inducted back into the building in a phased and managed way.

The community opening of the building was on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026 and we still have a couple of tenants who are in the process of moving back. Given these considerations we wouldn't be in a position to compare like for like at this stage. Typically, any new facility would have 9 months to a year to satisfactorily compare to previous usage numbers to ensure comparing like for like. The current usage figures are increasing month on month with June 2026 figures showing 2,525 users in the month.

**LS4: From Cllr Thorniley to Cllr Smith****Question**

Can the portfolio holder set out what policies are in place to ensure that where council funds (i.e. HRA) are used to build new homes that the new homes are to the greatest extent possible affordable houses, of which to the greatest extent possible council houses?

**Written Response**

In policy terms, the ambition to maximise the number of affordable homes and in particular the cheapest rented tenure of Social Rent, is driven from the Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2028; the Tenancy Strategy & Tenancy Policy (adopted Jan 2026); and the Local Plan 2036.

Behind this, the programme is managed to ensure schemes include the most affordable homes but are also viable to deliver. This work feeds into both the HRA and OX Place Business Plans and the Budget/ MTFP.

At scheme level, reports on each direct delivery scheme in the programme come to Cabinet for approval, with the proposed tenure mix and rationale clearly set out. Building more Affordable Housing is a priority for this administration and within that our priority remains providing more homes for social rent.

**LS5: From Cllr Thorniley to Cllr Smith****Question**

Can the portfolio holder explain what the actual number of affordable houses delivered or still in development directly by the council (where the council website [says](#) this should be 847 according to the current programme) is?

**Written Response**

We report on affordable housing completions annually, for example, last year there were 173 affordable home completions (89 by the Council and OX Place for the HRA, and 84 by housing associations).

This year (2026/27) we are forecasting 553 affordable home completions (over half into the HRA), which would be the most completions in any single year for a generation.

|  |                                                                                                                       |
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|  | There are currently over 900 affordable homes in delivery and on-site, with considerably more in the future pipeline. |
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| <b>LS6: From Cllr Thorniley to Cllr Smith</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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| <p><b>Question</b></p> <p>Can the portfolio holder set out what policies the council has in place to ensure council-funded (either through the HRA or through the subsidiary companies) new build affordable housing are zero carbon and car free?</p> | <p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>The direct delivery programme by the Council and OX Place build quality sustainable homes that usually exceed Planning and Building Reg requirements. Many schemes are delivered as car free and low car (often with car club and disabled/visitor spaces) but, the housing company needs to balance viability and costs with the demand for car parking spaces.</p> <p>The City Council has ambitious but pragmatic car free and car light policies though its Local Plan, with further refinements in the draft Local Plan. These criteria apply to all residential development across the city. While car free will be suitable in some areas of the city, there is a need to improve public and active travel across the city to enable us to go further, faster. Recent coverage of the outcry over the new County Council parking standards, which apply car free to many development sites outside of the city where access is less good, shows that without a degree of pragmatism car free policies run the risk of stalling development of family homes without much better access to alternative means of transport. I know my colleague Cllr Railton has written to the County Council to set out our concerns relating to the County's new parking standards and the likely negative impact on the delivery of housing on the edge of the city, specially released to meet the city's unmet need.</p> |

**LS7: From Cllr Stares to Cllr Smith****Question**

Can the council confirm the total cost of Statutory Home Loss Payments made to former residents of both Windale and Northbrook House?

**Written Response**

The statutory Home Loss payment is currently £8,100. As at 03/07/26, Home Loss payments had been made to 38 former tenants of Windale and Northbrook House, totalling £307,800.

**LS8: From Cllr Stares to Cllr Smith****Question**

Could the Council confirm the total spend on the refurbishment of both Windale and Northbrook House?

**Written Response**

There has been no spend to date on refurbishment of Windale and Northbrook House

**LS9: From Cllr Powell to Cllr Smith****Question**

The Government is proposing to utilise a military site in Oxfordshire to house people seeking asylum. The CEO of Oxford based charity Asylum Welcome has denounced these proposals as 'astounding'. Given that Oxford is a city of sanctuary, will the portfolio holder take this opportunity to condemn these proposals and the broader government endorsement of populist narratives about asylum accommodation that they represent?

**Written Response**

Oxford is a welcoming place, and we are a proud Council of Sanctuary and continue to advocate for a fair and equitable asylum system where decisions are made in a timely way to ensure people are able to move on and make progress in their lives. I am supportive of closing hotels used as asylum accommodation as they are not suitable. I note the recently publicised plans by the government to open a site in Oxfordshire for people seeking asylum which is in the feasibility stage.

**To:** Council

**Date:** 13 July 2026

**Report of:** Director of Law, Governance and Strategy

**Title of Report:** Public addresses that do not relate to matters for decision – as submitted by the speakers and with written responses from Cabinet Members

## Introduction

1. Addresses made by members of the public to the Council put to the Cabinet members or Leader, registered by the deadline in the Constitution, are below.
2. The text reproduces that sent in the speakers and represents the views of the speakers. This is not to be taken as statements by or on behalf of the Council
3. This report will be republished after the Council meeting as part of the minutes pack. This will list the full text of speeches delivered as submitted, summaries of speeches delivered which differ significantly from those submitted, and any further responses.

Addresses to be taken in Part 2 of the agenda

1. Nick Eyre
2. Dom Birch
3. Chaka Artwell

## Addresses to be taken in Part 2 of the agenda

### 1. Nick Eyre

Thank you, Lord Mayor

I'm not going to talk in general terms about the importance of climate change. I know that commitment to climate action is widely shared across the Council. Many of you have recently defeated opposition from climate deniers. And, from working with your officers on climate issues over the last few years, I know they are very committed and effective.

What I do want to talk about is the Council's specific goal to making the city net zero by 2040. This arose from the Citizens' Assembly on climate in 2019, where it was very clear that Oxford's citizens believe we should be a leader on climate action.

But net zero by 2040 is a tough goal. It's worth spelling out why.

'Net zero' means, by definition, matching emissions of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere with removals from the atmosphere.

In urban areas, the opportunities for removals within the city are quite limited. Tree planting can and should contribute, but given the city's boundaries and pressures on land use, its contribution can only be small. And it's increasingly clear that the prospects for engineered removals are negligible.

Offsetting is possible – essentially by paying other places to reduce their emissions instead of doing it here. But offsetting our direct emissions is not compatible with good practice guidance on net zero.

So the science clearly points to a conclusion that, to meet the city's net zero commitment, we have to eliminate most fossil fuel use in the city by 2040.

Fortunately, that is possible. And largely good economics, because of the declining costs of solar power, electric vehicles and heat pumps.

Many measures can contribute and are in the existing 2040 Net Zero Action Plan ....solar roofs, more insulation, public transport, better provision for cycling and walking, local food etc.

And these can all help. But when we are planning to eliminate most fossil fuel use, two measures stand out as essential.

First, replacing gas boilers, and

Second, replacing combustion engine vehicles.

If we don't do both of these, we will fail to meet the net zero goal.

In both cases, the change is beginning to happen. But it needs to go faster. And it will take time to complete. Both boilers and vehicles have lifetimes of about 15 years. We are now less than 15 years from 2040! So, we should already be avoiding installing gas boilers and buying new petrol and diesel vehicles. Delivery of the 2040 target implies speeding up action on these quickly.

Fortunately, there is a context in which this can be done – the Local Area Energy Plan. (Not to be confused with the Local Plan). Work has started on it, with input from your officers, who will update you on progress in due course.

My advice to you is to ask two questions of the plan

First, is it clear what incentives and regulations are going to be used to drive the phase out both petrol- and diesel-fuelled vehicles and gas boilers?

Second, is there a plan for changing our city's energy infrastructure: for including building district heating networks, upgrading electricity networks and decommissioning gas networks?

Of course, developing a detailed geographical plan is complex and may not be possible quickly. But the Local Plan Energy Plan at minimum needs to set out key priorities and begin a process to deliver that detail.

This clearly will raise questions for Cabinet and Scrutiny. But the changes needed will affect every neighbourhood, and almost every household. So, it's also an issue for you all as ward councillors as well.

That, I think is my 5 minutes. But I am happy to follow up with any of you in political groups or other forums.

Lord Mayor, thank you.

## **2. Dom Birch**

As a non-binary resident of Oxford, I am speaking on the impact of the EHRC code of practice on Oxford's substantial trans community. The code of practice empowers the exclusion of trans people from services and spaces, and will make the lives of trans people worse.

For a non-binary person like me, this means that I will have no legal access to government defined 'single sex' spaces or services. Or, to do so, I am now required by law to identify as my birth sex for accessing a service. Given the extensive changes to my body due to the impact of hormone replacement therapy this essentially places me with the choice: acting unlawfully to access a female only space or service, or face discrimination or open hostility by accessing a male only space where my gender presentation and identity make me a visible outlier. I have, since the introduction of the EHRC draft guidance, already been challenged in bathrooms and changing rooms no less than six times—moments that often start with confusion and leave me challenged and harassed when moving through Oxford or simply trying to do my job. One at least one occasion I was left fearing for my safety after particularly aggressive questioning in a nightclub (men's) bathroom. Not only does the code undermine my dignity of living out my gender, it also puts me (and people like me) in danger.

I say this to highlight that the impact of the code is not trivial, and it is particularly serious in Oxford. A city with a substantial trans community that is being threatened by our own government. Insidiously and subtly, yes, but threatened nonetheless.

As an educator who works in inclusion and access, and volunteers with marginalised youth, I add that this harm will not simply be felt by Oxford's adults—but also by young people who are already struggling to interpret a world that chooses to reject them. Forcing them, as they come to terms with their gender identity, to also make the difficult choice between dignity and lawfulness, and between self-betrayal and safety.

## **3. Chaka Artwell**

Stonewall, the leading publicly funded lobby for the LGBTQIAP2S+ men and women, has been mute, and has not condemn the behaviour of the same-sex adoptive parents; who have been convicted of baby Preston's death.

Given that Oxford City Council has reported to have paid to attend Stonewall's training, and sending Oxford City Council employees to Stonewall's expensive training courses, will Oxford City Council disengage from financially supporting, and attending any training organised by Stonewall?

**To:** Council

**Date:** 13 July 2025

**Report of:** Chair of the Scrutiny Committee 2025/26

**Title of Report:** Annual Scrutiny Report 2025/26

| Summary and recommendations |                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Purpose of report:</b>   | To provide Council with a summary of Scrutiny activity during the 2025/2026 municipal year |
| <b>Key decision:</b>        | No                                                                                         |
| <b>Lead Member:</b>         | Councillor Alex Powell, Chair of the Scrutiny Committee 2025/26                            |
| <b>Corporate Priority:</b>  | All                                                                                        |
| <b>Policy Framework:</b>    | Council Strategy 2024-28                                                                   |

| Recommendation(s): That Council resolves to: |                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.                                           | <b>Note</b> the work of the Scrutiny Committee, it's Working Groups, Budget Review Group and the recommendations over the 2025/26 municipal year, as set out in the report. |

| Information Exempt from Publication |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| N/A                                 | N/A |

| Appendix No. | Appendix Title                                | Exempt from Publication |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Appendix 1   | Breakdown of Scrutiny recommendations 2025/26 | No                      |

## Foreword by the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee



It has been an honour and a pleasure to chair the Scrutiny Committee across the 25/26 municipal year. This was a big year for Oxford City Council as we faced discussions both around the agreement of the new Local Plan 2042 and the preparation for Local Government Reorganisation, all of which has been happening in the context of a Minority Administration which makes the undertaking of effective scrutiny particularly important.

In my view, 2025/2026 was a highly effective year for the committee. During the course of the year, as reflected at Appendix 1, we made 84 recommendations, 51 of which were agreed with a further 16 agreed in part. As this suggests, we were able to have a concrete impact on the direction of the council. We also saw a reduction in the use of Urgent Key Decisions, which is welcome in addressing the concerns of many members of council. This includes a real impact in Leisure, Housing, and support equality and diversity.

This year, amongst the scrutiny recommendations accepted, we saw:

- Greater ambition in regard to the cycle parking standards included within Local Plan 2042
- Inclusion of support for community-led energy generation schemes within Local Plan 2042
- Ensuring that the Council's Domestic Abuse Policy for Service Users explicitly references the fear of deportation can impact the likelihood of domestic violence disclosure
- Increased publicity for the locations of public toilets across the city both online and through the use of physical signage
- Changes to council operating procedures, such as officer training, to ensure that more disabled people are included within consultation processes.
- That every document which is to be sent to consultation undergoes and inclusivity check by an officer, resident panel or elected member to ensure readability and understandability
- That when seeking to understand the Nighttime Economy, Council should adopt a broad approach that includes bookshops, museums, the covered market and other non-alcohol focused activities.
- That the City Council should engage with employers and unions within the Nighttime Economy to consider how best to support late night workers to have safe and accessible routes to travel home.
- To undertake an audit of how signage is used in areas where we currently see high levels of fly-tipping and to consider whether further signage may help to address the issue.
- That future Anti-social Behaviour Reports include anonymised details of the protective characteristics of both those making complaints of anti-social

behaviour and those who are the subject of complaints about anti-social behaviour

The above reflects the fact that we have been able to act as a critical friend to cabinet and, as is proper within the context of a minority administration, ensure that members of all political affiliation have been able to input into the policy and orientation of the council.

It was a particular pleasure to take forward scrutiny commissioned items, such as noticeboard management in the City and the Nighttime economy within Oxford City. Such items offer a real and clear opportunity for councillors from outside of the administration to input concretely into City policy.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank both the officers and members of cabinet who have given their time to support the work of the committee. Particular thanks are due to Celeste Reyeslao as Scrutiny and Governance Advisor who has provided incredible support to both the committee and me personally in chairing the committee. Her dedication, attention to detail, and guidance are a huge asset to the council. Thanks are also due to Jonathan Malton who has stepped in to support the committee, particularly in relation to special meeting convened to consider LGR and the consideration of the Local Plan 2045.

Many other officers also gave their time to come to committee and answer what were, at times, very large numbers of questions from members. Although, I cannot name everyone here I hope they will accept my thanks and are aware of the value that members of the committee put on them giving up their time, especially in the evening, to come and discuss their work with us.

I am delighted to have been re-elected as Scrutiny Committee chair for 26/27—which I am advised makes me the first two term scrutiny chair in at least 5 years—and am looking forward to carrying on the effective work that we have undertaken over the last year.

**Councillor Alex Powell**  
**Chair of the Scrutiny Committee 2025-26, Oxford City Council**

## Introduction

1. This report provides a summary of activities undertaken by Council's Scrutiny function during the 2025/26 municipal year. It reflects on the work carried out by the Committee and its Working Groups and offers a forward look at its priorities for the coming year.

## Overview of structure and function

2. Scrutiny at Oxford City Council operates through the overarching Scrutiny Committee, supplemented by three standing Working Groups: Finance and Performance, Housing and Homelessness, and Climate and Environment. Each working group was given the responsibility to undertake detailed review of decisions and issues relevant to their remit, with the Finance and Performance Working Group also taking on the review of the performance of the Council's companies.
3. The Scrutiny Committee was comprised of 12 cross-party, non-executive Members, reflecting the political composition of the Council. It was chaired by Councillor Alex Powell.
4. The Working Groups were structured to include one seat from each political group, although not all political groups chose to take up their seat.
5. The 2025/26 Scrutiny and Working Group memberships were as follows:

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Scrutiny Committee</b><br>Cllr Alex Powell (Chair)<br>Cllr Mike Rowley (Vice-Chair)<br>Cllr Mohammed Altaf-Khan<br>Cllr Mohammed Azad<br>Cllr Tiago Corais<br>Cllr Chris Jarvis<br>Cllr Dr Amar Latif<br>Cllr Katherine Miles<br>Cllr Edward Mundy - <i>until January 2026</i><br>Cllr Simon Ottino<br>Cllr Asima Qayyum<br>Cllr Anne Stares<br>Cllr James Taylor - <i>from January 2026</i> | <b>Finance and Performance Working Group</b><br>Cllr James Fry (Chair)<br>Cllr Chris Jarvis<br>Cllr Dr Christopher Smowton<br>Cllr Ian Yeatman                                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Housing and Homelessness Working Group</b><br>Cllr Theodore Jupp (Chair)<br>Cllr Lizzie Diggins<br>Cllr Edward Mundy - <i>until January 2026</i><br>Cllr Rosie Rawle<br>Cllr Anne Stares |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Climate and Environment Working Group</b><br>Cllr Katherine Miles (Chair)<br>Cllr Judith Harley<br>Cllr Jemima Hunt<br>Cllr Kate Robinson                                                |

6. In January 2026, Scrutiny's membership was revised following changes to the Council's political composition and proportionality. Councillor Edward Mundy

stepped down from the Committee and the Housing and Homelessness Working Group. Councillor James Taylor was then appointed as a Scrutiny Committee member from January 2026 to the end of the council year to maintain proportional balance.

7. The Committee's work balanced between consideration of Cabinet reports and commissioned items, with the aim to contribute ideas and evidence to policy development, holding decision-makers to account, and support the continual improvement of Council services.

### Summary of activities

8. During 2025/26, the Scrutiny Committee held 12 meetings (11 ordinary meetings and 1 special meeting). The Working Groups collectively held 15 meetings (5 meetings of the Finance and Performance Working Group, 5 meetings of the Housing and Homelessness Working Group, and 5 meetings of the Climate and Environment Working Group).
9. The Committee and its Working Groups collectively made a total of **84 recommendations** to Cabinet. Of which, 51 were agreed, 16 agreed in-part, and 7 were not agreed. Cabinet did not indicate its position on 10 recommendations, providing only written commentaries.
10. Whilst not all recommendations were agreed, the Committee believe they formed a constructive part of the policy and decision-making process, and provided opportunities for the function to influence Council decisions in a meaningful way. A breakdown of Scrutiny recommendations and whether they were agreed, agreed in part, or not agreed is supplied as Appendix 1.
11. Scrutiny covered a broad range of issues this year, reflecting both its statutory responsibilities and wider areas:
  - **The Scrutiny Committee** had constructive engagements with More Leisure as it monitored the Council's leisure programme and service plan for the year. It commissioned a review of Oxford's current tourism offer understanding the role of the Advance Business Improvement District (ABID), and created discussions on how the city's nighttime economy could be improved and be more inclusive. Following the withdrawal of the Oxford Local Plan 2040 in the previous year, Scrutiny tracked and examined the development of the 2045 Plan through to the draft submission stage. It scrutinised the Oxpens River Bridge project raising important questions around financial and legal risks. Scrutiny also considered matters relating to equality and inclusivity within the Council's workforce, Council's engagement with citizens and communities, and the work surrounding anti-social behaviour and safeguarding within the city, alongside many of its other work this year.
  - **The Housing and Homelessness Working Group** focused largely on ensuring the Council's housing services remain aligned with evolving standards arising from significant changes in government policies and regulatory requirements. It reviewed the Council's efforts to reduce homelessness and rough sleeping, reviewing the use of temporary accommodation and measures to meet rising demand, including the

introduction of a new face-to-face contact centre, and challenged the performance against length-of-stay standards. The Working Group also considered the Selective Licensing Scheme in its third year, monitored the Council's performance as a landlord and looked into the condition and management of the HRA stock.

- **The Climate and Environment Working Group** was consistent in monitoring the Council's net zero aims and climate resilience objectives, including the review of the Air Quality action plan, progress of carbon reduction measures particularly the District Heat Network project, and the development of infrastructure to support the transition to electric vehicles and wider sustainable energy initiatives.
  - **The Finance and Performance Working Group** provided ongoing oversight of the Council's financial position and strategic planning, including a review of the Council's commercial properties. It also reviewed the performance of the Council's wholly-owned companies Oxford City Housing Limited, Oxford Direct Services Limited and Oxford Direct Services Trading Limited. The Working Group also reviewed OxWED's Delivery Strategy for Oxpens, a joint venture with between the Council and Nuffield College.
12. In November 2025, Scrutiny Committee convened for a special meeting to consider the Council's Three Unitary Authorities (3UA) proposal for the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), alongside the single unitary and 2 unitary proposals for Oxfordshire, ultimately recommending the 3UA as the most balanced, and community-focused approach for Oxford.
13. No executive or delegated key decisions were called in by Scrutiny during this year.
14. The **Budget Review Group** was re-established to conduct the annual examination of the Council's budget proposals for 2026/27. The Group met 5 times between December and January, reviewing a range of evidence from the Corporate Leadership Team and Cabinet Members. The work of the Budget Review Group concluded with the submission of a report containing 10 recommendations to Cabinet. The report was formally presented to Council on 23 February 2026.
15. Further to this, Scrutiny Committee and the Finance and Performance Working Group made a combined 6 recommendations to the Shareholder and Joint Venture Group in relation to various businesses of the Council's Companies.

## Reflections and looking ahead

16. Scrutiny's work this year reflected a balanced approach to bettering council services for residents whilst remaining mindful of the challenges and opportunities presented by LGR, and the future authority which will be responsible for delivering services in Oxford. Its reviews brought light to issues that directly affect the local public such as those relating to fly-tipping, waste collection, the management of streets and watercourses, as well as the city's leisure, tourism and nighttime economy offer. Across its programme, Scrutiny provided a constructive space for challenge and debate helping to identify

opportunities for improvement and contribute to the Council's ambition to make Oxford a better place to live, work and visit.

17. In the year ahead, Scrutiny will aim to have stronger focus on issues of direct relevance to residents whilst keeping an outlook on the challenges, opportunities, and risks arising from LGR. It will continue to monitor the delivery of the Council's key priorities particularly in relation to housing and homelessness, environmental sustainability, and the setting of the annual budget and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) amidst a period of significant change to the local authority.

## Acknowledgements

18. The Scrutiny Committee and its Working Groups extend its thanks to all Cabinet Members, Council officers, external witnesses, and members of the public who contributed to scrutiny work this year, and look forward to continued, meaningful collaboration in 2026/27.

|                            |                                                                      |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Report author</b>       | Celeste Reyeslao                                                     |
| Job title                  | Scrutiny and Governance Advisor                                      |
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## APPENDIX 1

### Scrutiny recommendations to Cabinet

| Meeting Date     | Committee / Working Group | Report                                                                   | Number of Recommendations made | Agreed | Agreed In-Part | Not Agreed |
|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------|----------------|------------|
| 10 June 2025     | Scrutiny Committee        | Leisure Investment Programme Update and More Leisure Service Annual Plan | 2                              | 1      | 1              | 0          |
|                  |                           | Oxford Local Plan 2042 Regulation 14 Consultation Document               | 2                              | 1      | 1              | 0          |
|                  |                           | Annual Complaint Performance & Service Improvement Report                | 1                              | 1      | 0              | 0          |
| 24 June 2025     | Housing and Homelessness  | National Homelessness Property Fund 1                                    | 0                              | 0      | 0              | 0          |
|                  |                           | Annual Housing, Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-28           | 2                              | 2      | 0              | 0          |
| 1 July 2025      | Scrutiny Committee        | Domestic Abuse Policy for Service Users                                  | 1                              | 0      | 1              | 0          |
|                  |                           | Tourism and ABID                                                         | 2                              | 2      | 0              | 0          |
|                  |                           | Citizen Experience Strategy                                              | 3                              | 2      | 0              | 1          |
| 22 July 2025     | Climate and Environment   | Net Zero Masterplan Update                                               | 0                              | 0      | 0              | 0          |
|                  |                           | Local Plan 2042 Climate Change and Resilience                            | 4                              | 2      | 2              | 0          |
|                  |                           | Annual Air Quality Status Report                                         | 1                              | 0      | 1              | 0          |
| 5 August 2025    | Scrutiny Committee        | Oxpens River Bridge Update                                               | 1                              | 1      | 0              | 0          |
| 2 September 2025 | Housing and Homelessness  | Re-procurement of Housing First Support Service                          | 0                              | 0      | 0              | 0          |
|                  |                           | Temporary Accommodation Placement Policy                                 | 1                              | 1      | 0              | 0          |
|                  |                           | Housing Service Q1 Performance for 2025/26                               | 0                              | 0      | 0              | 0          |
|                  |                           | Social Housing Allocations and Lettings Report                           | 0                              | 0      | 0              | 0          |

|                   |                              |                                                                                                  |   |   |   |   |
|-------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| 4 September 2025  | Climate And Environment      | Heat Network Update                                                                              | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
|                   |                              | Local EV Infrastructure *                                                                        | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|                   |                              | Local Area Energy Planning                                                                       | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 September 2025  | Scrutiny Committee           | Citizen and Community Engagement Policy 2025                                                     | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| 11 September 2025 | Finance and Performance      | Optimism Bias on sizeable commercial properties in the City Centre                               | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|                   |                              | Quarterly Performance Integrated Report - Q4 2024/25                                             | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|                   |                              | Quarterly Performance Integrated Report - Q1 2025/26                                             | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 October 2025   | Scrutiny Committee           | Project Approval and Delegations for Westlands Drive and Halliday Hill affordable housing scheme | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|                   |                              | Anti-Social Behaviour Policy                                                                     | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
|                   |                              | Annual Safeguarding Report                                                                       | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 29 October 2025   | Finance and Performance      | Online Payments System Update                                                                    | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 November 2025   | Scrutiny Committee - Special | Local Government Reorganisation                                                                  | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 November 2025  | Scrutiny Committee           | Hackney Carriage Emissions Standards Report                                                      | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 13 November 2025  | Housing and Homelessness     | Building Safety & Compliance (Q1 and Q2)                                                         | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|                   |                              | Housing Complaint Handling Performance (Q1 and Q2)                                               | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|                   |                              | Resident Involvement Strategy 2025-28                                                            | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|                   |                              | Housing Carbon Reduction                                                                         | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 17 November 2025  | Climate and Environment      | Net Zero Tracker                                                                                 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|                   |                              | Air Quality Action Plan                                                                          | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|                   |                              | Biodiversity Strategy and Environment Act Update                                                 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 26 November 2025  | Finance and Performance      | Treasury Annual Report                                                                           | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

|                  |                          |                                                                                          |    |   |   |   |
|------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|---|---|---|
| 2 December 2025  | Scrutiny Committee       | Authority Monitoring Report and Infrastructure Funding Statement                         | 3  | 3 | 0 | 0 |
|                  |                          | Devolution - Expression of Interest                                                      | 0  | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 13 January 2026  | Scrutiny Committee       | Workforce Report 2025                                                                    | 3  | 2 | 1 | 0 |
|                  | Scrutiny Committee       | Local Plan 2042 *                                                                        | 4  | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 February 2026  | Scrutiny Committee       | Debt Recovery Procedure                                                                  | 2  | 1 | 1 | 0 |
|                  |                          | Noticeboards Update                                                                      | 1  | 0 | 1 | 0 |
|                  |                          | AI Strategy                                                                              | 0  | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 February 2026  | Budget Review Group      | Budget Review Group 26/27 Recommendations                                                | 10 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| 25 February 2026 | Climate and Environment  | EV Infrastructure Update                                                                 | 0  | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|                  |                          | Heat Network Update                                                                      | 1  | 1 | 0 | 0 |
|                  |                          | Net Zero Tracker                                                                         | 0  | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 26 February 2026 | Housing And Homelessness | Allocations Scheme Review                                                                | 0  | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|                  |                          | Measures to meet growing demand for Temporary Accommodation                              | 0  | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 March 2026    | Scrutiny Committee       | More Leisure Annual Service Plan (Year 3) and Year 2 Update                              | 2  | 2 | 0 | 0 |
|                  |                          | Nighttime Economy                                                                        | 6  | 6 | 0 | 0 |
|                  |                          | Fly-tipping and Litter Management                                                        | 5  | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| 25 March 2026    | Finance and Performance  | Integrated Performance Report Q3 2025/26 *                                               | 3  | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 31 March 2026    | Housing and Homelessness | Housing Performance KPI's                                                                | 1  | 1 | 0 | 0 |
|                  |                          | Selective Licensing Year 3 Update                                                        | 0  | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 April 2026     | Climate and Environment  | Local Area Energy Planning Update *                                                      | 1  | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|                  |                          | Social Housing EPCC Update                                                               | 1  | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 7 April 2026     | Scrutiny Committee       | Watercourses and Ditches Report *                                                        | 3  | 0 | 0 | 1 |
|                  |                          | Review of Ward Member Budget and Community Infrastructure Levy Councillor Applications * | 1  | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|                  |                          | Urgent Key Decisions Annual Report                                                       | 0  | 0 | 0 | 0 |

|               |                         |                                                   |    |    |    |   |
|---------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----|----|----|---|
| 14 April 2026 | Finance and Performance | Impacts of Congestion Charge on Council Car Parks | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0 |
|               |                         |                                                   | 84 | 51 | 16 | 7 |

#### Scrutiny recommendations to the Shareholder and Joint Venture Group

| Meeting Date     | Report                                              | Number of Recommendations Made | Agreed | Agreed In-Part | Not Agreed |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------|----------------|------------|
| 29 October 2025  | OX Place Annual Accounts and Dividends Declarations | 0                              | 0      | 0              | 0          |
|                  | OX Place Options Review                             | 1                              | 1      | 0              | 0          |
| 26 November 2025 | OXWED Delivery options for Oxpens *                 | 1                              | 0      | 0              | 0          |
|                  | ODS Group Performance Report                        | 2                              | 1      | 0              | 1          |
| 25 March 2026    | OX Place Financial Business Plan *                  | 2                              | 0      | 0              | 0          |
|                  | OX Place Development Sites Update                   | 0                              | 0      | 0              | 0          |
| 14 April 2026    | OxWED Delivery Strategy for Oxpens                  | 0                              | 0      | 0              | 0          |
|                  | ODSL Business Plan                                  | 0                              | 0      | 0              | 0          |
|                  | ODSTL Business Plan                                 | 0                              | 0      | 0              | 0          |
|                  | ODS Executive Pay Policy                            | 0                              | 0      | 0              | 0          |
|                  | ODS Remuneration Policy                             | 0                              | 0      | 0              | 0          |
|                  |                                                     | 6                              | 2      | 0              | 1          |

*\*Cabinet/SJVG response did not indicate whether 13 recommendations were agreed, agreed in part, or not agreed.*

**To:** Council  
**Date:** 13 July 2026  
**Report of:** Scrutiny Committee  
**Title of Report:** Update from the Scrutiny Committee – July 2026

| Summary and recommendations  |                                                                                  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Decision being taken:</b> | To update Council on the work of the Scrutiny Committee and it's Working Groups. |
| <b>Key decision:</b>         | No                                                                               |
| <b>Lead Member:</b>          | Councillor Alex Powell, Chair of the Scrutiny Committee                          |
| <b>Corporate Priority:</b>   | A Well-Run Council                                                               |
| <b>Policy Framework:</b>     | None                                                                             |

**Recommendation(s): That Council resolves to:**

1. **Note** the work of the Scrutiny Committee and the recommendations as set out in the report.

**Information Exempt From Publication**

**Appendix 2 to this report is deemed exempt from publication under Schedule 12A paragraph 3 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)) of the Local Government Act 1972.**

| Appendix No.      | Appendix Title                                        | Exempt from Publication |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Appendix 1</b> | Scrutiny recommendations and Cabinet responses        | No                      |
| <b>Appendix 2</b> | Exempt Scrutiny recommendations to SJVG and responses | Yes                     |

## Introduction

1. This report provides an update on the activities of the Scrutiny Committee and its Working Groups since the last update to Council on 24 March 2025. It covers the period from 19 March 2026 to 1 July 2026.

## Working Group Arrangements for 2026/27

2. The Committee met for the first time in 2026/27 municipal year on 9 June 2026 and agreed to establish three Working Groups to focus on key areas of Council activity. Each working group was assigned remits aligned with the Council's strategic priorities. Membership and Chair appointments were confirmed as follows:

|                                                            |                                                                                             |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Finance and Performance Working Group (4 members):</b>  | Cllr Christopher Smowton (Chair), Cllr James Fry, Cllr James Thorniley and Cllr Ian Yeatman |
| <b>Housing and Homelessness Working Group (4 members):</b> | Cllr Rosie Rawle (Chair), Cllr Lizzie Diggins, Cllr Roz Smith, and Cllr Anne States         |
| <b>Climate and Environment Working Group (4 members):</b>  | Cllr Chris Jarvis (Chair), Cllr Louise Upton, Cllr Katherine Miles and Cllr Judith Harley   |

3. The Budget Review Group was reconstituted to be given the task of examining the Council's annual budget proposals for the following year. The findings of all Working and Review Groups will be reported to the Scrutiny Committee accordingly.

## Update of Activities

4. Since the last full Council meeting, the Committee held three meetings, with two of the meetings on 7 April 2026 and 30 June 2026, considering a range of substantive items:

### 7 April 2026

- Watercourses and Ditches
- Review of Ward Member Budget and Community Infrastructure Levy Councillor Applications
- Urgent Key Decisions End of Year Update 2025-2026

### 30 June 2026

- Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy
- Annual Review of the Council of Sanctuary Framework

5. The Committee also endorsed recommendations from the following Working Group meetings:

### Finance and Performance Working Group – 26 March 2026

- Integrated Performance for Q3 2025/26
- OX Place Financial Business Plan, Development Sites update and Period 9 Monitoring report [SJVG]

### Housing and Homelessness Working Group – 31 March 2026

- Housing Performance 2025/26
- Selective Licensing Year 3 update

### **Climate and Environment Working Group – 1 April 2026**

- Social Housing EPCC update
- Local Area Energy Planning update

### **Finance and Performance Working Group – 16 June 2026**

- OX Place Monitoring April (P1) [SJVG]
- OX Place Development Sites Updates [SJVG]
- OX Place Reserves Policy [SJVG]
- OX Place Dividends Policy [SJVG]
- OX Place Draft 2026/27 Budget [SJVG]
- OX Place Draft year-end Position pre-audit [SJVG]

### **Housing and Homelessness Working Group – 24 June 2026**

- HRA Policies [Report for Cabinet and Council]
  - Housing Services Performance Report Quarter 4 and Resident Engagement “You Said, We Did” Report Quarter 4 2025-26 [Commissioned Report]
  - Housing Consumer Standards Improvement Plan 2026-27 [Commissioned Report]
  - Housing Work Programme Review [Commissioned Report]
6. Cabinet considered 22 Scrutiny recommendations across the various aforementioned items during its meetings on 7 April 2026, and 30 June 2026, providing commentary on each to inform the Committee of the rationale behind its decision. Of the which, 15 were agreed, 1 partially agreed, 1 not agreed. Cabinet did not indicate its position on 5 recommendations, providing only a written commentary.
  7. 2 recommendations were made to the Shareholder and Joint Venture Group at their meeting on 22 April 2026. A further 2 recommendations were due at the cancelled Shareholder meeting on 25 June 2026; these are awaiting responses and will be reported in a future update to Council.
  8. Table summaries of all Cabinet and Shareholder recommendations and responses for this reporting period are included as appendices. No table was produced for items where no recommendations were made.
  9. Minutes of relevant meetings are provided below as hyperlinks:
    - [Scrutiny Committee 7 April 2026](#)
    - [Scrutiny Committee 9 June 2026](#)
    - [Scrutiny Committee 30 June 2026](#)

## **Summary of discussions**

### **Urgent Key Decisions End of Year Update 2025-2026**

10. The Scrutiny Committee considered the end of year report summarising all urgent key decisions that have been taken in the 2025/26 municipal year and noted an improved procedures for ensuring only time sensitive decisions were taken using the urgency routes as listed in the Constitution.

### **Integrated Performance for Q3 2025/26**

11. The Finance and Performance Working Group reflected that delivery performance has not aligned with current optimism bias assumptions and suggested a more realistic starting point may be needed, with scope to adjust as performance improves. There was also a clear view that recruitment and retention pressures currently reflected across multiple services should be recognised as a single corporate risk to better capture their scale and impact. In addition, concerns were raised that existing budget provision for damp, mould and retrofit works underestimates the likely ongoing demand. Members therefore emphasised the need for more realistic medium-term planning assumptions to avoid repeated in-year budget adjustments.

### **Housing Performance 2025/26**

12. The Housing and Homelessness Working Group reflected on the positive progress made over the past year in relation to the Council's housing offer and performance against key targets. Members noted in particular the development of the tenant strategy and look forward to reviewing how this is put into practice in future reporting. The Working Group also recognised the successes of the Selective Licensing scheme and was fully supportive of the ongoing work that the council is doing in this area including driving up standards in the private rented sector and ensuring tenants are better protected.

### **Social Housing EPCC update**

13. The Climate and Environment Working Group noted the updates on Social Housing EPC particularly the work being undertaken to identify and replace gas boilers with air source heat pumps. Members supported this. They felt the council could be an exemplary authority and accelerate the rollout of the air source heat pumps in social housing properties to move away from fossil-based technologies and make full use of newer, more sustainable technologies available. It's view that the implications of AI require more careful consideration across a range of council functions, but particularly in regard to the Citizen Experience Strategy.

### **HRA Policies**

14. There were questions around the Lifting Equipment and Lifting Operations Policy regarding the order of work and subsequent timescales for it to be completed. The Working Group were told the priority would be to rescue individuals stuck in lifts and then the other timeframes would ensure the securing and fix of the lift, depending on specifics determined by the contactor. Any defined targets for repairs were not currently proposed as the policy was proposing alternative measures to this.
15. There was a request to link with the complaints procedure, but this policy was seen as a preventative approach, with a monitoring mechanism linked to the complaints and wider health and safety systems.

16. Regarding the Complaints Policy, there were questions around complaints received by social media from residents, which would need to be formally submitted for processing. The Working Group were told the policy had been drafted with expectations of social media trends, meaning there could be an increase in complaints, but there was not a significant issue at present.
17. Referring to stage 2 escalation for complaints, there were queries if a full response would be received within specified 20 working days, as set out by the Housing Ombudsman Service. Officers noted that they usually respond quicker than specified timescale, but always consider the associated risks, health and safety concerns, disrepair, vulnerability, repeated service failures before responding. The Housing Ombudsman Service requests there are annual reports published, and the quarterly Residents' Complaints Panel, which reports to Tenant and Leaseholder Board.
18. There were comments regarding the work contracted to Oxford Direct Services (ODS) and noted the related complaints were on a negative trajectory for some. Officers noted that the policy outlined an independent oversight from the Council for ODS complaints, referring to guidance from the Housing Ombudsman Service and resident feedback. It was noted ODS would only be responsible for stage 1 complaints, and the Council would process any complaints escalated.
19. Regarding the Voids Policy, there was a suggestion to link mental health support where a property becomes void and requires major work. Officers noted it was not yet referred to within the policy, but the current processes lend to considering community impact and exceptional void impacts.

#### **Housing Services Performance Report for Quarter 4**

20. There were positive comments around the compliance of safety check rates along with the value and presentation on the report.
21. There were comments on the damp and mould reporting and links to access issues and resource pressures. It was recognised that there was a period where additional resource was required to clear the backlog, which has since been achieved. However, the Working Group were made aware this could increase again but Officers were streamlining processes to effectively manage it and receiving data and information to predict trends and be more proactive, working in partnership with ODS.

#### **Resident Engagement "You Said, We Did" Report Quarter 4 2025-26**

22. There were comments on the positive value of the report and on the responses from the residents. It was noted that not all policies have been approved by Council, but the tenant satisfaction measures and the perceptions of the Council as a landlord had seen a significant improvement in recent months.

#### **Housing Consumer Standards Improvement Plan 2026-27**

23. The Working Group commented on the quality of the report but noted a delay for the health and safety internal audits. It was noted that the initial target dates did not consider the resulting actions from the audit.
24. There were also comments about the next phase of implementing feedback within the next steps of the improvement plan, including engagement with tenants. It was commented that feedback is continually collected and actioned, with communication

actions being embedded within the resident engagement strategy action plan and a focus on how to improve communications with residents in terms of their needs.

### **Acknowledgements**

25. The Committee would like to thank the Cabinet Members for their contributions. They were also grateful to invited guests and Council Officers for their hard work and presentation of the reports, as well as answering questions.
26. The Chair and the Committee would also like to thank the continuing work of Celeste Reyeslao (Scrutiny and Governance Advisor), Hannah Carmody-Brown (Committee and Member Services Officer), Brenda McCollum (Committee and Member Services Officer) and Uswah Khan (Committee and Member Services Officer) for their support for the scrutiny function of the Council during this reporting period. Thanks are also due to Jonathan Malton who has recently provided extensive support to the Committee in addition to his other duties.

### **Financial implications**

27. Financial implications for the reports listed above were outlined within the reports presented at Scrutiny Committee or Working Group.
28. Where appropriate, any further financial implications were reviewed when considering the recommendations.

### **Legal issues**

29. Legal implications for the reports listed above were outlined within the reports presented at Scrutiny Committee or Working Group.
30. Where appropriate, any further legal implications were reviewed when considering the recommendations.

### **Level of risk**

31. Risk Registers, where appropriate, were linked to the reports presented at Scrutiny Committee or Working Groups.
32. Where appropriate, the risk register was reviewed when considering the recommendations.

### **Equalities impact**

33. Equalities Impact Assessments, where appropriate, were linked to the reports presented at Scrutiny Committee or Working Groups.
34. Where appropriate, the Equalities Impact Assessments was reviewed when considering the recommendations.

## **Carbon and Environmental Considerations**

35. Consideration for Carbon and Environmental impacts, where appropriate, were linked to the reports presented at Scrutiny Committee or Working Groups.
36. Where appropriate, the Carbon and Environmental impacts were reviewed when considering the recommendations.

## **Implications of Local Government Reorganisation**

37. Implications of Local Government Reorganisation for the reports listed above were outlined within the report when presented at Scrutiny Committee or Working Group.
38. Where appropriate, any further implications were reviewed when considering the recommendations using the linked guidance from Government: [Financial decisions before local government reorganisation - GOV.UK](#)

|                            |                                                                  |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
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## Appendix 1: Scrutiny Recommendations and Cabinet Responses

### Cabinet response to Scrutiny Committee recommendations in April 2026

The table below sets out the response of the Cabinet Member to recommendations made or endorsed by the Scrutiny Committee during its meeting on 7 April 2026.

#### Watercourses and Ditches

| <i>Recommendation</i>                                                                                                                                                                                          | <i>Agree?</i> | <i>Comment</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) That there is greater urgency in drawing up local flood risk action plans for the identified areas, specifically but not limited to Lobelia Road and Campbell Road, as well as other high flood risk areas. | No            | <p>Flood risk action plans are not a formal function, therefore the City Council does not have the power/remit, duty, funding or resource to develop or implement plans to manage flood risk throughout the City.</p> <p>We <b>do</b> have a remit to, and will continue to, formally investigate flood events and propose recommendations in accordance with Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act – as we have done for Lobelia Road and other locations. Recommendations made within these reports are for a number of stakeholders (residents, Thames Water, Highways etc.), and we have no power to compel others to take action.</p> <p>However, where appropriate, and opportunity exists; we will look for funding sources to help stakeholders implement recommendations from the formal reports, and further look to implement flood risk management measures where funding/opportunities arise – for example the SuDS Planters at New Hinksey School, and extensive water butt planter roll-out in Florence Park and the Lye Valley area, both of which have been implemented in the past 18 months.</p> |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2) That there is clear framework setting out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the undertaking of routine clearances and ad hoc collection</li> <li>relevant timelines and circumstances, including when litter can safely be removed from watercourses</li> <li>a list of current equipment available to complete the clearance, together with any additional equipment that would be required to enable greater levels of removal.</li> </ul> | n/a | Responsibility for waterways and ditches is shared across the Council, ODS (as contractor) and the Environment Agency. As such, any approach to matters such as routine and reactive maintenance, operational frameworks, equipment provision, and data collection will require appropriate coordination between all relevant agencies. Given there is need to engage with all partners, further work is required before a position can be confirmed.<br><br>A full response addressing the recommendations will therefore be provided in due course. |
| 3) That Council work with ODS to start keeping records of the number of reactive repairs being undertaken to better inform any needs for maintenance plans.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | n/a | Responsibility for waterways and ditches is shared across the Council, ODS (as contractor) and the Environment Agency. As such, any approach to matters such as routine and reactive maintenance, operational frameworks, equipment provision, and data collection will require appropriate coordination between all relevant agencies. Given there is need to engage with all partners, further work is required before a position can be confirmed.<br><br>A full response addressing the recommendations will therefore be provided in due course. |

### Review of Ward Member Budget and Community Infrastructure Levy Councillor Applications

| <b>Recommendation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Agree?</b> | <b>Comment</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) That the annual pricing list of regular work also itemises the permissions required for each work in order to provide members with all, if not most, information needed to submit a complete application. | n/a           | A centralised list is not possible as this can depend on the location of works and size of the project. Members are advised to submit a request via the Members' Enquiry Form for any projects intending to use Ward Member Budget or Community Infrastructure Levy for projects to |

|  |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  | <p>install new infrastructure to establish if any permissions would be required and if the proposals are viable.</p> <p>The annual spend list referenced is a rough outline for Members as to what the expected costs of certain items, however these are advisory and are subject to change due to size and location of the project, but also external factors outside of the Council's control (such as costs of materials). Members will also need to ensure there are no ongoing costs for a project, but if so, this would need to be reviewed with the relevant Officers, via the Members Enquiry Form, to discuss the ongoing revenue costs to maintain the new infrastructure and if it will be covered via service areas annual budgets. The items listed below are part of the annual list and include the relevant permissions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permission would need to be sought from the land owner to place litter/dog bins depending on where these are being placed. If placed on highway/pavement, then permission would need to be sought from County Highways. The OCC Green Space team may also need to be involved if being placed within public parks.</li> <li>• Installation of additional benches/picnic tables, depending on where they are going, land owners consent or the OCC Green Space team if being placed in a public park.</li> <li>• Tree planting, to seek any permissions from the OCC Green Space team. May also be worth checking with the Tree officers in the Planning department, if any tree planting would affect any</li> </ul> |
|--|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|  |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  | <p>adjacent trees that may be protected</p> <p>A comment at the Committee related to the use of Councillor CIL spend for lighting in parks, this would be out of the scope for using this funding and would need to form part of the centralised CIL spend, for which Members are required to raise these with the Director of Planning and Regulation, via the Members' Enquiry Form, so the service area is aware of the request.</p> |
|--|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### Integrated Performance for Q3 2025/26

| <b>Recommendation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Agree?</b> | <b>Comment</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) That Cabinet, in the light of experience, reviews whether the current optimism bias remains appropriate, including whether a higher starting point (such as 50%) should be considered, with scope to reduce this (back to 45% or 40%) where delivery performance improves. | Yes           | We can consider this when we undertake the next iteration of the budget and MTFP.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 2) That Cabinet considers whether recruitment and retention should be recognised and managed as a single corporate risk, rather than being reflected separately across individual service risk registers.                                                                     | n/a           | Whilst recruitment and retention are reflected in service risk registers, it is also the subject matter of Risk 3 in the Corporate Risk Register. This is "Workforce Sustainability" and concerns recruitment and retention challenges in key areas such as Legal, ICT and Environmental Health.                                                                                   |
| 3) That Cabinet reviews whether current and future budget assumptions for damp, mould and retrofit works are sufficient, in light of emerging experience, including whether higher baseline provision should be built into the MTFP.                                          | Yes           | We included £0.8m in the 25/26 budget round for damp and mould and based on our experience during 2025/26 have increased this budget by a further £0.7m to £1.5m for 2026/27. We will continue to review the position over the 2026/27 year. For retrofit we have included as much capital resources as the HRA business plan will allow up to 2030 at which point we will review. |

## Housing Performance 2025/26

| <b>Recommendation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Agree?</b> | <b>Comment</b>                                                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) Officers to provide the Working Group with data relating to the number of homeless people being housed in hotel accommodation and the length of time those people have occupied hotel accommodation. | Yes           | Data on Temporary Accommodation to be provided by agreement with the Chair of the Working Group. |

## Social Housing EPC Update

| <b>Recommendation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Agree?</b> | <b>Comment</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) That Cabinet adopts a policy that makes air source heat pumps as the default heating system for all social housing properties going forward. In recognition that in emergency situations a gas boiler may still be required, installation of gas boilers should only be permitted in those circumstances. | In-part       | <p>Air source heat pumps are not suitable in all instances (e.g. flats) and other technologies will need to be installed such as Ground Source Heat Pumps and other electrical forms of heating.</p> <p>Heat pumps require a new design and enabling works prior to replacing a gas boiler, this means that fast replacement is not always possible e.g. when heating systems break down so like for like replacement will be required in certain circumstances.</p> <p>A draft Energy and Sustainability strategy is currently under internal consultation and will subsequently be presented to cabinet. This proposes gas boilers should not be installed from 2036 in line with the governments original plan to phase out gas boilers (now scrapped). In the meantime, it is proposed that gas boiler replacements are gradually replaced with low carbon heating (where appropriate e.g. well insulated properties). This</p> |

|  |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  | phased approach will allow a transition period in order to train and develop the industry and prove the technologies in Oxford's housing stock. The other factor is limited HRA funds available for low carbon heating installation and additional funding requirements for the uplift in cost compared to a gas boiler replacement. |
|--|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### Local Area Energy Planning Update

| <b>Recommendation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Agree?</b> | <b>Comment</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) That Cabinet assess whether action areas identified through LAEP that are not currently in the draft Local Plan 2045, could be incorporated, including a gap analyses to identify where the Local Plan does not yet reflect LAEP priorities, as well as a feasibility check on whether they can be integrated at this stage. | n/a           | <p>The LAEP is being closely developed with planning input. The Local Plan 2045 has just completed the Regulation 19 consultation, with the next step being submission to the Secretary of State, which is likely to take place in June 2026. Whilst the Council can propose modifications for the Inspector to consider as part of the examination process, we do not currently envisage that these would be necessary to align the Local Plan with the emerging work of the LAEP. A gap analysis exercise can take place to check if there are any areas which do not reflect the LAEP's priorities in due course however.</p> <p>Whilst the detail of the city LAEP is still emerging, the work is expected to support the Local Plan objective of helping the city meet its net zero carbon targets and to complement various policies including ensuring new buildings are net zero carbon in operation and supporting retrofitting of existing buildings. Where particular infrastructure interventions are identified through the LAEP process, it may be appropriate to incorporate these into future updates of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan which</p> |

|  |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  | supports the Local Plan and identifies key infrastructure needs in the city (and is a live document). This will depend upon there being sufficient detail around these projects (e.g. timescales for delivery, costs etc) and we will keep this under review as the LAEP continues to be developed. |
|--|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## Cabinet response to Scrutiny Committee recommendations in July 2026

The table below sets out the response of the Cabinet Member to recommendations made or endorsed by the Scrutiny Committee during its meeting on 30 June 2026.

### Annual Review of the Council of Sanctuary Framework 2025-2028

| <b>Recommendation</b>                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Agree?</b> | <b>Comment</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) The updated Key Performance Indicators (KPI) to be published as part of the updated report and circulated to the Scrutiny Committee                                      | Yes           | Officers will share the updated KPIs with members of the Committee once prepared.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 2) Further, localised data and information regarding the refugees housed in Oxford, to be included within the report next year and to be shared with the Scrutiny Committee | Yes           | Officers will prepare and circulate available data with committee members shortly.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 3) To include Community Associations within the updated Action Plan                                                                                                         | Yes           | The Action Plan will be amended to include this.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 4) A bench-marking exercise against similar authorities to the City Council have succeed in positive housing outcomes, linked to government data                            | Yes           | Officers will seek to benchmark our outcomes for homelessness duties for people leaving Home Office accommodation. This will only be possible if national government collects this level of detail, or similar LAs are willing to share their information. Officers will update on this work in next year's report. |

|                                                                                                                                                        |     |                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5) The No Recourse to Public Fund (NRPF) protocol, once finalised with Oxfordshire County Council, to be returned to the Scrutiny Committee for review | Yes | Agreed, with acknowledgment that Oxfordshire County Council are the document owner and scrutiny committee may only be able to provide comment. |
| 6) Measure the impact of the Council comms team regarding myth busting against misinformation                                                          | Yes | Officers will seek to develop measures of success and report back in next year's report.                                                       |

### Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy

| <b>Recommendation</b>                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Agree?</b> | <b>Comment</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) Tenants Unions to be involved in the evaluation of the implementation of the policy                                                                                         | Yes           | Officers will engage with tenant unions and relevant third sector organisations as part of the ongoing evaluation of the policy's implementation, drawing on their insight into the experience of private renters in Oxford                                                                                                                                                                |
| 2) Further and regular data to be provided regarding the enforcement of the policy to be shared with the committee and included within future reports brought to the committee | Yes           | From 2027/28, MHCLG will require mandatory quarterly reporting from local authorities on private sector housing enforcement activity under the Renters' Rights Act. In the interim, the Council is voluntarily providing this data. Officers will share this with the committee on a regular basis and ensure relevant enforcement data is included in future reports brought to scrutiny. |
| 3) For further information to be brought to Councillors regarding Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy, including a briefing to be scheduled                              | Yes           | Officers are very happy to provide members briefings on their work including property licensing, the Renter's Rights Acts, private sector housing enforcement activities or any other subjects that might be helpful to members.                                                                                                                                                           |

### HRA Policies

| <b>Recommendation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Agree?</b> | <b>Comment</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) Within the Voids Policy, for there to be consideration for the wider community and social impact                                                                                                                       | Yes           | The specific recommendation was for an exceptional void to be addressed with urgency so that, for example, a burnt down property does not blight the local community. It was agreed at the meeting this will be written into the voids procedures. |
| 2) Within the Lifting Equipment and Lifting Operations Policy, to ensure complaints for Oxford Direct Services (ODS) have a robust oversight procedure and to ensure the timescales within the policy are clearly defined | Yes           | This recommendation was made in respect of the Complaints Policy and was agreed to.                                                                                                                                                                |
| 3) Within the Complaints Policy, to ensure there is clarity on repeated complaints and tightening the wording for public clarity                                                                                          | Yes           | This recommendation was agreed and the amendment was made to the policy.                                                                                                                                                                           |

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**To:** Council  
**Date:** 13 July 2026  
**Report of:** Director of Law, Governance and Strategy  
**Title of Report:** Motions and amendments received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.18

Councillors are asked to debate and reach conclusions on the motions and amendment listed below in accordance with the Council's rules for debate.

The Constitution permits an hour for debate of these motions.

## Introduction

This document sets out motions received by the Director of Law, Governance and Strategy in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.18 by the deadline of 1.00pm on 1 July 2026, as amended by the proposers.

All substantive amendments sent by councillors to the Director of Law, Governance and Strategy by publication of the briefing note are also included below.

Unfamiliar terms are explained in the glossary or in footnotes.

**Motions will be taken in turn from the Labour, Green, Liberal Democrat, Independent Oxford Alliance Group, Real Independent, in that order.**

### Introduction

- a) E-bikes (proposed by Cllr Ed Turner, seconded by Cllr Anna Railton) [Amendment proposed by Cllr David Henwood, Seconded by Cllr Judith Harley] [Amendment proposed by Cllr Chris Smowton, Seconded by Cllr Katherine Miles] [Amendment proposed by Cllr Alfie Davis, Seconded by Cllr Alex Powell]
- b) The EHRC Code of Practice and Trans Rights (proposed by Cllr Max Morris, seconded by Cllr Chris Jarvis)
- c) Make Every Vote Count (proposed by Cllr Chris Smowton, seconded by Cllr Mohammed Altaf-Khan) [Amendment proposed Cllr Simon Ottino, seconded by Cllr Upton]
- d) Oxford Living Wage (proposed by Cllr James Taylor, seconded by Cllr Mike Rowley)
- e) The Oxford Union and the Far Right (proposed by Cllr Alfie Davis, seconded by Cllr Sushila Dhall) [Amendment proposed by Cllr Susan Brown, seconded by Cllr Simon Ottino]

- f) Use of Park and Rides to facilitate pupil transport services (proposed by Cllr Andrew Gant, seconded by Cllr Katherine Miles)
- g) Pregnancy Support Services (proposed by Cllr Ed Turner, seconded by Cllr Lizzie Diggins)
- h) Inequity of Public Transport Provision and Safe Segregated Cycle Path provision across the City (proposed by Cllr Trish Elphinstone, seconded by Cllr Simon Ottino)

**a) E-bikes (proposed by Cllr Ed Turner, seconded by Cllr Anna Railton)  
[Amendment proposed by Cllr David Henwood, Seconded by Cllr Judith Harley] [Amendment proposed by Cllr Chris Smowton, Seconded by Cllr Katherine Miles] [Amendment proposed by Cllr Alfie Davis, Seconded by Cllr Alex Powell]**

## **Labour Group Motion**

### **Council believes:**

- That substantial public concern and risk is caused by use of illegally modified e-bikes and mopeds which are not authorised for public roads;
- That the government's proposal for a National Work-Related Road Safety Charter to improve compliance by employers, while a good initiative, will not be strong enough to address the menace caused by these dangerous vehicles;
- That while individuals committing offences by using these vehicles on public roads, pavements, cycle paths or tow paths must feel the full force of the law, so too must those who tacitly support their use such as delivery platforms and retailers;
- That those who profit from the sale of kit from the illegal modification of bikes should cease doing so

### **Council welcomes and endorses:**

- Recent enforcement efforts by Thames Valley Police to seize and destroy such vehicles;
- The campaign run by the Motorcycle Industry Association (MCIA) and the Bicycle Association (BA), which presses for national guidance to identify, seize and prosecute non-compliant e-bikes, strengthened oversight of the supply chain and delivery platforms (including mandatory compliance checks for fleet operators), and stronger enforcement against online marketplaces and retailers selling non-compliant vehicles and modification kits;
- Attempts to ensure that regulations relating to the Product Regulation and Metrology Act 2025 prevent the sale of kits using lithium-ion batteries which could be used to modify bikes in an unsafe manner.

### **Council resolves:**

- To ask the leader to write to the Secretary of State for Transport in support of the MCIA / BA campaign, with copy to their CEOs and Oxford's MPs, and urge swift action and stronger enforcement against riders who break the law, relevant employers and those who enable illegal activity
- To ask the leader to write to the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner urging an increase in enforcement activity against these vehicles and offering City Council support so far as this is feasible.

### **Independent Oxford Alliance Amendment**

#### **Council believes:**

- That substantial public concern and risk is caused by use of illegally modified e-bikes and mopeds which are **not compliant with the legal requirements for use on public roads**.
- That the government's proposal for a National Work-Related Road Safety Charter to improve compliance by employers, while a good initiative, will not be strong enough to address the menace caused by these dangerous vehicles;
- That while individuals committing offences by using these vehicles on public roads, **pavements, cycle paths, public spaces, including council-run parks, sports fields, playing fields, recreation grounds, and towpaths must** feel the full force of the law, so too must those who tacitly support their use such as delivery platforms and retailers;
- That those who profit from the sale of kit from the illegal modification of bikes should cease doing so

#### **Council welcomes and endorses:**

- Recent enforcement efforts by Thames Valley Police to seize and destroy such vehicles;
- The campaign run by the Motorcycle Industry Association (MCIA) and the Bicycle Association (BA), which presses for national guidance to identify, seize and prosecute non-compliant e-bikes, strengthened oversight of the supply chain and delivery platforms (including mandatory compliance checks for fleet operators), and stronger enforcement against online marketplaces and retailers selling non-compliant vehicles and modification kits;
- Attempts to ensure that regulations relating to the Product Regulation and Metrology Act 2025 prevent the sale of kits using lithium-ion batteries which could be used to modify bikes in an unsafe manner.

#### **Council resolves:**

- To ask the leader to write to the Secretary of State for Transport in support of the MCIA / BA campaign, with copy to their CEOs and Oxford's MPs, and urge swift action and stronger enforcement against riders who break the law, relevant employers and those who enable illegal activity

- To ask the leader to write to the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner urging an increase in enforcement activity against these vehicles and offering City Council support so far as this is feasible.
- To ask the Secretary of State for Transport to review whether existing legislation provides sufficient powers to prevent the manufacture, import, sale and advertising of products intended to unlawfully modify electrically assisted pedal cycles, and to bring forward further legislation if necessary.

If agreed, the motion would read:

**Council believes:**

- That substantial public concern and risk is caused by use of illegally modified e-bikes and mopeds which are not compliant with the legal requirements for use on public roads.
- That the government's proposal for a National Work-Related Road Safety Charter to improve compliance by employers, while a good initiative, will not be strong enough to address the menace caused by these dangerous vehicles;
- That while individuals committing offences by using these vehicles on public roads, pavements, cycle paths, public spaces, including council-run parks, sports fields, playing fields, recreation grounds, and towpaths must feel the full force of the law, so too must those who tacitly support their use such as delivery platforms and retailers;
- That those who profit from the sale of kit from the illegal modification of bikes should cease doing so

**Council welcomes and endorses:**

- Recent enforcement efforts by Thames Valley Police to seize and destroy such vehicles;
- The campaign run by the Motorcycle Industry Association (MCIA) and the Bicycle Association (BA), which presses for national guidance to identify, seize and prosecute non-compliant e-bikes, strengthened oversight of the supply chain and delivery platforms (including mandatory compliance checks for fleet operators), and stronger enforcement against online marketplaces and retailers selling non-compliant vehicles and modification kits;
- Attempts to ensure that regulations relating to the Product Regulation and Metrology Act 2025 prevent the sale of kits using lithium-ion batteries which could be used to modify bikes in an unsafe manner.

**Council resolves:**

- To ask the leader to write to the Secretary of State for Transport in support of the MCIA / BA campaign, with copy to their CEOs and Oxford's MPs, and urge swift action and stronger enforcement against riders who break the law, relevant employers and those who enable illegal activity
- To ask the leader to write to the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner urging an increase in enforcement activity against these vehicles and offering City Council support so far as this is feasible.
- To ask the Secretary of State for Transport to review whether existing legislation provides sufficient powers to prevent the manufacture, import, sale and

advertising of products intended to unlawfully modify electrically assisted pedal cycles, and to bring forward further legislation if necessary.

#### Liberal Democrat Group Amendment

##### **Council believes:**

- That substantial public concern and risk is caused by use of illegally modified e-bikes and mopeds which are not authorised for public roads;
- That the government's proposal for a National Work-Related Road Safety Charter to improve compliance by employers, while a good initiative, will not be strong enough to address the menace caused by these dangerous vehicles;
- That while individuals committing offences by using these vehicles on public roads, pavements, cycle paths or tow paths must feel the full force of the law, so too must those who tacitly support their use such as delivery platforms and retailers;
- That those who profit from the sale of kit from the illegal modification of bikes should cease doing so
- That successive governments have needlessly prevaricated regarding the July 2020 e-scooter trial, thereby criminalising users of scooters even if they are compliant with the same speed, power and battery safety regulations as an equivalent e-bike.
- That this repeated prevarication has hindered both the county council and operators in improving the offer to users due to ongoing uncertainty.
- That insufficient clarity regarding self-build or conversion e-bikes has resulted in a lack of affordable, safe conversion kits and components, which endangers those for whom a factory-built e-bike is too expensive.

##### **Council welcomes and endorses:**

- Recent enforcement efforts by Thames Valley Police to seize and destroy such vehicles;
- The campaign run by the Motorcycle Industry Association (MCIA) and the Bicycle Association (BA), which presses for national guidance to identify, seize and prosecute non-compliant e-bikes, strengthened oversight of the supply chain and delivery platforms (including mandatory compliance checks for fleet operators), and stronger enforcement against online marketplaces and retailers selling non-compliant vehicles and modification kits;

- Attempts to ensure that regulations relating to the Product Regulation and Metrology Act 2025 prevent the sale of kits using lithium-ion batteries which could be used to modify bikes in an unsafe manner.

#### **Council resolves:**

- To ask the leader to write to the Secretary of State for Transport in support of the MCIA / BA campaign, with copy to their CEOs and Oxford's MPs, and urge swift action and stronger enforcement against riders who break the law, relevant employers and those who enable illegal activity
- To ask the leader to write to the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner urging an increase in enforcement activity against these vehicles and offering City Council support so far as this is feasible.
- To further ask that the Leader's letter to the Secretary of State requests:
  - That the rental e-scooter trial should be swiftly concluded and their regulation made permanent.
  - A prompt regularisation of private e-scooters such that e-bikes and scooters are held to the same standards.
  - The publication of clear guidance regarding safe e-bike conversion kits.

If agreed, the motion would read:

#### **Council believes:**

- That substantial public concern and risk is caused by use of illegally modified e-bikes and mopeds which are not authorised for public roads;
- That the government's proposal for a National Work-Related Road Safety Charter to improve compliance by employers, while a good initiative, will not be strong enough to address the menace caused by these dangerous vehicles;
- That while individuals committing offences by using these vehicles on public roads, pavements, cycle paths or tow paths must feel the full force of the law, so too must those who tacitly support their use such as delivery platforms and retailers;
- That those who profit from the illegal modification of bikes should cease doing so
- That successive governments have needlessly prevaricated regarding the July 2020 e-scooter trial, thereby criminalising users of scooters even if they are compliant with the same speed, power and battery safety regulations as an equivalent e-bike.
- That this repeated prevarication has hindered both the county council and operators in improving the offer to users due to ongoing uncertainty.

- That insufficient clarity regarding self-build or conversion e-bikes has resulted in a lack of affordable, safe conversion kits and components, which endangers those for whom a factory-built e-bike is too expensive.

#### **Council welcomes and endorses:**

- Recent enforcement efforts by Thames Valley Police to seize and destroy such vehicles;
- The campaign run by the Motorcycle Industry Association (MCIA) and the Bicycle Association (BA), which presses for national guidance to identify, seize and prosecute non-compliant e-bikes, strengthened oversight of the supply chain and delivery platforms (including mandatory compliance checks for fleet operators), and stronger enforcement against online marketplaces and retailers selling non-compliant vehicles and modification kits;
- Attempts to ensure that regulations relating to the Product Regulation and Metrology Act 2025 prevent the sale of kits using lithium-ion batteries which could be used to modify bikes in an unsafe manner.

#### **Council resolves:**

- To ask the leader to write to the Secretary of State for Transport in support of the MCIA / BA campaign, with copy to their CEOs and Oxford's MPs, and urge swift action and stronger enforcement against riders who break the law, relevant employers and those who enable illegal activity
- To ask the leader to write to the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner urging an increase in enforcement activity against these vehicles and offering City Council support so far as this is feasible.
- To further ask that the Leader's letter to the Secretary of State requests:
  - That the rental e-scooter trial should be swiftly concluded and their regulation made permanent.
  - A prompt regularisation of private e-scooters such that e-bikes and scooters are held to the same standards.
  - The publication of clear guidance regarding safe e-bike conversion kits.

#### **Green Group Amendment**

#### **Council believes:**

- That substantial public concern and risk is caused by use of illegally modified e-bikes and mopeds which are not authorised for public roads;
- That the government's proposal for a National Work-Related Road Safety Charter to improve compliance by employers, while a good initiative, will not be strong enough to address the menace caused by these dangerous vehicles;

- ~~That While individuals committing offences by using these vehicles on public roads, pavements, cycle paths or tow paths must feel the full force of the law, so too must those who tacitly support their use such as delivery platforms and retailers~~ improperly and in a manner that is a risk to the public should be held to account, we feel the government should give specific focus to the use by the gig-economy models of the food delivery apps that are one of the root cause of the majority of illegal urban e-bikes<sup>1</sup> as these, by design, incentivise high-speed, risky behaviour from their drivers through their punitive and pressurising treatment of their workers<sup>234</sup>.
- That those who profit from the sale of kit from the illegal modification of bikes should cease doing so
- Thames Valley Police's collaboration with Immigration Enforcement is harmful to community cohesion and public trust and undermines efforts to address the use of unlawful E-bikes.

### Council welcomes and endorses:

- Recent enforcement efforts by Thames Valley Police to seize and destroy such vehicles; ~~but regrets the collaboration with immigration enforcement and would welcome broader structural efforts to challenge the root causes of the phenomenon rather than simplistic punitive approaches~~
- The campaign run by the Motorcycle Industry Association (MCIA) and the Bicycle Association (BA), which presses for national guidance to identify, seize and prosecute non-compliant e-bikes, strengthened oversight of the supply chain and delivery platforms (including mandatory compliance checks for fleet operators), and stronger enforcement against online marketplaces and retailers selling non-compliant vehicles and modification kits;
- Attempts to ensure that regulations relating to the Product Regulation and Metrology Act 2025 prevent the sale of kits using lithium-ion batteries which could be used to modify bikes in an unsafe manner.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ce8vggkgr2o>

<sup>2</sup>The invisible hand of the app: The role of platform operational rules in fostering risky rider behaviour in food delivery. Transportation Research Interdisciplinary Perspectives, 37 (Song and Fielbaum, 2026) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.trip.2026.101962>

<sup>3</sup> Duus, K., Bruun, M.H. and Dalsgård, A.L. (2023). Riders in app time: Exploring the temporal experiences of food delivery platform work. Time & Society, 32(2), pp.190–209. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1177/0961463x231161849>.

<sup>4</sup> Unregulated and Unsafe: The Threat of Illegal E-Bikes, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Cycling & Walking (APPGCW), <https://appgcw.org/resources/inquiries/unregulated-and-unsafe-the-threat-of-illegal-e-bikes/>

**Council resolves:**

- To ask the leader to write to the Secretary of State for Transport in support of the MCIA / BA campaign, with copy to their CEOs and Oxford's MPs, and urge swift action and stronger enforcement against riders who break the law, relevant employers and those who enable illegal activity
- To ask the leader to write to the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner urging an increase in enforcement activity against these vehicles **but expressing concerns over the previous involvement of immigration enforcement in similar stops** and offering City Council support so far as this is feasible **while making clear that this council believes that immigration enforcement should no longer be permitted to attend such stops.**
- **To ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Minister for Transport asking for a new comprehensive scheme of regulation for E-bikes to includes amongst other things, health and safety standards, and further regulation of their use in employment contexts.**

If approved, the motion would read:

**Council believes:**

- That substantial public concern and risk is caused by use of illegally modified e-bikes and mopeds which are not authorised for public roads;
- That the government's proposal for a National Work-Related Road Safety Charter to improve compliance by employers, while a good initiative, will not be strong enough to address the menace caused by these dangerous vehicles;
- While individuals committing offences by using these vehicles improperly and in a manner that is a risk to the public should be held to account, we feel the government should give specific focus to the use by the gig-economy models of the food delivery apps that are one of the root cause of the majority of illegal

urban e-bikes<sup>5</sup> as these, by design, incentivise high-speed, risky behaviour from their drivers through their punitive and pressurising treatment of their workers<sup>678</sup>.

- That those who profit from the sale of kit from the illegal modification of bikes should cease doing so
- Thames Valley Police's collaboration with Immigration Enforcement is harmful to community cohesion and public trust and undermines efforts to address the use of unlawful E-bikes.

#### **Council welcomes and endorses:**

- Recent enforcement efforts by Thames Valley Police to seize and destroy such vehicles; but regrets the collaboration with immigration enforcement and would welcome broader structural efforts to challenge the root causes of the phenomenon rather than simplistic punitive approaches
- The campaign run by the Motorcycle Industry Association (MCIA) and the Bicycle Association (BA), which presses for national guidance to identify, seize and prosecute non-compliant e-bikes, strengthened oversight of the supply chain and delivery platforms (including mandatory compliance checks for fleet operators), and stronger enforcement against online marketplaces and retailers selling non-compliant vehicles and modification kits;
- Attempts to ensure that regulations relating to the Product Regulation and Metrology Act 2025 prevent the sale of kits using lithium-ion batteries which could be used to modify bikes in an unsafe manner.

#### **Council resolves:**

- To ask the leader to write to the Secretary of State for Transport in support of the MCIA / BA campaign, with copy to their CEOs and Oxford's MPs, and urge swift action and stronger enforcement against riders who break the law, relevant employers and those who enable illegal activity

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<sup>5</sup><https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ce8vggkgr2o>

<sup>6</sup>The invisible hand of the app: The role of platform operational rules in fostering risky rider behaviour in food delivery. *Transportation Research Interdisciplinary Perspectives*, 37 (Song and Fielbaum, 2026) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.trip.2026.101962>

<sup>7</sup> Duus, K., Bruun, M.H. and Dalsgård, A.L. (2023). Riders in app time: Exploring the temporal experiences of food delivery platform work. *Time & Society*, 32(2), pp.190–209. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1177/0961463x231161849>.

<sup>8</sup> Unregulated and Unsafe: The Threat of Illegal E-Bikes, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Cycling & Walking (APPGCW), <https://appgcw.org/resources/inquiries/unregulated-and-unsafe-the-threat-of-illegal-e-bikes/>

- To ask the leader to write to the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner urging an increase in enforcement activity against these vehicles but expressing concerns over the previous involvement of immigration enforcement in similar stops and offering City Council support so far as this is feasible while making clear that this council believes that immigration enforcement should no longer be permitted to attend such stops
- To ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Minister for Transport asking for a new comprehensive scheme of regulation for E-bikes to includes amongst other things, health and safety standards, and further regulation of their use in employment contexts.

**b) The EHRC Code of Practice and Trans Rights (proposed by Cllr Max Morris, seconded by Cllr Chris Jarvis)**

**Green Group Motion**

**Council notes:**

1. In November 2021, this council passed a motion titled 'Becoming a trans inclusive Council', <sup>9</sup> which stated: "Trans women are women. Trans men are men. Non-binary people are non-binary", and "Our aspiration is for Oxford to be a safe, welcoming and inclusive city for everyone, no matter their gender identity."
2. Since the passing of the motion, the Supreme Court has issued a ruling on the definition of the protected characteristic of sex as set out in the Equality Act.<sup>10</sup>
3. Following the Supreme Court ruling, the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) updated its Code of Practice on the Equality Act in May 2026.<sup>11</sup>
4. LGBT+ rights organisations have warned the revised EHRC Code of Practice creates new gaps in the UK's equalities framework, with Stonewall stating "the current situation is untenable" and that "there is now a significant gap in equality protections for trans+ people in the UK",<sup>12</sup> and Gendered Intelligence arguing the new situation "empowers those who want to exclude trans people from services" and "the Code – and the law in general – needs to be brought up to date".<sup>13</sup>

**Council believes:**

1. The principles of the November 2021 motion still apply and still reflect this Council's beliefs.
2. Since the November 2021 motion was passed by this council, trans and non-binary people have been subjected to a manufactured moral panic which seeks to demonise their very existence and undermine their rights.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://mycouncil.oxford.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=31680>

<sup>10</sup> <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-10259/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/equality-act-2010-draft-code-of-practice-for-services-public-functions-and-associations-2026>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.stonewall.org.uk/shaping-policy/the-ehrcs-statutory-guidance-and-the-uk-supreme-court-ruling>

<sup>13</sup> <https://genderedintelligence.co.uk/news/33-updated-ehrc-code-of-practice-gis-response>

3. Overly simplistic approaches to understanding sex, gender and sexuality can undermine the rights not only of trans and non-binary people, but also those of gender non-conforming cisgender people.
4. Trans and non-binary residents of our city deserve reassurance they will not be discriminated against in the provision of council services, and that this council will work to ensure equalities legislation protects them.

**Council resolves:**

1. To request that the leader of the Council writes to the Minister for Women and Equalities calling for the government to introduce new legislation which extends trans and non-binary peoples' rights and access to services.
2. To request that the leader of the Council and the Cabinet Members for Healthy Fairer Oxford, for Planning and Culture and for Citizen Focused Services engage with council bodies, local businesses and local trans rights groups to ensure that the rights, dignity and privacy of trans and non-binary residents of Oxford are supported to the maximum extent permitted by law in the delivery of services.
3. To request that the Cabinet member for Healthy Fairer Oxford encourages officers to communicate to More Leisure this council's support for an inclusive approach to accessing facilities and encourage More Leisure to ensure they continue to provide services which are, to the maximum extent permissible by law, appropriate to the self-identification of Oxford residents.
4. To endorse the creation of a cross-party working group within the city council to ensure trans and non-binary residents' access to services are maintained in light of the current equalities framework.

**c) Make Every Vote Count (proposed by Cllr Chris Smowton, seconded by Cllr Mohammed Altaf-Khan) [Amendment proposed Cllr Simon Ottino, seconded by Cllr Upton]**

**Liberal Democrats Group Motion**

**This Council notes that:**

- Per the Electoral Reform Society, at the 2024 General Election more than half of votes cast did not influence the result.<sup>14</sup>
- The 2024 election returned the largest government majority since 1997, on the back of less than 34% of the vote – the smallest government vote share since McDonald's 1923 minority government.
- More in Common's latest MRP projects that the next general election could return Reform around 50% of MPs on just 28% of the vote.<sup>15</sup>
- Also per the ERS, the projected national vote share from this year's local elections were fragmented, with Reform achieving the highest total on just 26% or 27% vote shares, depending on how the projection is made.<sup>16</sup>
- This year's Oxfordshire elections saw five councillors elected on less than 30% of the vote.<sup>17</sup>
- Several front-runners to replace the Prime Minister in the forthcoming leadership contest have expressed support for proportional voting.<sup>18</sup>
- More-proportional Additional Member and Single Transferable Vote elections have been conducted in all nations of the UK except England.

**This Council believes that:**

- Every vote cast in any UK election should have a bearing on the result.
- In an era of increasingly-fragmented politics, our electoral system must ensure that all elected bodies command a mandate from the majority of voters.
- It is therefore vital that our next Prime Minister firmly backs the use of a proportional electoral system

**This Council resolves:**

- To ask the Leader to write to the new Prime Minister, upon their taking office, to request that they promptly bring forth legislation to introduce a proportional electoral system at all levels of government.

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<sup>14</sup> <https://election2024.electoral-reform.org.uk/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.moreincommon.org.uk/research/more-in-commons-april-mrp-2/>

<sup>16</sup> <https://electoral-reform.org.uk/how-would-each-party-have-done-if-mays-elections-were-across-all-of-britain/>

<sup>17</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2026\\_Cherwell\\_District\\_Council\\_election](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2026_Cherwell_District_Council_election), [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2026\\_West\\_Oxfordshire\\_District\\_Council\\_election](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2026_West_Oxfordshire_District_Council_election)

<sup>18</sup> <https://electoral-reform.org.uk/frontrunners-declaring-for-proportional-representation-crystallises-the-growing-support-in-the-labour-party/>

## Labour Group Amendment

### This Council notes that:

- Per the Electoral Reform Society, at the 2024 General Election more than half of votes cast did not influence the result.<sup>19</sup>
- The 2024 election returned the largest government majority since 1997, on the back of less than 34% of the vote – the smallest government vote share since McDonald's 1923 minority government.
- More in Common's latest MRP projects that the next general election could return Reform around 50% of MPs on just 28% of the vote.<sup>20</sup>
- Also per the ERS, the projected national vote share from this year's local elections were fragmented, with Reform achieving the highest total on just 26% or 27% vote shares, depending on how the projection is made.<sup>21</sup>
- This year's Oxfordshire elections saw five councillors elected on less than 30% of the vote.<sup>22</sup>
- Several front-runners to replace the Prime Minister in the forthcoming leadership contest have expressed support for proportional voting.<sup>23</sup>
- More-proportional Additional Member and Single Transferable Vote elections have been conducted in all nations of the UK except England.
- 5 MPs were elected as Independents in 2024, and that Independent MPs were elected in 1997, 2001 and 2005
- Numerous councillors are regularly elected as Independents all over the country
- Residents like to have an MP or Councillor specifically representing their local area.
- Representation of a smaller area allows MPs and councillors to take up specific casework for individuals and community groups
- There are significant variations in turnout across different wards in local elections and that there is a significant correlation between wealth and turnout

### This Council believes that:

- Every vote cast in any UK election should have a bearing on the result.
- In an era of increasingly-fragmented politics, our electoral system must ensure that all elected bodies command a mandate from the majority of voters.
- It is therefore vital that our next Prime Minister firmly backs the use of an ~~proportional~~ electoral system **with an element of proportionality at future General Elections**

### This Council resolves:

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<sup>19</sup> <https://election2024.electoral-reform.org.uk/>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.moreincommon.org.uk/research/more-in-commons-april-mrp-2/>

<sup>21</sup> <https://electoral-reform.org.uk/how-would-each-party-have-done-if-mays-elections-were-across-all-of-britain/>

<sup>22</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2026\\_Chervell\\_District\\_Council\\_election](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2026_Chervell_District_Council_election), [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2026\\_West\\_Oxfordshire\\_District\\_Council\\_election](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2026_West_Oxfordshire_District_Council_election)

<sup>23</sup> <https://electoral-reform.org.uk/frontrunners-declaring-for-proportional-representation-crystallises-the-growing-support-in-the-labour-party/>

- To ask the Leader to write to the new Prime Minister, upon their taking office, to request that they promptly bring forth legislation to introduce ~~an proportional~~ electoral system **with an element of proportionality** at ~~all~~ **some** levels of government.

If agreed, the motion would read:

**This Council notes that:**

- Per the Electoral Reform Society, at the 2024 General Election more than half of votes cast did not influence the result.<sup>24</sup>
- The 2024 election returned the largest government majority since 1997, on the back of less than 34% of the vote – the smallest government vote share since McDonald’s 1923 minority government.
- More in Common’s latest MRP projects that the next general election could return Reform around 50% of MPs on just 28% of the vote.<sup>25</sup>
- Also per the ERS, the projected national vote share from this year’s local elections were fragmented, with Reform achieving the highest total on just 26% or 27% vote shares, depending on how the projection is made.<sup>26</sup>
- This year’s Oxfordshire elections saw five councillors elected on less than 30% of the vote.<sup>27</sup>
- Several front-runners to replace the Prime Minister in the forthcoming leadership contest have expressed support for proportional voting.<sup>28</sup>
- More-proportional Additional Member and Single Transferable Vote elections have been conducted in all nations of the UK except England.
- 5 MPs were elected as Independents in 2024, and that Independent MPs were elected in 1997, 2001 and 2005
- Numerous councillors are regularly elected as Independents all over the country
- Residents like to have an MP or Councillor specifically representing their local area.
- Representation of a smaller area allows MPs and councillors to take up specific casework for individuals and community groups
- There are significant variations in turnout across different wards in local elections and that there is a significant correlation between wealth and turnout

**This Council believes that:**

- Every vote cast in any UK election should have a bearing on the result.

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<sup>24</sup> <https://election2024.electoral-reform.org.uk/>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.moreincommon.org.uk/research/more-in-commons-april-mrp-2/>

<sup>26</sup> <https://electoral-reform.org.uk/how-would-each-party-have-done-if-mays-elections-were-across-all-of-britain/>

<sup>27</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2026\\_Chervell\\_District\\_Council\\_election](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2026_Chervell_District_Council_election), [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2026\\_West\\_Oxfordshire\\_District\\_Council\\_election](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2026_West_Oxfordshire_District_Council_election)

<sup>28</sup> <https://electoral-reform.org.uk/frontrunners-declaring-for-proportional-representation-crystallises-the-growing-support-in-the-labour-party/>

- In an era of increasingly-fragmented politics, our electoral system must ensure that all elected bodies command a mandate from the majority of voters.
- It is therefore vital that our next Prime Minister firmly backs the use of an electoral system with an element of proportionality at future General Elections

**This Council resolves:**

- To ask the Leader to write to the new Prime Minister, upon their taking office, to request that they promptly bring forth legislation to introduce an electoral system with an element of proportionality at some levels of government.

**d) Oxford Living Wage (proposed by Cllr James Taylor, seconded by Cllr Mike Rowley)**

**Labour Group Motion**

**This council welcomes**

- The success of accrediting 193 employers to the Oxford Living Wage
- The fact that 32,000 employees are guaranteed the Oxford Living Wage as a result of the scheme
- The amount of local and independent businesses that have signed up to the Oxford Living Wage

**This council notes**

- The fact that jobs like baristas, retail assistants, and high street workers tend to be among the worst-paid professions in the UK
- The lack of large companies paying an Oxford Living Wage
- The possibility of accredited Living Wage employers outsourcing key roles to ensure they are accredited as paying the Oxford Living Wage
- That 12 Oxford Colleges do not pay their staff the Oxford Living Wage
- That Oxfordshire County Council is not an Oxford Living Wage employer

**This council urges**

- The cabinet member responsible for the Oxford Living Wage, or a member of their team, to meet with large high street companies to promote the payment of an Oxford Living Wage for shopfronts operating in Oxford
- The cabinet member responsible for the Oxford Living Wage, or a member of their team, to encourage accredited Living Wage employers to request companies that where they outsource to third parties that operate in Oxford to redirect where possible to ensure that the third party also pay the Oxford Living Wage
- The leader of the council, or someone they designate as responsible, to meet with representatives from UNITE, UNISON, GMB and USDAW to encourage a joined-up Oxford Living Wage campaign

**e) The Oxford Union and the Far Right (proposed by Cllr Alfie Davis, seconded by Cllr Sushila Dhall) [Amendment proposed by Cllr Susan Brown, seconded by Cllr Simon Ottino]**

**Green Group Motion**

**Council Notes:**

1. During June 2026 there were riots in Southampton, Belfast, Edinburgh, and Glasgow.<sup>29</sup>
2. These riots have included evidence of residents being targeted on the basis of the colour of their skin or assumed nationality or religion.<sup>30</sup>
3. There is direct evidence to support the role of right-wing political activists in encouraging these events of unrest.
4. On 17 June 2026, the private members club, The Oxford Union, hosted a debate under the prompt 'The West is right to be suspicious of Islam.'<sup>31</sup>
5. This event included Tommy Robinson and Laurence Fox. Both of whom are widely considered to be on the far-right of British Politics.
6. There is significant evidence to suggest that Robinson and Fox have directly contributed to inciting previous incidents of unrest and the targeting of particular groups.<sup>32</sup>
7. In response to this event and the threat of unrest it brought, several Oxford businesses felt compelled to close on the evening of 17 June 2026.<sup>33</sup>
8. Many people of colour and members of the Islamic faith felt threatened and fearful as a result of the invitation.
9. 17 June 2026 was the date of England's first world cup match and would, therefore, have been likely to be a particularly lucrative financial event for many of the pubs forced to close. During June 2026 there were riots in Southampton, Belfast, Edinburgh, and Glasgow.

**Council Believes**

1. Given the past statements of the speakers and the actions of those who support them, businesses had reason to be concerned about the safety and welfare of their staff and wider community.
2. The Oxford Union should cover the full costs associated with policing the event on 17 June.
3. In light of the costs imposed on businesses by the event, the Oxford Union should offer to compensate businesses both for lost profits (based on a reasonable projection of income taken for the night) and increased costs (such as the need to deploy additional security) for those that remained open.

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<sup>29</sup> <https://bbc.com/news/articles/cvgjxxz0mp8o>

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cwy03rneqxzo>

<sup>31</sup> <https://oxford-union.org/news/oxford-union-news/53/53-Event-update-28-May-debate-now-on-17-June>

<sup>32</sup> <https://novaramedia.com/2026/05/15/tommy-robinson-nigel-farage-and-a-riot-over-a-crime-that-never-happened/>

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/26197654.oxford-pubs-closing-early-boarding-up-amid-unrest-fears/>

4. The Oxford Union has acted in a grossly irresponsible manner and should be far more careful in considering the impacts on the city and community when downsizing any future invitations to speakers.

### **Council Resolves:**

1. To ask the Leader of the Council to write to the President of the Oxford Union and the Police and Crime Commissioner clearly outlining the view that the Oxford Union should cover the full cost of the policing operation and asking for discussions to action this to be opened.
2. To ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Oxford Union stating the Council's position that the Oxford Union should create a process for businesses to apply for compensation for lost profits and additional costs.
3. To ask the Leader of the Council to make a public statement condemning the Union's irresponsible behaviour and stating all other steps taken in response to this motion.

### **Labour Group Amendment**

### **Council Notes:**

1. During June 2026 there were riots in Southampton, Belfast, Edinburgh, and Glasgow.<sup>34</sup>
2. These riots have included evidence of residents being targeted on the basis of the colour of their skin or assumed nationality or religion.<sup>35</sup>
3. There is direct evidence to support the role of right-wing political activists in encouraging these events of unrest.
4. On 17 June 2026, the private members club, The Oxford Union, hosted a debate under the prompt 'The West is right to be suspicious of Islam.'<sup>36</sup>
5. This event included Tommy Robinson and Laurence Fox. Both of whom are widely considered to be on the far-right of British Politics.
6. There is significant evidence to suggest that Robinson and Fox have directly contributed to inciting previous incidents of unrest and the targeting of particular groups.<sup>37</sup>
7. There is a strong history in Oxford of the community opposing hate speech
8. Many hundreds of Oxford residents gathered on the streets around the Oxford Union on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2026 to show their opposition
9. In response to this event and the threat of unrest it brought, several Oxford businesses felt compelled to close on the evening of 17 June 2026.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> <https://bbc.com/news/articles/cvgjxxz0mp8o>

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cwy03rneqxzo>

<sup>36</sup> <https://oxford-union.org/news/oxford-union-news/53/53-Event-update-28-May-debate-now-on-17-June>

<sup>37</sup> <https://novaramedia.com/2026/05/15/tommy-robinson-nigel-farage-and-a-riot-over-a-crime-that-never-happened/>

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/26197654.oxford-pubs-closing-early-boarding-up-amid-unrest-fears/>

10. Many people of colour and members of the Islamic faith felt threatened and fearful as a result of the invitation.
11. 17 June 2026 was the date of England's first world cup match and would, therefore, have been likely to be a particularly lucrative financial event for many of the pubs forced to close. During June 2026 there were riots in Southampton, Belfast, Edinburgh, and Glasgow.
12. The Oxford Union is a private members club that is not open and accessible to the vast majority of ordinary residents of Oxford and their preoccupations bear no relation to our lives.

### Council Believes

1. Inviting speakers from the far right such as those invited to the Oxford Union on that night is not designed to further free speech or debate. It is deliberate ploy by the Oxford Union to gain headlines but at the expense of dividing communities. We are at our strongest when we are united. The division created by the narratives being shared on this evening only serve the interests of the very rich and powerful
2. Given the past statements of the speakers and the actions of those who support them, Thames Valley Police were right to make the decisions they made about how the event was policed and businesses had reason to be concerned about the safety and welfare of their staff and wider community.
3. There is a right to free speech and free debate - those rights should equally apply to us all, regardless of our individual or collective wealth, and also allow for peaceful protest against hate speech
4. With rights come responsibilities. The Oxford Union has consistently acted irresponsibly and with no regard for the wider community in Oxford. We believe they should be more thoughtful in considering the impacts on the city and community when considering any future invitations to speakers.
5. The Oxford Union should offer to cover the full costs associated with policing the event on 17 June.
6. In light of the costs imposed on businesses by the event, the Oxford Union should offer to compensate businesses both for lost profits (based on a reasonable projection of income taken for the night) and increased costs (such as the need to deploy additional security) for those that remained open.
- ~~7. The Oxford Union has acted in a grossly irresponsible manner and should be far more careful in considering the impacts on the city and community when downsizing any future invitations to speakers.~~

### Council Resolves:

1. To ask note that the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Community Safety have written to write to the President of the Oxford Union and the Police and Crime Commissioner clearly outlining the view that the Oxford Union should

cover the full cost of the policing operation ~~and asking for discussions to action this to be opened.~~

2. To ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Oxford Union stating the Council's position that the Oxford Union should **offer to** create a process for businesses to apply for compensation for lost profits and additional costs.
3. To **ask note that** the Leader of the Council **has made** ~~to make~~ a public statement condemning the Union's irresponsible behaviour in giving a platform to those spreading hate speech ~~and stating all other steps taken in response to this motion.~~

If agreed, the motion would read:

### **Council Notes:**

1. During June 2026 there were riots in Southampton, Belfast, Edinburgh, and Glasgow.<sup>39</sup>
2. These riots have included evidence of residents being targeted on the basis of the colour of their skin or assumed nationality or religion.<sup>40</sup>
3. There is direct evidence to support the role of right-wing political activists in encouraging these events of unrest.
4. On 17 June 2026, the private members club, The Oxford Union, hosted a debate under the prompt 'The West is right to be suspicious of Islam'.<sup>41</sup>
5. This event included Tommy Robinson and Laurence Fox. Both of whom are widely considered to be on the far-right of British Politics.
6. There is significant evidence to suggest that Robinson and Fox have directly contributed to inciting previous incidents of unrest and the targeting of particular groups.<sup>42</sup>
7. There is a strong history in Oxford of the community opposing hate speech
8. Many hundreds of Oxford residents gathered on the streets around the Oxford Union on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2026 to show their opposition
9. In response to this event and the threat of unrest it brought, several Oxford businesses felt compelled to close on the evening of 17 June 2026.<sup>43</sup>
10. Many people of colour and members of the Islamic faith felt threatened and fearful as a result of the invitation.
11. 17 June 2026 was the date of England's first world cup match and would, therefore, have been likely to be a particularly lucrative financial event for many of the pubs forced to close. During June 2026 there were riots in Southampton, Belfast, Edinburgh, and Glasgow.

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<sup>39</sup> <https://bbc.com/news/articles/cvgjxxz0mp8o>

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cwy03rneqxzo>

<sup>41</sup> <https://oxford-union.org/news/oxford-union-news/53/53-Event-update-28-May-debate-now-on-17-June>

<sup>42</sup> <https://novaramedia.com/2026/05/15/tommy-robinson-nigel-farage-and-a-riot-over-a-crime-that-never-happened/>

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/26197654.oxford-pubs-closing-early-boarding-up-amid-unrest-fears/>

12. The Oxford Union is a private members club that is not open and accessible to the vast majority of ordinary residents of Oxford and their preoccupations bear no relation to our lives.

### **Council Believes**

1. Inviting speakers from the far right such as those invited to the Oxford Union on that night is not designed to further free speech or debate. It is deliberate ploy by the Oxford Union to gain headlines but at the expense of dividing communities. We are at our strongest when we are united. The division created by the narratives being shared on this evening only serve the interests of the very rich and powerful
2. Given the past statements of the speakers and the actions of those who support them, Thames Valley Police were right to make the decisions they made about how the event was policed and businesses had reason to be concerned about the safety and welfare of their staff and wider community.
3. There is a right to free speech and free debate - those rights should equally apply to us all, regardless of our individual or collective wealth, and also allow for peaceful protest against hate speech
4. With rights come responsibilities. The Oxford Union has consistently acted irresponsibly and with no regard for the wider community in Oxford. We believe they should be more thoughtful in considering the impacts on the city and community when considering any future invitations to speakers.
5. The Oxford Union should offer to cover the full costs associated with policing the event on 17 June.
6. In light of the costs imposed on businesses by the event, the Oxford Union should offer to compensate businesses both for lost profits (based on a reasonable projection of income taken for the night) and increased costs (such as the need to deploy additional security) for those that remained open.

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### **Council Resolves:**

1. To note that the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Community Safety have written the Police and Crime Commissioner clearly outlining the view that the Oxford Union should cover the full cost of the policing operation.
2. To ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Oxford Union stating the Council's position that the Oxford Union should offer to create a process for businesses to apply for compensation for lost profits and additional costs.
3. To ask note that the Leader of the Council has made a public statement condemning the Union's irresponsible behaviour in giving a platform to those spreading hate speech.

**f) Use of Park and Rides to facilitate pupil transport services (proposed by Cllr Andrew Gant, seconded by Cllr Katherine Miles)**

**Liberal Democrats Group Motion**

**Council notes that:**

Traffic in Oxford, like everywhere else, is significantly worse during school term time

That private schools can generate disproportionately more traffic than state schools for reasons some of which are perfectly legitimate, for example the geographic spread from which pupils are drawn

That while there always has to be significant caution around drawing too direct causal links, especially in something as fluid and complex as the transport system in a city, it is clear that reducing the amount of traffic generated by schools, in particular by private schools, would be hugely beneficial, not just for the wider community and other road users but also for residents, the schools themselves in reducing congestion around the school gate and competition for constrained road space, and for children by promoting healthy choices and encouraging independence

That many private schools in Oxford have put a large amount of resource into laying on their own, bespoke, school bus and minibuses services, with considerable success, and should be warmly thanked and congratulated

That safe, convenient, reliable ways for pupils and parents to access these services are key to their success and growth

That Oxford's five Park and Ride sites are an obvious resource for facilitating interchange to and from these services

**Council therefore resolves:**

To ask the Leader and Cabinet member to commit to doing everything it can to facilitate use of the three Park and Ride sites it manages by these pupil transport services, to pro-actively engage with schools, bus operators, the County Council and local members to make it happen, and to report back to council before the beginning of the new school year in September

**Labour Group Amendment**

**Council notes that:**

Traffic in Oxford, like everywhere else, is significantly worse during school term time

That private schools can generate disproportionately more traffic than state schools for reasons some of which are perfectly legitimate, for example the geographic spread from which pupils are drawn

That the majority of private schools in Oxford are located in Headington and Summertown, both more wealthy areas, largely left unchanged by the County Council's LTN policies and that there are almost no private schools in the areas around Cowley, most heavily affected by these policies

That while there always has to be significant caution around drawing too direct causal links, especially in something as fluid and complex as the transport system in a city, it is clear that reducing the amount of traffic generated by schools, in particular by private schools, would be hugely beneficial, not just for the wider community and other road users but also for residents, the schools themselves in reducing congestion around the school gate and competition for constrained road space, and for children by promoting healthy choices and encouraging independence

That most private schools in Oxford lie close to well serviced public bus routes coming into the City connecting to existing Park and Rides and other parts of the City.

That promoting the better use of existing public transport services will significantly reduce congestion on our City's streets

That many private schools in Oxford have put a large amount of resource into laying on their own, bespoke, school bus and minibus services, with ~~considerable~~ some success, and ~~should be warmly thanked and congratulated~~

That safe, convenient, reliable ways for pupils and parents to access these services ~~would encourage their use and, by so doing, could help to reduce traffic congestion in the City~~ ~~are key to their success and growth~~

That Oxford's five Park and Ride sites are an obvious resource for facilitating interchange to and from these services

#### **Council therefore resolves:**

To ask the Leader and Cabinet member to commit to doing everything ~~if~~ **they can to promote attendance at a local school where possible**, to facilitate use of the three Park and Ride sites it manages by ~~these~~ pupil, **parents and** transport services, to pro-actively engage with schools, bus operators, the County Council **which operates the other two Park and Rides**, and local members ~~to make it happen~~, and **if possible** to report back to council before the beginning of the new school year in September

If agreed, the motion would read:

#### **Council notes that:**

Traffic in Oxford, like everywhere else, is significantly worse during school term time

That private schools can generate disproportionately more traffic than state schools for reasons some of which are perfectly legitimate, for example the geographic spread from which pupils are drawn

That the majority of private schools in Oxford are located in Headington and Summertown, both more wealthy areas, largely left unchanged by the County Council's LTN policies and that there are almost no private schools in the areas around Cowley, most heavily affected by these policies

That while there always has to be significant caution around drawing too direct causal links, especially in something as fluid and complex as the transport system in a city, it is clear that reducing the amount of traffic generated by schools, in particular by private schools, would be hugely beneficial, not just for the wider community and other road users but also for residents, the schools themselves in reducing congestion around the

school gate and competition for constrained road space, and for children by promoting healthy choices and encouraging independence

That most private schools in Oxford lie close to well serviced public bus routes coming into the City connecting to existing Park and Rides and other parts of the City.

That promoting the better use of existing public transport services will significantly reduce congestion on our City's streets

That many private schools in Oxford have put a large amount of resource into laying on their own, bespoke, school bus and minibus services, with some success,

That safe, convenient, reliable ways for pupils and parents to access these services would encourage their use and, by so doing, could help to reduce traffic congestion in the City

That Oxford's five Park and Ride sites are an obvious resource for facilitating interchange to and from these services

**Council therefore resolves:**

To ask the Leader and Cabinet member to commit to doing everything it they can to promote attendance at a local school where possible, to facilitate use of the three Park and Ride sites it manages by pupil, parents and transport services, to pro-actively engage with schools, bus operators, the County Council which operates the other two Park and Rides, and local members, and if possible to report back to council before the beginning of the new school year in September

**g) Pregnancy Support Services (proposed by Cllr Ed Turner, seconded by Cllr Lizzie Diggins)**

**Labour Group Motion**

**Council believes:**

- That proper support for women in pregnancy extends far beyond physical care and includes emotional and psychological support;
- That this is exceptionally important in cases where women experience early-pregnancy loss, miscarriage, gynaecological trauma, fertility treatment, IVF or complex conditions such as endometriosis.

**Council notes:**

- That Oxford University NHS Hospitals Trust has consulted on the closure of its Gynaecology Counselling Service, with staff potentially to be made redundant or redeployed.

**Council resolves:**

- To oppose the closure of this vital service;
- To welcome the decision by the Trust to pause the consultation on closure in the light of the strong public support for the service, but to press for a long-term commitment to its future;
- To ask the Cabinet Member for Healthy, Fairer Oxford to write to the CEO of Oxford University NHS Hospitals Trust expressing the views in this motion, with copy to Oxford's MPs and the General Secretary of the UNITE trade union.

**h) Inequity of Public Transport Provision and Safe Segregated Cycle Path provision across the City (proposed by Cllr Trish Elphinstone, seconded by Cllr Simon Ottino)**

**Labour Group Motion**

There is an inequity of both Public Transport Provision and Safe Segregated Cycle Path Provision across the City.

This particularly affects areas such as Greater Leys which is the most distant part of the City from the City Centre and many amenities. It is the area with the highest proportion of residents on low income.

This Council requests that the Leader writes to County Councillor Gareth Epps asking him to review both issues and to urgently address these matters.

In particular requesting, he consider the use of subsidies to provide a minibus route around Greater Leys connecting to Cowley Centre, and he brings forward plans to create a Segregated Cycle Path on Watlington Rd and Garsington Rd and to properly maintain the route on Blackbird Leys Rd so that it isn't overgrown and made unusable by hedges.