

Agenda

Council

Summons

A meeting of the City Council will be held to transact the business set out below on

Date: **Monday 18 July 2022**

Time: **5.00 pm**

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



Proper Officer

Members of the public can attend to observe this meeting and:

- may register in advance to speak to the meeting in accordance with the [public speaking rules](#)
- may record all or part of the meeting in accordance with the Council's [protocol](#)

Information about speaking and recording is set out in the agenda and on the [website](#)

Please contact the Committee Services Officer to register to speak; to discuss recording the meeting; or with any other queries.

This meeting can be viewed live or afterwards on the council's [YouTube channel](#).

For further information please contact:

Lucy Tyrrell, Committee and Members Services Officer, Committee and Member Services Officer

 01865 252784

 democraticservices@oxford.gov.uk

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

Membership of Council

Councillors: Membership 48: Quorum 12.

Lord Mayor Councillor James Fry

Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Mark Lygo

Sheriff Councillor Mike Rowley

Members	Councillor Mohammed Altaf-Khan	Councillor Dr Amar Latif
	Councillor Lubna Arshad	Councillor Sajjad Malik
	Councillor Shaista Aziz	Councillor Katherine Miles
	Councillor Nadine Bely-Summers	Councillor Alistair Morris
	Councillor Susan Brown	Councillor Lois Muddiman
	Councillor Nigel Chapman	Councillor Edward Mundy
	Councillor Mary Clarkson	Councillor Chewe Munkonge
	Councillor Tiago Corais	Councillor Jabu Nala-Hartley
	Councillor Barbara Coyne	Councillor Lucy Pegg
	Councillor Lizzy Diggins	Councillor Susanna Pressel
	Councillor Dr Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini	Councillor Rosie Rawle
	Councillor Paula Dunne	Councillor Ajaz Rehman
	Councillor Laurence Fouweather	Councillor Jo Sandelson
	Councillor Andrew Gant	Councillor Linda Smith
	Councillor Stephen Goddard	Councillor Roz Smith
	Councillor Duncan Hall	Councillor Dr Christopher Smowton
	Councillor Tom Hayes	Councillor Imogen Thomas
	Councillor Alex Hollingsworth	Councillor Marie Tidball
	Councillor Rae Humberstone	Councillor Ed Turner
	Councillor Jemima Hunt	Councillor Louise Upton
	Councillor Chris Jarvis	Councillor Naomi Waite
	Councillor Emily Kerr	Councillor Diko Walcott
	Councillor Tom Landell Mills	

Apologies will be reported at the meeting.

Agenda

The business to be transacted is set out below

	Pages
Minute's silence and tributes	
<p>To hear tributes and observe a minute's silence in memory of former Lord Mayors or serving councillors or serving senior officers who have died:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Former Lord Mayor Alan Armitage – 1 June 2022	
PART 1 - PUBLIC BUSINESS	
1 Apologies for absence	
2 Declarations of interest	
3 Minutes	23 - 38
<p>Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Council held on 21 March 2022 and Annual Council meeting held on 18 May 2022.</p> <p>Council is asked to approve the minutes as a correct record.</p>	
4 Appointment to Committees	
<p>The Head of Law and Governance has been notified of resignations from committees and changes of membership requested by group leaders.</p> <p>Council is asked to make the following appointments to committees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Standards Committee - Councillor Lizzy Diggins to stand down and Councillor Ajaz Rehman to replace.• Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee – Councillor Imogen Thomas to stand down and Councillor Paula Dunne to replace.• Scrutiny Committee – Councillor Roz Smith to stand down and Councillor Altaf-Khan to replace. <p>Any further proposed changes will be circulated with the briefing note or notified at the meeting.</p>	

5 Announcements

Announcements by:

1. The Lord Mayor
2. The Sheriff
3. The Leader of the Council (who may with the permission of the Lord Mayor invite other councillors to make announcements)
4. The Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer, Monitoring Officer

6 Public addresses and questions that relate to matters for decision at this meeting

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.

Up to five minutes is available for each public address and up to three minutes for each question. Questions must be less than 200 words.

The request to speak accompanied by the full text of the address or question must be received by the [Head of Law and Governance](#) by 5.00 pm on Tuesday 12 July 2022.

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 are included in this time.

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

7 Affordable Housing Delivery Programme

39 - 46

The Head of Housing Services submitted a report to Cabinet on 13 April 2022 seeking agreement for further project approvals and delegations to enable the continued delivery of more affordable housing.

The Cabinet minutes are available at item 11a.

Councillor Alex Hollingsworth, Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Delivery or Councillor Linda Smith, Cabinet Member for Housing will present the report and present the Cabinet's recommendations.

Recommendations: Cabinet recommends that Council resolves to:

1. **Approve** a revision to the general fund capital budget of £2,150,000 to fund the grant payable for the additional 43 affordable homes on the Gibbs Crescent scheme, all of which will be funded by capital grant income from Oxfordshire Housing

and Growth Deal (OGD). This to be profiled as £1,935,000 (90%) in 2022/23 for the initial grant payment, and the balance of £215,000 in 2024/25.

8 **Proposal for Public Realm Improvements on Council Owned Land in the City Centre**

47 - 50

The Executive Director (Development) submitted a report to Cabinet on 15 June 2022 seeking approval of this public realm improvement scheme on Council owned land in the city centre including approval of planned works and required property and legal procedures to deliver the scheme (see Confidential Appendix 1 for more details).

The Cabinet decision will be reported in the Briefing Note. The draft minutes of the meeting will be available on the [Cabinet meetings webpage](#).

Councillor Ed Turner, Deputy Leader (Statutory) - Finance and Asset Management will present the report and present the Cabinet's recommendations.

Recommendation: Cabinet recommends that Council resolves to:

1. **Approve** a capital budget of £297K for delivery of this public realm improvement scheme (see Confidential Appendix 1 for more details).

9 **Additional loan finance to Oxford West End Developments (OxWED LLP)**

51 - 54

The Executive Director (Development) has submitted a report to Cabinet on 13 July 2022 which seeks approval for an in-year budget increase to allow Oxford City Council to lend Oxford West End Developments (OxWED LLP) up to £600,000 to support additional costs associated with the preparation and submission of an outline planning application and site acquisition and promotion works.

The Cabinet decision will be reported in the Briefing Note. The draft minutes of the meeting will be available on the [Cabinet meetings webpage](#).

Councillor Alex Hollingsworth, Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Delivery or Councillor Ed Turner, Deputy Leader (Statutory) - Finance and Asset Management will propose the Cabinet's recommendation.

Recommendation: Cabinet recommends subject to decisions taken at the Cabinet meeting on 13 July 2022 that Council resolves to increase its capital budget by £600,000 to allow the City Council to loan Oxford West End Developments (OxWED) LLP these funds.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

10 Parish Council representation on the Standards Committee

55 - 56

The Head of Law and Governance has submitted a report to the Standards Committee on 11 July 2022 detailing the proposal for Parish Council representation on the Standards Committee.

The decision of the Committee meeting will be reported in the Briefing Note. The draft minutes will be available on the [meeting webpage](#).

The Chair of the Standards Committee will present the report and propose the Committee's recommendations.

Recommendation: That subject to the decision of the Standards Committee of 11 July 2022, Council resolves to appoint Councillor Peter Nowland of Blackbird Leys Parish Council as the co-opted, non-voting member of the Standards Committee representing the four Parish Councils in Oxford until May 2026.

QUESTIONS

11 Questions on Cabinet minutes

This item has a time limit of 15 minutes.

Councillors may ask the Cabinet Members questions about matters in these minutes:

11a Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 13 April 2022

57 - 62

11b Draft Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 15 June 2022

63 - 72

11c Draft Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 13 July 2022

To follow in the briefing note.

12 Questions on Notice from Members of Council

Questions on notice from councillors received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.11(b).

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.

The full text of questions must have been received by the Head of Law

and Governance by no later than 1.00pm on Wednesday 6 July 2022
These, and written responses where available, will be published in the briefing note.

PART 2 - PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND SCRUTINY

13 Public addresses and questions that do not relate to matters for decision at this Council meeting

This item will be taken at or shortly after 7.00pm

Public addresses and questions to the Leader or other Cabinet member received in accordance with Council Procedure Rules in the Constitution and not relating to matters for decision in Part 1 of this agenda.

Up to five minutes is available for each public address and up to three minutes for each question. Questions must be less than 200 words.

The request to speak accompanied by the full text of the address or question must be received by the [Head of Law and Governance](#) by 5.00 pm on Tuesday 12 July 2022.

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*

14 Petition submitted in accordance with Council procedure rules - No to Greyhound Racing in Oxford

73 - 76

This item has a 15 minute time limit in total.

The petition organiser may address Council upon the petition for up to 5 minutes at the start of this item.

Council is asked to consider a petition meeting the criteria for debate under the Council's petitions scheme.

The full text of the petition is contained in the accompanying report of the Head of Law and Governance.

If a Councillor wishes to propose a substantive motion in respect of the petition then they must submit this by 10am on the working day before the full Council meeting (Friday 15 July). These are then published in the Council briefing note. Any amendments to these must be submitted by 11am on the day of the meeting (Monday 18 July).

If no substantive motion is agreed, Council is asked to note the petition.

15 Outside organisation/Committee Chair reports and questions

As set out in the Constitution at procedure rule 11.16, Members who are Council representatives on external bodies or Chairs of Council Committees who consider that a significant decision or event has taken place, may give notice to the Head of Law and Governance by 1.00 pm Thursday 14 July 2022 that they will present a written or oral report on the event or the significant decision and how it may influence future events. Written reports will be circulated with the briefing note.

15a OSP Oxford Safer Communities Partnership incl Safer Oxfordshire Partnership and Police Crime Panel

77 - 82

Councillor Diko Walcott, Cabinet Member for Safer Communities will present the report which provides a summary of Oxford Safer Communities Partnership's (OSCP) achievements in 2021-22.

Council is invited to comment on and note the report.

16 Scrutiny Committee update report

83 - 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.

PART 3 - MOTIONS REPRESENTING THE CITY

17 Motions on notice 18 July 2022

This item has a time limit of 60 minutes.

Motions received by the Head of Law and Governance in accordance with the rules in Section 11 of the Constitution by the deadline of 1.00pm on Wednesday 6 July 2022 are listed below.

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

Substantive amendments to these motions must be sent by councillors to the Head of Law and Governance by no later than 10.00am on Friday 15 July 2022 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) No Greyhound Racing in Oxford City (proposed by Councillor Fouweather, seconded by Councillor Pegg)
- b) Council provision of period products (proposed by Councillor Rawle, seconded by Councillor Pegg)
- c) BBC Oxford Cuts (proposed by Cllr Brown, seconded by Councillor Chapman)
- d) Sustainable Street Trading (proposed by Councillor Miles, seconded by Councillor Muddiman)
- e) Tackling and Preventing Child Poverty (proposed by Cllr Djafarbi-Marbini, seconded by Cllr Dunne)
- f) Street Homelessness and Severe Weather (proposed by Cllr Linda Smith, seconded by Cllr Dunne)
- g) Plant-based Food and Sustainable Farming (proposed by Cllr Paula Dunne, seconded by Cllr Alex Hollingsworth)

17a No Greyhound Racing in Oxford City (proposed by Councillor Fouweather, seconded by Councillor Pegg)

Liberal Democrat Group member motion

Council notes:

The reopening of the stadium in Sandy Lane is a welcome addition to Oxford's leisure activities. The stadium has had a chequered history since the mid-1970s and decreasing interest in greyhound racing directly contributed to its decline.

In 2005, Risk Capital Partners with Galliard Homes purchased the failing stadium. Plans for 150 houses and 75 flats were mooted but the Council's statement in favour of keeping the land for leisure use stalled the development. Greyhound racing and speedway continued until 2012 when the Greyhound Racing Association closed the stadium down.

After a decade of disuse, it was announced last year that a new owner planned to bring back greyhound racing to the Oxford Stadium.

This is a concern for the following reasons:

- Animal welfare: In 2019, the last full year of racing, the Greyhound Board of Great Britain recorded 4,970 injuries on registered tracks. Despite limited racing, in 2020 there were still 3,575 injuries. Dog welfare is poorly regulated on and off the track, with Parliament's Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee calling for stronger regulation of the industry. The Government has failed to back up the Welfare of Racing Greyhounds Regs 2010 with stronger legislation.
- Gambling: Inevitably greyhound-racing is focused on

gambling. There has been considerable research about the effect of gambling on individuals and communities, recently by Dr N. Muggleton (Brasenose College): “gambling is associated with addiction and harmful outcomes for others.”

- Active leisure: The continuation of greyhound racing at the stadium prevents it being used for more active leisure-based activities. Council notes there has been an informal assessment of the site by British Cycling who have stated it would be suitable as a velodrome, combined with a BMX and learn-to-ride facility, with ample space for other community uses.

The Council considers itself to be a caring Council which seeks the highest standards of welfare for all animals.

This Council calls on the Leader to:

- Issue a press release publicly opposing the return of greyhound racing to Oxford.
- Write to the UK Government calling for the introduction of legislation incorporating the recommendations of the 2016 Greyhound Welfare EFRA Report.

This Council resolves to:

- Support consultation with Oxford residents on their preferred options for leisure activities at the stadium as a part of the Local Plan Review and the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Reg 19 consultation.
- Ask the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Delivery to write to the owner of the stadium to request that other uses for the site are explored.

17b Council provision of period products (proposed by Councillor Rawle, seconded by Councillor Pegg)

Green Group member motion

This Council notes that:

- The average menstruating person spends £4800 on period products in their lifetime (Bloody Good Period, 2019)
- 36% of girls aged 14-21 in the UK struggled to afford or access period products during the coronavirus pandemic, equivalent to over a million people (Plan International, 2021)
- Half of these girls could not afford period products at all and 73% said they had to use toilet paper instead of pads or tampons at some point
- Inability to buy period products leads to social exclusion, particularly from education (Global Citizen, 2018)

- Period poverty is a particular problem for refugees and those in the asylum system, who receive under £40 a week in state support (Bloody Good Period/Women for Refugee Women, 2019)
- Young Women’s Music Project currently delivers a volunteer-run distribution network in Oxford to support people who menstruate or have young children and cannot access sanitary products or nappies
- Under the Period Products (Free Provision) Scotland Bill, the Scottish Government has set up Scotland-wide scheme to allow anyone who needs period products to get them free of charge, and gives the Scottish Government the power to make public bodies including schools, colleges and universities provide period products for free (Scottish Parliament, 2021)
- As part of the Welsh Government’s Period Dignity Strategic Action Plan, funding has been provided to local authorities and Further Education institutions to ensure that period products can be accessed free of charge by learners in schools, Further Education Institutions and to those in need in communities (Welsh Government, 2021)

This Council believes that:

- Everyone who requires period products should be able to access them for free
- A person’s period should not prevent them from succeeding in life

This Council resolves to:

- Request that the Executive Director (Communities and People) submits a report to Cabinet setting out the feasibility of providing free period products in public toilets and other public buildings including the Town Hall and community centres – in female, male, disabled and gender neutral facilities, including options to:
 - Explore whether any free disposable period products provided by the council can be sustainably sourced
 - Provide sanitary waste bins in all toilets, not just female toilets
 - Publicise the provision of free period products through council communication channels
- Call on the Cabinet Member for Health and Transport to:
 - Write to the County Council encouraging it to widen access to free period products across Oxfordshire, providing free period products in toilets of all public buildings including libraries, schools and colleges.

- Write to the Minister for Women and Equalities, calling on the UK government to make period products free and available to all who need them across England, as has been done in Scotland and Wales

17c BBC Oxford Cuts (proposed by Cllr Brown, seconded by Councillor Chapman)

Labour Group member motion

This Council condemns the BBC's proposal to end the transmission of its Oxford based television news bulletins from its headquarters in Summertown and urges it to drop this cost saving plan.

This Council acknowledges the Conservative Government has deliberately made the BBC's funding position very challenging by freezing the licence fee but this plan will minimise coverage of Oxfordshire issues and lead to an unacceptable reduced regional news service on television at peak viewing times.

The plan to present all the regional news programming from Southampton by creating a single edition of South Today with no segment committed to Oxford news serves no local resident well. With a much larger region to cover, all BBC South Today viewers will get less local coverage and Oxfordshire on the edge of the region is likely to miss out on a regular basis.

The move comes at a time when local journalism is under threat, with cash starved local newspapers and persistent BBC cuts already having hollowed out local radio and newspaper news coverage.

This is also a cut that disproportionately affects older people and those without access to digital services. There are still many people who choose to get their news through TV and newspapers and for them an increased online service is no substitute.

The BBC argument that audiences are relatively low to the Oxford segment of South Today is not the point. The value of regional television news services is about more than audience size – it is about an informed public able to hold decision makers to account. Local democracy will be worsened by this BBC Plan.

This Council recognises that councils across the affected areas are joining together to condemn these cuts.

This Council calls upon the Leader of the Council to:

- Write to the Chair of the BBC Trust and its Director General demanding the cuts be scrapped, and urging the BBC to boost coverage of local government across all its news media, and in particular re-instate its Local Democracy scheme reporter post based in Oxford;

- Write to Anneliese Dodds MP and Layla Moran MP, including a copy of the Council's letter to the Chair of the BBC Trust and its Director General, requesting that they also raise this issue;
- Request an urgent meeting with the BBC Nations Director Rhodri Talfan Davies to impress upon him the damage this proposal will do to local journalism;
- Write a letter of support to the Trades Unions, including the NUJ and BECTU, who represent staff at BBC Oxford to fight the cuts and rule out any compulsory redundancies.

17d Sustainable Street Trading (proposed by Councillor Miles, seconded by Councillor Muddiman)

Liberal Democrat Group member motion

Council notes:

Street trading¹ contributes to the vibrancy and vitality of Oxford and its local economy but there is scope to increase the sustainability of this activity, as well as at events on public land including parks². The Oxford City Council Street Trading Policy already contains some environmental measures including a condition on food traders that 'packaging and utensils shall be made of recycled or part recycled material.' However, the policy is in the process of being updated and this presents the Council with the opportunity to take a stronger and more comprehensive approach to manage the sustainability impacts of street trading. This is in recognition that street trading activities, as with any type of business or activity, may positively or negatively affect the wider environment, society or the economy.

In light of its commitment to address the Climate Emergency and ecological crisis, and during Plastic Free July, this Council acknowledges that there are actions it can take within its sphere of control and influence to promote more sustainable approaches to street trading. Examples might include, attaching conditions to licences, working in partnership with licence holders to improve the sustainability of their business practices, and involving them in wider city council initiatives such as the city's work on safer streets in the night time economy.

Therefore, this Council:

- Commits to seeking and integrating feedback including with traders on the Environment; Air quality; Littering; and Sustainable energy during the policy consultation process.
- Commits to updating its standard street trading consent conditions so they include a:
 - Ban on single use plastic and polystyrene in street trading;
 - Ban on the sale of plastic and helium balloons;

- Requirement and guidance on the use of sustainable food packaging, utensils, drinks containers and bags
- Requests that the Head of Regulatory Services and Community Safety explores options to update standard street trading consent conditions so that they include a requirement to provide a litter bin for recycling.
- Commits to encouraging and providing guidance to street traders:
 - To adopt sustainable sourcing of food and drink;
 - To use sustainable sources of energy for their trading activities;
 - To deal with customers' rubbish responsibly; and
 - On the benefits of sustainable street trading.
- Calls on the Cabinet Member for Health and Transport to work with stakeholders including at the County Council to consider the feasibility of increasing the provision of street based electric power points for street traders including in parks to phase out the use of diesel generators for energy generation by street traders.
- Calls on Cabinet Member for Health and Transport to explore ways to encourage street traders to transition to electric vehicles during the initial grace period for the ZEZ with the aim to require street traders to use electric vehicles in the medium term.

¹ 'Street Trading' is defined as the selling or exposing or offering for sale of any article (including a living thing) in a street – subject to a number of exceptions.

² Currently, there are 37 annual street traders and 2 weekly trading pitches. To date in 2022, there have been 5 events with 45 traders.

17e Tackling and Preventing Child Poverty (proposed by Cllr Djafarbi-Marbini, seconded by Cllr Dunne)

Labour Group member motion

Council notes:

Child poverty in Oxford is sadly persistent. In 2019, 29% of children in Oxford lived below the poverty line, approximately 9 children in every class of 30, a horrendously high figure given the prosperity of the city and country. The majority (70% nationally) of these children live in working families, in which the cost of living crisis has now combined with the existing problems of unaffordable housing and low wage, poor quality jobs to make life even more challenging. The data are even more stark amongst racialised minorities and families living with disabilities.

It is almost impossible to list exhaustively the negative consequences on children of growing up in poverty. Poorer health outcomes, lower educational attainment and earnings, and higher entrapment in the criminal justice system are pervasive themes which resonate into adulthood and cause life-long scarring and

stigmatisation. The stigma of poverty is one of many compelling reasons for universal and “cash first” approaches favoured by most local and national experts in the field.

However, the struggles which accompany not having sufficient resources to engage in society on the same basis as everybody else though are of concern right now, and require an immediate response. In the words of Baroness Lister of Burtersett, Honorary President of Child Poverty Action Group children should be valued and cared for as “beings” rather than “becomings”.

It is striking that in the discourse around poverty the voices of children and families living in poverty are often missing. There are some notable exceptions which reveal devastating testimony such as *“Poverty feels like a tangled web that you can never escape”* (ATD Fourth World/Oxford University) and: *“[it] makes me feel sad when mum says we haven’t got much money but I’m OK with it and have to support my mum”* (Milton Keynes Child Poverty Commission).

Despite the national constraints, our Council has taken a huge number of positive steps over many years to tackle inequalities in the city, without which the situation would undoubtedly have been much worse. These include an ambitious housing strategy, a comprehensive Council Tax Reduction scheme and Discretionary Housing Payments, sustained support for the city’s advice centres and work on the Oxford Living Wage.

This Council:

- Notes the work already being done to tackle the causes of child poverty.
- Requests that the Head of Corporate Strategy submits a report to Cabinet with options to consider how:
 - a. The Socio-economic Duty could be implemented within all council policies, and
 - b. Partnership institutions, including Oxford University, could be encouraged to adopt the Socio-economic Duty.
- Requests that the Head of Communities submits a report to Cabinet with options to:
 - a. Develop a Child Poverty Strategy informed by the voices of young people directly affected.
 - b. Implement more immediate actions such as:
 - Donation of devices to Getting Oxfordshire Online
 - Considering how parents and carers in or at risk of destitution (including those with no recourse to public funds) can access support via “food first” and “cash first” approaches.

17f Street Homelessness and Severe Weather (proposed by Cllr Linda Smith, seconded by Cllr Dunne)

Labour Group member motion

This Council notes that The Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) sets out the measures that Oxford City Council and our partners will take to provide for the welfare of people who are sleeping rough in instances of severe weather. The focus of SWEP to date has been on providing additional emergency accommodation during periods of cold weather, and in 2018 this council agreed that SWEP should be triggered every night forecast to be zero degrees or below.

However, climate change means that we are increasingly experiencing extreme weather of other kinds, including heatwaves, storms, hurricanes, and floods. People sleeping rough are at risk of heat stroke, heat exhaustion, dehydration, sun burn and skin cancer. Areas used by rough sleepers may be threatened by falling trees or rising water levels.

This Council now requests that:

- The Head of Housing Services updates the Council's SWEP procedure to take account of these threats. It should plan for periods of extreme heat and include the distribution of drinking water and sun protection and ensure that there is an indoor area available to anyone experiencing rough sleeping who wants to get out of the sun.
- The Head of Housing Services ensures that the updated SWEP procedure is discussed with the Lived Experience Advisory Forum (LEAF) for input.

17g Plant-based Food and Sustainable Farming (proposed by Cllr Paula Dunne, seconded by Cllr Alex Hollingsworth)

Labour Group member motion

This Council notes that:

- The global scientific consensus is that humans have heated the climate at a rate that is unprecedented, and we are heading towards mass extinction not just for ourselves but of entire eco systems if we do not change our actions today.¹
- Oxford City Council is committed to reducing its impact on the environment and to becoming carbon neutral by 2030.²
- We have a duty as leaders in the city to empower the local community to make changes that can mitigate climate catastrophe and help preserve the vitality of our planet for future

generations.

- The UK's agriculture produces 10% of the country's greenhouse gas emissions and makes up 70% of land use. Modern agricultural practices are a central driver for habitat and biodiversity loss and the UK is one of the world's most nature-depleted countries.³
- In the UK we eat twice as much meat and dairy as the global average which is not sustainable as there is not enough land in the world to meet this demand without destroying our natural world.⁴
- Plant-based sources of protein have much smaller carbon footprints than animal-based ones, even when comparing locally raised meat to imported plant foods.
- Farm animals across Europe are producing more emissions than cars and vans combined.⁵
- Our relationship to food is still an overlooked factor to the climate crisis yet it is the quickest and cheapest step to help tackle the climate crisis if we reduce our meat intake.
- The necessary change to confront the climate crisis needs to tackle existing inequalities in society while acting urgently.
- One of the few ways of reducing emissions that potentially saves people money is by consuming less meat which can be done immediately.
- To protect and enrich jobs in Oxford, we should work closely with local farmers and plant-based food organisations to move to more sustainable farming methods and local produce that promotes plant-based food.

This Council:

- Calls on the Cabinet Member for Health and Transport to work with Oxfordshire partners to encourage that the Oxfordshire Food Strategy:
 - Works with local farmers to support, promote, and encourage their move to create more sustainable plant-based produce.
 - References the benefit of sourcing food locally from producers who follow sustainable principles.
- Requests that the Executive Director (Communities and People) submits a report to Cabinet with options to form a plant-based localised free food service by supporting community groups who are already doing this work to transform Oxford into a more environmentally sustainable economy which will also tackle food poverty.
- Commits to the provision of entirely plant-based food at

councillor-only events and the provision of plant-based options at public Council events which are catered.⁶

- Calls on Cabinet to:
 - Request that the Council's Climate Action Plan be updated to state that all catering provided at council events and functions from August 2022 will have plant-based options.
 - Work with all Council run companies and facilities to encourage moving to having plant-based catering options by August 2022.

1 https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/outreach/IPCC_AR6_WGI_Press_Conference_Slides.pdf

2 https://www.oxford.gov.uk/news/article/1705/council_outlines_how_it_aims_to_become_a_zero_carbon_council_by_2030_at_the_latest

3 <https://www.rspb.org.uk/globalassets/downloads/documents/conservation-projects/state-of-nature/state-of-nature-uk-report-2016.pdf>

4 <https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/news/how-much-meat-should-i-be-eating/>

5 <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/sep/22/eu-farm-animals-produce-more-emissions-than-cars-and-vans-combined-greenpeace>

6 Oxford City Council stopped catering for council meetings a year ago so plant-based catering would be for the few remaining internal council events.

18 Matters exempt from publication and exclusion of the public

If Council wishes to exclude the press and the public from the meeting during consideration of any aspects of the preceding agenda items it will be necessary for Council to pass a resolution in accordance with the provisions of Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 specifying the grounds on which their presence could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in specific paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act if and so long as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

(The Access to Information Procedure Rules – Section 15 of the Council's Constitution – sets out the conditions under which the public can be excluded from meetings of the Council)

19 Exempt Appendices 1 and 2 for item 7: Affordable Housing Delivery Programme

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20 Exempt Appendices 1 and 2 for item 8: Proposal for

93 - 106

public realm improvements on Council owned land in the city centre

21 Exempt Appendices 1 and 2 for item 9: Additional Loan Finance to Oxford West End Developments (OxWED LLP)

107 -
160

Updates and additional information to supplement this agenda are published in the Council Briefing Note.

Additional information, councillors' questions, public addresses and amendments to motions are published in a supplementary briefing note. The agenda and briefing note should be read together.

The Briefing Note is published as a supplement to the agenda. It is available on the Friday before the meeting and can be accessed along with the agenda on the council's website.

Information for those attending

Recording and reporting on meetings held in public

Members of public and press can record, or report in other ways, the parts of the meeting open to the public. You are not required to indicate in advance but it helps if you notify the Committee and Member Services Officer prior to the meeting so that they can inform the Chair and direct you to the best place to record.

The Council asks Councillors and members of the press and public recording the meeting:

- To follow the protocol which can be found on the Council's [website](#)
- Not to disturb or disrupt the meeting
- Not to edit the recording in a way that could lead to misinterpretation of the proceedings. This includes not editing an image or views expressed in a way that may ridicule or show a lack of respect towards those being recorded.
- To avoid recording members of the public present, even inadvertently, unless they are addressing the meeting.

Please be aware that you may be recorded during your speech and any follow-up. If you are attending please be aware that recordings may take place and that you may be inadvertently included in these.

The Chair of the meeting has absolute discretion to suspend or terminate any activities that in his or her opinion are disruptive.

Councillors declaring interests

General duty

You must declare any disclosable pecuniary interests when the meeting reaches the item on the agenda headed "Declarations of Interest" or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.

What is a disclosable pecuniary interest?

Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to your* employment; sponsorship (ie payment for expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties as a councillor or towards your election expenses); contracts; land in the Council's area; licenses for land in the Council's area; corporate tenancies; and securities. These declarations must be recorded in each councillor's Register of Interests which is publicly available on the Council's website.

Declaring an interest

Where any matter disclosed in your Register of Interests is being considered at a meeting, you must declare that you have an interest. You should also disclose the nature as well as the existence of the interest. If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest, after having declared it at the meeting you must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

Members' Code of Conduct and public perception

Even if you do not have a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter, the Members' Code of Conduct says that a member "must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself" and that "you must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned". The matter of interests must be viewed within the context of the Code as a whole and regard should continue to be paid to the perception of the public.

*Disclosable pecuniary interests that must be declared are not only those of the member her or himself but also those member's spouse, civil partner or person they are living with as husband or wife or as if they were civil partners.

Minutes of a meeting of Council on Monday 21 March 2022

www.oxford.gov.uk



Council members present:

Councillor Goddard (Deputy Lord Mayor)	Councillor Wolff (Sheriff)
Councillor Abrishami	Councillor Arshad
Councillor Bely-Summers	Councillor Walcott
Councillor Brown	Councillor Chapman
Councillor Cook	Councillor Corais
Councillor Coyne	Councillor Diggins
Councillor Fouweather	Councillor Fry
Councillor Gant	Councillor Hall
Councillor Hayes	Councillor Hollingsworth
Councillor Humberstone	Councillor Jarvis
Councillor Landell Mills	Councillor Latif
Councillor Malik	Councillor Miles
Councillor Mundy	Councillor Munkonge
Councillor Nala-Hartley	Councillor Pegg
Councillor Pressel	Councillor Rehman
Councillor Rowley	Councillor Roz Smith
Councillor Snowton	Councillor Thomas
Councillor Tidball	Councillor Turner
Councillor Upton	Councillor Wade
Councillor Waite	

Also present for all or part of the meeting:

Caroline Green, Chief Executive
Mish Tullar, Head of Corporate Strategy
Nigel Kennedy, Head of Financial Services
Susan Sale, Monitoring Officer and Head of Law and Governance
Lucy Tyrrell, Committee and Member Services Officer
Tom Hudson, Scrutiny Officer

106. Apologies for absence

Councillor(s) Altaf-Khan, Aziz, Clarkson, Djafari-Marbini, Dunne, Haines, Hunt, Lygo and L Smith sent apologies.

The minutes show when Councillors who were absent for part of the meeting arrived and left.

107. Declarations of interest

Item 10: Statement of Licensing Policy (Licensing Act 2003)

Cllr Malik: stated that he is a self-employed taxi driver working in Oxford City; he made the declaration for reasons of transparency; it was not a pecuniary interest

108. Minutes

Council agreed to approve the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 31 January 2022 and the budget meeting of Council held on 16 February 2022 as a true and correct record.

109. Appointment to Committees

There was no discussion under this item.

110. Announcements

Cllr Pressel joined the meeting.

Council paid tribute and held a minute's silence in memory of former Councillor Gill Sanders.

The Deputy Lord Mayor advised Council he had attended the Kurdish Festival of Newroz at Cheney School.

At the invitation of the Deputy Lord Mayor, the City Rector Rev Buckley spoke to the meeting and highlighted the moving tributes to former Councillor Gill Sanders and moved the Council to a minute's silence to remember those in the Ukraine, followed by a reading of Psalm 31.

Cllr Brown, the Leader of the Council, addressed Council following the decision to end the twinning link between the Council and the City of Perm.

111. Public addresses and questions that relate to matters for decision at this meeting

There were no addresses or questions.

112. Development of land at South Oxford Science Village (Land South of Grenoble Road)

Council considered the report from the Executive Director for Development seeking agreement for the Council to enter into a joint venture Limited Liability Partnership with Thames Water and Magdalen College, as the three land owners of the land allocated

for redevelopment off Grenoble Road known as the South Oxford Science Village site, and in doing so, to commit the land for development.

Cllr Hollingsworth, Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Development introduced the report, proposed the recommendations; Cllr Hollingsworth and Cllr Turner, Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management answered questions.

The recommendations were agreed on being seconded by Cllr Turner and put to the vote.

Council resolved to:

approve the establishment of a revenue budget of £556k to enable the work to bring the site forward for development, and for internal and external resources its business. Where appropriate and agreed with the Head of Financial Services the costs will be capitalised and the appropriate budget vired from revenue to capital in line with the capitalisation;

approve a loan of up to £500k to be made to the LLP to cover the council's share of running the LLP (% share based on % land ownership within the allocation) to be repaid with interest on terms agreed with the Head of Financial Services. The appropriate capital and revenue budgets to be established, to be agreed with the Head of Financial Services, based on the LLP Business Plan and Budget.

113. Integrated Performance Report for Q3

Council considered the report from the Head of Financial Services and the Head of Business Improvement seeking approval of a project into the capital programme.

Councillor Turner, Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management introduced the report, proposed the recommendation and answered questions. Cllrs Rowley and Thomas spoke in support of the item and the recommendations were agreed on being seconded by Cllr Brown and put to the vote.

Council resolved to:

approve the addition of £0.110 million into the Capital Programme for the purchase of Hybrid AV meeting equipment as set out at paragraph 13.

114. Decisions taken under Part 9.3(b) of the Constitution

Council considered a report from The Head of Financial Services and the Head of Business Improvement which sought approval of a project into the capital programme.

Cllr Turner, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management, introduced the report and proposed the recommendations.

The recommendations were agreed on being seconded by Cllr Hollingsworth and put to the vote.

Council were resolved to:

approve the addition of £0.110 million into the Capital Programme for the purchase of Hybrid AV meeting equipment as set out at paragraph 13.

115. Statement of Licensing Policy (Licensing Act 2003)

Cllr Latif joined the meeting.

Cllr Malik left the meeting.

Council considered a report from the Head of Regulatory Services and Community Safety requesting the Committee agree and recommend the updated Statement of Licensing Policy and Cumulative Impact Assessment.

Cllr Cook, the Chair of the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee, introduced the report, proposed the Committee's recommendations and answered questions.

The recommendations were agreed on being seconded by Cllr Hayes and put to the vote.

Council were resolved to:

adopt the Statement of Licensing Policy and Cumulative Impact Assessment

116. Policy on the relevance of warnings, offences, cautions and convictions

Council considered a report from the Head of Regulatory Services and Community Safety seeking agreement of the Policy on the Relevance of Warnings, Offences, Cautions and Convictions (Taxi Licensing).

Cllr Cook, Chair of the Licencing and Gambling Acts Committee presented the report and proposed the recommendation.

The recommendation was agreed on being seconded by Cllr Hollingsworth and put to the vote.

Council resolved to:

adopt the final Policy on the Relevance of Warnings, Offences, Cautions and Convictions.

117. Members' Code of Conduct

Cllr Malik re-joined the meeting.

Council considered a report from the Head of Law and Governance, recommended by the Standards Committee to adopt a new Members' Code of Conduct.

Cllr Pressel, Chair of the Standards Committee presented the report, and proposed the recommendation.

The recommendations were agreed on being seconded by Cllr Tidball and put to the vote.

Council resolved to:

Adopt the revised Councillors' Code of Conduct for implementation from May 2022.

118. Constitution Review 2021/22

Council considered the report from the Head of Law and Governance recommending changes to the Council's Constitution following an annual review process overseen by a cross-party group of councillors.

Cllr Thomas presented the report and proposed the recommendations.

The recommendations were agreed on being seconded by Cllr Hollingsworth and put to the vote.

Council resolved to:

1. **Approve** the list of proposed amendments to governance arrangements in the Council's Constitution listed in Appendix 1 with effect from 18 May 2022.
2. **Approve** the list of proposed amendments to clarify existing governance arrangements in the Council's Constitution as detailed in Appendix 2 with effect from 18 May 2022.
3. **Approve** the dispensations in Part 22.5(e) granted under section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 for a further four years from 1 October 2022.
4. **Note** that Council will be recommended to adopt a new Members Code of Conduct under a separate agenda item, following consideration by the Standards Committee; and
5. **Delegate authority** to the Head of Law and Governance to make minor and consequential amendments to the Constitution including to wording and/or numbering that is identified as being inconsistent with the changes approved by Council.
6. **Note** that the Monitoring Officer has delegated authority to change Part 4 (who carries out executive responsibilities) and Part 6 (roles of Cabinet members) to reflect the wishes of the Leader. This would include amending Cabinet Member portfolio titles in the Constitution to reflect any changes announced by the Leader.

119. Pay Policy Statement 2022

Council considered a report from the Head of Business Improvement recommending approval of the Annual Pay Policy Statement, as required by legislation.

Cllr Rowley, Cabinet Member for Citizen Focused Services, introduced the report and moved the recommendations, seconded by Cllr Brown, Leader of the Council.

The recommendations were agreed on and put to the vote.

Council resolved to:

1. **Approve** the Annual Pay Policy Statement 2022/23 as attached at Appendix 1.
2. **Note** and approve the elements of the Collective Agreement on Pay as referenced in this report.
3. **Authorise** the Head of Business Improvement and any staff delegated by the Head of Business Improvement to make any changes to the Council's employment policies in accordance with the Collective Agreement.

120. Questions on Cabinet minutes

121. Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 26 January 2022

There were no questions on the Cabinet minutes of 26 January 2022.

122. Draft minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 9 February 2022

There were no questions on the Cabinet minutes of 9 February 2022.

123. Questions on Notice from Members of Council

Cllr Waite joined the meeting.

32 written questions were asked of the Cabinet Members and the Leader, and these and written responses were published before the meeting.

These along with summaries of the 20 supplementary questions and responses asked and given at the meeting are set out in the minutes pack.

The meeting broke for 30min at the conclusion of this item.

124. Public addresses and questions that do not relate to matters for decision at this Council meeting

Council heard two addresses and one question. Cabinet Members read or summarised their written responses.

Both addresses, the question and responses are set out in full in the minutes pack.

1. Address by Pawel Swietach, Professor of Physiology (University of Oxford) – Twinning with Perm.
2. Address by Karen Hewitt, Chair of Oxford Perm Association (University of Oxford) – the Twinning Agreement with Perm.
3. Question from Alistair Morris – Community Group Tree Planting.

The Deputy Lord Mayor thanked all the speakers for their contributions.

Cllr Malik left the meeting and did not return.

125. Outside organisation/Committee Chair reports and questions

a) Partnership report: Children's Trust Board

Council had before it the Partnership report: Children's Trust Board report.

Cllr Brown moved the report on Cllr Aziz's behalf, which was seconded by Cllr Thomas.

Cllr Gant sought clarification on the absence of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership report, Cllr Brown advised that this had been missed for this meeting and will be brought to the next Council meeting.

Council noted the report.

126. Scrutiny Committee update report

Cllr Pressel left the meeting and did not return.

Council had before it the report of the Scrutiny Committee Chair.

Councillor Wade spoke to the report and highlighted the 2050 Plan update and the subsequent briefings that have taken place.

Council noted the report.

Cllr Tidball left the meeting and did not return.

127. Motions on notice 21 March 2022

Council had before it six motions on notice submitted in accordance with Council procedure rules and reached decisions as set out below.

Motions agreed as set out below:

- a) End Fire and Rehire (proposed by Cllr Mundy, seconded by Cllr Dunne)
- b) Opposition to the privatisation of the Vaccination Manufacturing and Innovation Centre (proposed by Cllr Jarvis, seconded by Cllr Pegg)
- c) A Sanctuary Strategy for Oxford (proposed by Cllr Gant, seconded by Cllr Miles)

Motion not taken as withdrawn before the meeting:

- d) No Greyhound Racing in Oxford (proposed by Cllr Wade, seconded by Cllr Fouweather) [amended proposed by Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Linda Smith]

Motions not taken as the time allocated for debate had finished:

- e) Using Doughnut Economics (proposed by Cllr Pegg, seconded by Cllr Wolff)
- f) Set up a Drug Consumption Room (proposed by Cllr Wade [amendment proposed by Cllr Linda Smith, seconded by Cllr Upton])

128. End Fire and Rehire (proposed by Cllr Mundy, seconded by Cllr Dunne)

Cllr Mundy, seconded by Cllr Thomas in Cllr Dunne's absence, proposed the submitted motion as set out in the agenda and briefing note.

After debate and being put to the vote the motion was agreed.

Council resolved to adopt the following motion:

This Council notes that:

The practice of Fire and Rehire, or dismissal and reengagement, has come to public attention in recent years. This involves an employer dismissing staff and reoffering their roles under inferior conditions, usually to effectively change the contract of employment. The currently legal practice has been increasingly threatened by employers. The prevalence and impact of Fire and Rehire has been researched by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas).¹ Though not new, there is suggestion that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has spurred an increase in its use. Others have told Acas that the pandemic is being used "opportunistically as a smokescreen to diminish workers' terms and conditions". This has impacted a range of employees, many of whom have been key workers such as factory, utilities, and retail

¹ <https://www.acas.org.uk/fire-and-rehire-report/html>

workers. These are people who have kept working and kept our country going during the pandemic and lockdowns.

According to TUC research² nearly 1 in 10 workers have been told to re-apply for their jobs on worse terms and conditions or face the sack. Working-class people (12%) are nearly twice as likely than those from higher socio-economic groups (7%) to face Fire and Rehire. For black and ethnic minority workers (15%) the rate is nearly twice the rate of white workers (8%).

Here, and across the country, Fire and Rehire is increasing the precariousness of work and financially and mentally compromising people who work hard to put food on the table and pay their bills. It is shackling our trade unions and making it impossible for them to fight for a fair deal for their members.

According to the National Union of Journalists (NUJ), our city's own newspapers The Oxford Mail and The Oxford Times threatened to Fire and Rehire NUJ members over bank holiday pay. In August the NUJ agreed a deal to end the dispute, but they could not get Fire and Rehire taken off the table in negotiations with the newspapers' owners Newsquest Media Group.³

In Oxfordshire, workers at the Jacob Douwe Egberts coffee factory in Banbury were threatened with Fire and Rehire in early 2020. The profitable factory succeeded in settling an agreement with Unite the Union in August 2021.⁴

Council resolves:

- To publicly oppose any future use or threat of Fire and Rehire by employers in our City.
- For the review of future contracts, contract renewals and procurement to seek to include a commitment for employers to not use or threaten Fire and Rehire, as part of their social clause.
- For our City Council Leader to add her voice to that of our MPs Anneliese Dodds and Layla Moran in supporting national legislation to ban Fire and Rehire.
- For our City Council Leader to write to the Business Secretary on behalf of Council, urging him to reverse the current government position, support a ban of Fire and Rehire, and back the workers of our country.

129.No Greyhound Racing in Oxford (proposed by Cllr Wade, seconded by Cllr Fouweather)

Cllr Wade advised Council that this motion is withdrawn from this meeting.

130.Opposition to the privatisation of the Vaccine Manufacturing and Innovation Centre (proposed by Cllr Jarvis, seconded by Cllr Pegg)

² "Fire and rehire" tactics have become widespread during pandemic – warns TUC January 2021

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/news/fire-and-rehire-tactics-have-become-widespread-during-pandemic-warns-tuc>

³ <https://www.nuj.org.uk/resource/oxford-mail-and-times-use-fire-and-rehire-tactic-to-end-bank-holiday-working-payments.html>

<https://www.holdthefrontpage.co.uk/2021/news/daily-journalists-facing-fire-and-rehire-after-rejecting-pay-change-union-says/>

⁴ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-58078221>

Cllr Jarvis, seconded by Cllr Pegg, proposed the submitted motion as set out in the agenda and briefing note.

Cllr Linda Smith proposed the amendment in Cllr Aziz's absence as set out in the briefing note.

Council debated the motion and amendment and Cllr Jarvis accepted the amendment put forward by Cllr Linda Smith. On being put to the vote, the amendment motion was agreed.

Council resolved to adopt the following motion:

Council notes

- The Vaccine Manufacturing and Innovation Centre (VMIC), based at the Harwell Campus in Oxfordshire was established in 2018 as an institution that would develop vaccines and prepare for future pandemics.
- The VMIC was established by a consortium of universities - the University of Oxford, Imperial College and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. It now operates as a non-profit company in which the founding universities are shareholders.
- The VMIC is set to become operational in 2022, and would be the UK's first strategy vaccine development and advanced manufacturing facility.
- Reports from the *Financial Times*, *Observer* and *Independent* among others have indicated that government officials are currently reviewing bids from the private sector to manage the centre - including multinational biotechnology firms and healthcare manufacturers.
- Civil society groups including Keep Our NHS Public Oxfordshire and We Own It have publicly opposed any move to place the VMIC in the hands of the private sector.

Council believes

- Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, private involvement in the health sector has been hugely damaging, with companies prioritising profit above public health.
- Allowing the VMIC to pass into the hands of profit-driven private companies will reduce the efficacy of the centre, inhibit its ability to deliver proper preparedness for future pandemics and will not ensure that vaccines developed in Oxford are shared equitably to save the lives of people across the world. We must end the Covid-19 vaccine apartheid that is prioritising big pharma profits over saving the lives of predominately Black and Brown people in low income countries. While Britain has vaccinated the vast majority of its population, the whole of the continent of Africa has only been able to fully vaccinate 11% of its people, while low income countries, as a group, reached only 5.5%. This inequality is obscene.

Council resolves

- To oppose the privatisation of the VMIC.
- To request the Leader write to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy expressing the Council's view that the VMIC should not be privatised.
- To request the Leader write to the three founding universities expressing the Council's view that the VMIC should not be privatised.

131.A Sanctuary Strategy for Oxford (proposed by Cllr Gant, seconded by Cllr Miles)

Cllr Gant, seconded by Cllr Miles, proposed the submitted motion as set out in the agenda and briefing note.

Cllr Diggins, seconded by Cllr Chapman, proposed the amendment as set out in the briefing note.

Council debated the amended motion. Cllr Gant accepted the amended motion put forward by Cllr Diggins. On being put to the vote, the amended motion was agreed.

Council resolved to adopt the following motion:

Council notes:

The contribution that refugees and migrants seeking sanctuary have made to the city throughout recent history, and has played its part through past and existing programmes.

We understand that Afghan refugees have been housed in hotels since their arrival. This is not a sustainable solution as it prevents these refugees from beginning to rebuild their new lives. It is also very costly to the public purse.

The rapid displacement of Ukrainian civilians calls for decisive action to provide safe routes. But the government's response is completely out of step with both the need for protection, as well as public opinion.

Whilst other countries are waiving visas, government have announced two pathways for people to get to the UK - but both are bureaucratic, and in practice make it very difficult for people to reach safety and family in the UK.

When someone is fleeing for their life, it is simply not practical or possible to wait for months, even years. We as a council need to be ready to make the best of schemes that are announced.

At the same time, the UK government is pushing through the damaging and reactionary Nationality and Borders Bill, the biggest roll-back of refugee rights that this country has ever seen.

The Council resolves to:

1. Request that the Executive Director for Communities and People submits a report to Cabinet setting out what the Council is doing and considers whether it would be necessary to develop a Sanctuary Strategy to:
 - a) Ensure that the council can respond quickly and efficiently to humanitarian crises such as the two (Afghanistan and Ukraine) we have seen unfold in just 6 short months.
 - b) Ensure service areas are accessible to people fleeing war and persecution.
 - c) Encourage private landlords to come forward with offers of housing.
 - d) Mark Refugee Week (End of June) (e.g. St Helens Refugee week 2021 featured a football match between sanctuary seekers and Cllrs).
 - e) Look after Ukrainian refugees, once details of the Humanitarian Sponsorship scheme become available.

- f) Engage proactively with local and national third sector partners and stakeholders to ensure we can mitigate against ‘hostile environment’ policies within the limits of the current legal framework.
2. Ask the leader to write to the Home Secretary Priti Patel to highlight the challenges with the current way resettlement works, such as, but not limited to:
- South East and the challenges around finding housing limited by benefit cap.
 - The difficulty with having many different schemes (7 in total) which creates confusion and delay in welcoming people of sanctuary seeking background (unable to plan).
 - The need for far more affordable housing to meet the existing and future housing needs locally
 - Scrap the Nationality and Borders bill, a bill predicted to add an additional £2.7bn a year, and is likely to be unworkable and dehumanising.
3. Acknowledge the motion that we passed in October on Afghanistan and Refugees which raised a lot of the same issues.

132. Using Doughnut Economics (proposed by Cllr Pegg, seconded by Cllr Wolff)

This motion was note taken as the time allotted for debate had finished.

133. Set up a Drug Consumption Room (proposed by Cllr Wade)

This motion was not taken as the time allotted for debate had finished.

134. Exempt Appendix 3 for item 7: Development of Land at South Oxford Science Village

The meeting started at 5.00 pm and ended at 9.00 pm

Lord Mayor
2022

Date: Wednesday 18 May

*Decisions on items of business take effect immediately:
Motions may be implemented immediately or may require further budget provision and/or reports to Cabinet before implementation.
Details are in the Council’s Constitution.*

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Minutes of a meeting of Council on Wednesday 18 May 2022

Council members present:

Councillor Lygo (Lord Mayor)

Councillor Arshad

Councillor Bely-Summers

Councillor Clarkson

Councillor Coyne

Councillor Dunne

Councillor Fry

Councillor Hall

Councillor Hollingsworth

Councillor Hunt

Councillor Kerr

Councillor Latif

Councillor Miles

Councillor Mundy

Councillor Nala-Hartley

Councillor Pressel

Councillor Rehman

Councillor Sandelson

Councillor Roz Smith

Councillor Thomas

Councillor Turner

Councillor Goddard (Deputy Lord Mayor)

Councillor Aziz

Councillor Brown

Councillor Corais

Councillor Diggins

Councillor Fouweather

Councillor Gant

Councillor Hayes

Councillor Humberstone

Councillor Jarvis

Councillor Landell Mills

Councillor Malik

Councillor Morris

Councillor Munkonge

Councillor Pegg

Councillor Rawle

Councillor Rowley

Councillor Linda Smith

Councillor Smowton

Councillor Tidball

Councillor Upton

Also present for all or part of the meeting:

Caroline Green, Chief Executive

Nigel Kennedy, Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer

Mish Tullar, Head of Corporate Strategy

Marcia Ecclestone, Legal Services Manager

Ian Wright, Head of Regulatory Services and Community Safety

Stephen Gabriel, Executive Director for Communities and People

Tom Bridgman, Executive Director - Development

Andrew Brown, Committee and Member Services Manager
Lucy Tyrrell, Committee and Member Services Officer

The minutes show when Councillors who were absent for part of the meeting arrived and left.

1. Election of Lord Mayor for the Council year 2022/23

Cllr Upton proposed, seconded by Cllr Clarkson, that Cllr Fry be elected Lord Mayor to the start of the Annual Council meeting in May 2023.

There were no other nominations.

Council were resolved to elect Cllr Fry as Lord Mayor of Oxford for the Council year 2022/23.

2. Appointment of Deputy Lord Mayor for the Council 2022/23

Cllr Hollingsworth proposed, seconded by Cllr Goddard, that Cllr Lygo be appointed Deputy Lord Mayor to the start of the Annual Council meeting in May 2023.

There were no other nominations.

Council were resolved to appoint Cllr Lygo as Deputy Lord Mayor of Oxford for the Council year 2022/23.

3. Appointment of Sheriff for the Council year 2022/23

Cllr Turner proposed, seconded by Cllr Brown, that Cllr Rowley be appointed Sherriff to the start of the Annual Council meeting in May 2023.

There were no other nominations.

Council were resolved to appoint Cllr Rowley as Sherriff of Oxford for the Council year 2022/23.

4. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Altaf-Khan, Walcott, Muddiman and Chapman.

5. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

6. Announcements

There were no announcements from The Lord Mayor or the Chief Executive.

Rev Buckley congratulated those on their civic appointments, and advised that a sign of a good community is to honour the old and new in healthy balance, and felt privileged to be sitting alongside Councillors in serving the good people of Oxford City.

7. Election of Council Leader

Cllr Turner proposed, seconded by Cllr Thomas, that Cllr Brown be elected as Leader of Council for a term of office beginning immediately and ending at the Annual Council meeting immediately following the end of her current term of office.

There were no other nominations.

Council were resolved to elect Cllr Brown as Leader of Council for a term of office ending on the day of the Annual Council meeting at the end of her current term of office.

8. Report of the Leader of the Council

Cllr Rowley joined the meeting.

The Leader of the Council moved her report. She congratulated the civic office holders and welcomed all, including new Councillors, to the first meeting following elections.

Appointments of Deputy Leader, Cabinet portfolio holders and other executive appointments were detailed in her report circulated to all Councillors and given below:

Deputy Leader and Cabinet appointments and responsibilities

Role	Member	Portfolio
Leader	Cllr Susan Brown	Inclusive Economy
Deputy Leader (statutory)	Cllr Ed Turner	Finance and Asset Management
Deputy Leader (non-statutory)	Cllr Chewe Munkonge	Leisure and Parks
Cabinet Member	Cllr Shaista Aziz	Communities and Culture
Cabinet Member	Cllr Nigel Chapman	Citizen Focused Services
Cabinet Member	Cllr Alex Hollingsworth	Planning and Housing Delivery
Cabinet Member	Cllr Linda Smith	Housing
Cabinet Member	Cllr Imogen Thomas	Zero Carbon Oxford and Climate Justice
Cabinet Member	Cllr Louise Upton	Health and Transport
Cabinet Member	Cllr Diko Walcott	Safer Communities

Future Oxfordshire Partnership appointments

Body	Member	Named substitute
Future Oxfordshire Partnership (<i>Leader</i>)	Cllr Susan Brown	Cllr Chewe Munkonge
Environment Advisory	Cllr Imogen Thomas	Cllr Louise Upton

Group		
Housing Advisory Group	Cllr Linda Smith	Cllr Alex Hollingsworth
Infrastructure Advisory Group	Cllr Alex Hollingsworth	Cllr Edward Turner
Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Advisory Group	Cllr Alex Hollingsworth	Cllr Edward Turner

Shareholder and Joint Venture Group appointments

Body	Members
SJVG for ODS	Cllrs Susan Brown, Ed Turner, Chewe Munkonge, Nigel Chapman, Linda Smith, Alex Hollingsworth, Louise Upton
SJVG for OCHL & joint ventures	Cllrs Susan Brown, Ed Turner, Chewe Munkonge, Alex Hollingsworth, Nigel Chapman, Linda Smith, Shaista Aziz, Imogen Thomas

9. Appointment to Council Committees 2022/23

Council had before it a report from the Head of Law and Governance asking Council to appoint committees and the members serving on those committees for the Council year 2022/23 in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Section 15) and other relevant legislation.

On being proposed by Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Turner and put to the vote, Council approved the recommendations and nominations to committee places.

Council were **resolved** to:

1. **Approve** the structure of the Council committees, as defined within the Council's Constitution and set out in Appendix 1: Committee structure 2022/23;
2. **Approve** the methods, calculations and conventions used in determining political representation on committees as outlined in the report and shown in Appendix 2: Political proportionalities on Council committees 2022-23;
3. **Appoint** to committee seats in accordance with the requirements of political proportionality and the nominations made by political groups, as shown in Appendix 3: Committee nominations 2022-23;
4. **Agree** that all members of Council will form the pool of members able to observe on appeals and some grievances panels in accordance with the Council's policies;
5. **Appoint** three non-executive members to the Oxfordshire Growth Board Scrutiny Panel (see Appendix 3: Committee nominations 2022-23);

6. **Appoint** one non-executive member to the Joint Oxfordshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (see Appendix 3: Committee nominations 2022-23).

10. Selective Licensing fees

Cllrs Rehman and Clarkson declared an interest and left the room for this item.

Council had before it a report from the Head of Regulatory Services and Community Safety which had been submitted to Cabinet on 10 March 2021 informing Cabinet of the results of the consultation exercise carried out into the proposal to introduce a selective licensing scheme in the city.

Councillor Linda Smith, Cabinet Member for Housing introduced the report and proposed the recommendations, which was seconded by Cllr Hollingsworth.

Cllr Miles spoke on behalf of her colleagues in support of the scheme which she hoped would improve housing conditions for those in private rented accommodation in the city and looked forward to being able to scrutinise the success of this scheme.

In response to a question from Cllr Malik, Cllr Linda Smith advised that funds raised from this scheme will be used to support the scheme including 26 additional customer service officers and 11 additional enforcement officers boosting the capacity of this council, further details on how this is profiled over the 5 years can be provided in writing. Following a subsequent question from Cllr Malik, Cllr Hollingsworth advised that this scheme would extend beyond HMO properties, thereby providing assurances for the private sector in the city.

Cllr Waite joined the meeting.

On being put to the vote, Council were **resolved** to approve the fee structure for licence applications, as set out in Appendix 7.

The meeting started at 5.00 pm and ended at 5.25 pm

Lord Mayor

Date: Monday 18 July 2022

Decisions on items of business take effect immediately:

Motions may be implemented immediately or may require further budget provision and/or reports to Cabinet before implementation.

Details are in the Council's Constitution.

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To: Cabinet – 13 April 2022
Council – 18 July 2022

Report of: Head of Housing Services

Title of Report: Affordable Housing Delivery Programme

Summary and Recommendations	
Purpose of report:	The report seeks further project approvals and delegations to enable the continued delivery of more affordable housing
Key decision:	Yes
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Diko Walcott, Cabinet Member for Affordable Housing, Housing Security and Housing the Homeless Councillor Alex Hollingsworth, Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Delivery
Corporate Priority:	Meeting Housing Needs
Policy Framework:	Council Strategy 2020 - 2024
Recommendations: That the Cabinet resolves to:	
1.	Note the 64 affordable homes that have already been acquired from OCHL as per Table 1, and the 111 affordable dwellings that are currently in delivery as listed in Table 2, in accordance with the previous Cabinet approvals in February 2017 and May 2019.
2.	Give project approval for the continued acquisition of affordable dwellings developed by OCHL for which budgetary provision has been made in the Council’s Housing Revenue Account in respect of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The 6 affordable dwellings listed in rows 6 to 10 in Table 3, and b) The development of 80 affordable homes at Almonds Farm, Mill Lane, Marston as laid out in paragraphs 6 to 10.
3.	Delegate authority to the Executive Director for Development, in consultation with the Executive Director for Communities and People; the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Delivery; the Head of Financial Services/ Section 151 Officer; and the Head of Law and Governance, to approve and facilitate the sale of the council owned site, to facilitate the OCHL development and the subsequent acquisition of affordable dwellings by the HRA, within this project approval for Mill Lane, Marston.

4. **Delegate authority** to the Executive Director for Communities and People, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Affordable Housing, Housing Security and Housing the Homeless; the Head of Financial Services/ Section 151 Officer; and the Head of Law and Governance, to enter into agreements and facilitate the agreed purchase by the HRA of all the affordable housing units from OCHL within this project approval, for Mill Lane, Marston (as recommended at 2b above) and the extensions (as recommended at 2a above).
5. **Give project approval** to the proposals, to accept and distribute grant; enter into funding agreements; and any other necessary agreements or contracts, as set out in paragraphs 11 to 13 of this report for Gibbs Crescent, for the purpose of delivering more affordable housing in Oxford, through the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal programme.
6. **Delegate authority** to the Executive Director for Development, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Delivery; the Head of Financial Services/Section 151 Officer; and the Council's Monitoring Officer, to enter into funding and other necessary agreements for the purpose of delivery affordable housing through the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal programme, within identified budgets, for the Gibbs Crescent scheme listed in this report.
7. **Recommend to Council** that it approves a revision to the general fund capital budget of £2,150,000 to fund the grant payable for the additional 43 affordable homes on the Gibbs Crescent scheme, all of which will be funded by capital grant income from Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal (OGD). This to be profiled as £1,935,000 (90%) in 2022/23 for the initial grant payment, and the balance of £215,000 in 2024/25.
8. **Give project approval** to the proposals to enter into funding agreements, and any other necessary agreements or contracts, with Homes England to receive grant under the Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) for the purpose of delivering more affordable housing in Oxford, as set out in paragraphs 14 and 15 of this report.
9. **Delegate authority** to the Executive Director for Communities and People, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Affordable Housing, Housing Security and Housing the Homeless; the Head of Financial Services/Section 151 Officer; and the Council's Monitoring Officer, to enter into funding and other necessary agreements for the purpose of delivery of affordable housing with Homes England, in accordance with recommendation 8 above.
10. **Delegate authority** to the Executive Director for Communities and People, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Affordable Housing, Housing Security and Housing the Homeless; the Head of Financial Services/ Section 151 Officer; and the Head of Law and Governance, to enter into agreement and facilitate the agreed purchase by the HRA of the affordable housing units, from OCHL, referenced at paragraphs 16 to 20 of this report, at a cost that exceeds the usual financial parameters for the HRA in respect of the 5 properties listed in Table 3, within further information provided in the confidential Appendix 2, to ensure units remain at Social Rent, within overall budget envelopes for affordable housing buy-backs.

Appendices	
Appendix 1	Property and Valuation/ Cost Information – Mill Lane, Marston (not for publication – commercially sensitive)
Appendix 2	Property and Valuation/ Cost Information – OCHL Extensions (not for publication – commercially sensitive)

Introduction and background

1. The Council continues to develop a supply programme to deliver more affordable housing through multiple work streams, including the delivery of units through Oxford City Homes Limited (OCHL); direct delivery by the Council; joint ventures, such as Barton Park; regeneration schemes; acquisitions; and enabling activity with Registered Providers, Community-Led Housing groups, and other partners.
2. This report is further to reports to Cabinet in February 2017 and May 2019 with regard to the arrangements between the Council, using its Housing Revenue Account (HRA), and OCHL. It seeks to secure Council-side approvals and delegations to enable the development of the next schemes in the direct-delivery programme, and the buy-back of the new affordable housing into the HRA (Recommendations 1 to 4, and 10).
3. In February 2018, Council agreed to enter into funding arrangements under the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal to provide grant to deliver more affordable housing. That programme ends at the end of March 2022. A final adjustment to the schemes in the last year of the deal, to maximise this funding, has added additional affordable homes at the Gibbs Crescent development into the programme (Recommendations 5 to 7 relate). From now on, new grant applications will need to be made to Homes England, as part of the Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) 21-26. This report therefore seeks to secure approval and delegations with regard to entering into new grant agreements with Homes England also, for this purpose. (Recommendations 8 and 9).

OCHL development programme

4. OCHL continue to deliver an extensive programme of development schemes in accordance with the OCHL business plan. Excluding the affordable rented homes at Barton Park, and the extensions detailed at paragraph 18, at the end of January 2022, 64 affordable homes had been completed and let in the 2021/22 year, across 6 sites (shown in Table 1 below). A further 6 schemes were on-site and in progress, delivering 111 affordable homes (see Table 2 below). Approximately 750 further affordable homes are in the OCHL development pipeline for delivery in the next five years.

Table 1: Completed OCHL Schemes	Total affordable homes	Social Rent	Affordable Rent	Shared Ownership
Harts Close, Kidlington	2	1	1	0
Rose Hill (2 schemes)	43	18	0	25
Cumberlege Close	9	9	0	0
66 Sandy Lane	2	2	0	0
9 Pauling Road	1	1	0	0
Edgecombe Road	7	4	3	0
Total	64	35	4	25

Table 2: OCHL Schemes in delivery	Total affordable homes	Social Rent	Affordable Rent	Shared Ownership
Bracegirdle Road/ Mortimer Drive/ Broad Oak	8	8	0	0
Elsfield Hall	26	11	3	12
Between Towns Road	38	16	2	20
Speedwell Street (LFH)	26*	15	3	8
Tucker Road	3	2	1	0
Warren Crescent	10	4	6	0
Total	111	56	15	40

* plus 10 homes for market sale

- The Council has committed to buy-back these affordable homes and transfer them into its rented housing stock within the HRA on completion, with sufficient budget allocated in the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and the HRA business plan, for this purpose. This report seeks approval for the next development in the programme, which is due to start on site shortly.

Mill Lane Marston (Almonds Farm)

- This is a scheme of 80 much needed affordable homes, with a mix of unit types from 1 bedroom flats to 4 bed houses. 32 homes are to be let at Social (Council) Rents to households on the housing register, and 48 homes are to be developed as Shared Ownership tenure. The scheme was approved by the Council's Planning Committee in October 2021.
- OCHL intend to use its new procurement framework to appoint a construction company shortly. The homes are designed to a high quality, delivering a 70% reduction in carbon emissions (against 2013 building regulations), and embracing modular construction techniques.
- The freeholder of the land is Oxford City Council. It is currently subject to an agricultural tenancy agreement. The tenant is aware that the Council intends to

give notice on this imminently (with respect to this site), in order to facilitate this development.

9. This report seeks delegated authority to sell the land from the Council to OCHL, for the purpose of undertaking this development, and to then buy-back the affordable housing on completion. The intention is that the site will transfer to OCHL with planning consent in place and with vacant possession. The sale price will be based on an external land valuation of the site, at 'market value' in February 2022. Appendix 1 of this report provides further information on this valuation and cost (excluded from publication due to the commercial sensitivity of this information). The land transfer is programmed to take place in summer 2022, and will be subject to an acceptable contract and agreement between the Council and OCHL.
10. OCHL will develop the scheme and as it is 100% affordable, the completed units will be purchased by the Council's Housing Revenue Account (HRA). This will occur in a phased manner in line with the contractor's phased development proposals when finalised. The 'buy back' mechanism will be an integral part of the land transfer contract, with the land being transferred to OCHL on the basis that the completed units, and associated land, are returned to the Council, bar highways and verges that are intended to be put forward for adoption by the County Council.

Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal – Oxford City programme

11. Cabinet and Council have previously agreed to the allocation of Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal (OGD) funding for affordable housing developments by way of grant, including for some additional affordable homes at the Gibbs Crescent redevelopment scheme with A2Dominion (October 2020 and July 2021).
12. In order to maximise the units to be delivered under this programme, and ensure that the grant conditions are met (in particular, to ensure 'contractual start on site' by the end of March 2022), a substitution in the OGD programme is proposed.
13. This relates to the opportunity to convert the tenure of a further 43 homes on the A2Dominion development at Gibbs Crescent from market into shared ownership, making the development 100% affordable. This will require a further £2,150,000 of grant, all of which will be funded by capital grant income from Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal (OGD). This to be profiled as £1,935,000 (90%) in 2022/23 for the initial grant payment, and the balance of £215,000 in 2024/25 on completion. The overall budget position for the Council is neutral, but an in-year budget change to the capital programme is required to enable the grant to be received, then allocated and paid.

Homes England - Affordable Housing Programme

14. As the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal comes to the end of its final/ fourth year of the programme (for new schemes), new affordable housing schemes coming forward from now onwards, will seek to secure funding from Homes England, currently under the Affordable Housing Programme 21-26.
15. The Homes England programme requires that organisations seeking funding have 'Investment Partner' and 'Registered Provider' status. Oxford City Council has both.

Furthermore, the Council is required to enter into contract with Homes England, and to ensure that all funded schemes meet the Homes England requirements, including those detailed extensively in the Homes England 'Capital Funding Guide'. This report seeks the necessary approvals and delegations to enter into agreements and make funding applications in relation to the schemes in the approved OCHL and HRA development programme, in relation to the affordable housing coming into the HRA.

Specific Buy-Backs into the HRA

16. The Council (HRA) has previously transferred 10 properties to OCHL, these homes having been identified, when void, as being on large plots where additional affordable housing may be possible. After investigation, if a new-build option was not considered practicable, then consideration was given to whether an extension were possible to the existing home, to meet the high housing needs of a small number of households on the Housing Register who require larger homes (usually of four, five or six bedrooms or more). The new homes and extended properties are to be purchased back into the HRA on completion, to be let at Social (Council) Rents.
17. This scheme was approved by Cabinet in relation to the first transfer of five properties in February 2017, and with reference to the proposed next batch of five transfers in May 2019.
18. This report is able to update Cabinet on this initiative (see Table 3 below), and seeks some operational changes to facilitate the completion of these projects.

Table 3: Transferred Houses		Original Size	Extension? / New Size	Additional Home(s) at Social Rent	Update
1	2 Dynham Place	4BH	n/a	n/a	Unviable to develop to return house to HRA
2	9 Pauling Road	3BH	n/a	1 x 3BH	Completed
3	66 Sandy Lane	3BH	n/a	1 x 3BH 1 x 5BH	Completed
4	32 Union Street	2BH	Yes – 4BH	n/a	Completion expected April 2022
5	26 Valentia Road	3BH	Yes – 6BH	n/a	Pre-tender stage
6	16 Sparsey Place	3BH	Yes – 6BH	n/a	Completed (Transfer into HRA due – Mar 22)
7	51 Weirs Lane	3BH	Yes – 4BH	n/a	Completed
8	74 Foxwell Drive	2BH	n/a	1 x 3BH	Starting on-site Spring 2022
9	25 Westlands Drive	3BH	Yes – 5BH	n/a	Pre-tender stage
10	15 Kempson Cresc	3BH	Yes – 5BH	n/a	Pre-tender stage
Total		10	6	4	

19. The build cost of undertaking some of this work has increased and it is challenging to ensure the original objectives for the scheme, in delivering these homes back to the Council to let at Social (Council) Rents, as set out in the OCHL & HRA business plans. With regard to the 4 new build units, the new homes have secured grant from the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal programme and are viable, however additional funding is required for the five extensions not yet bought-back into the HRA. Under the Rent Standard, the extended homes cannot be at an Affordable Rent tenure, and must be at Social (Council) Rent.
20. OCHL have amended the buy-back price, but this remains higher than the financial parameters previously agreed for the HRA (payback less than 70 years; with a positive Net Present Value (NPV); and an Internal Rate of Return (IRR) over 3%), for the reasons set out in the paragraph above. Cabinet is recommended to agree to acquire these units outside of the usual HRA financial parameters, as it relates to a very small number of homes and the OCHL buy-backs over the whole programme, continue to fall well inside the financial parameters overall. The budget for this will fall inside the approved HRA capital programme for the purpose of delivering affordable housing. Appendix 2 of this report provides further information on this cost and financial appraisal (excluded from publication due to the commercial sensitivity of this information). This is considered to be the only viable option for progressing this work that works for OCHL and the Council within current arrangements.

Financial implications

21. This report seeks the required delegations to further develop the programme of affordable housing supply. The 40 year HRA Business Plan approved at Council in February 2022 makes provision for purchases of affordable housing from OCHL's 10 year development programme of 1,114 properties within an overall budget envelope of £367m before grant and shared ownership sales, £289m when these are taken into account.
22. The decision to proceed with any development or buy-back will be supported by a development scheme appraisal/ financial modelling to ensure that financial parameters and requirements are met for OCHL and the HRA. These parameters have been previously agreed are for each scheme:
- a) a positive Net present value (NPV) over a 70 year life; and
 - b) a payback period of up to 70 years; and
 - c) an internal rate of return at which the NPV is zero (IRR) of at least 3%.
23. Meeting these parameters ensure that the HRA business plan remains financially robust, conversely not meeting these parameters will impact this position. This reports highlights a number of schemes with a small number of dwellings where these parameters are not achieved but given the small numbers the overall impact compared to the need for the dwellings will be minimal. Whilst hopefully these incidences will be minimal where they do arise further Cabinet approval will be required.

Legal issues

24. The activity, as set out in this report, relates to activity for the purpose of developing homes as affordable housing.
25. The Council has Homes England Investment Partner status and has Registered Provider status.
26. Any procurement of goods and services for the purpose of developing homes will be in accordance with the Council's constitution and procurement procedures complying with The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 for such, including ensuring that best value is achieved.
27. Land sales will ensure compliance with the Local Government Act 1972 s.123 with regards to securing best value through the use of external valuation and internal due diligence and consideration.
28. It is proposed that any conveyancing for land and acquisitions in the programme continues to be undertaken using existing resource provision available to the Council.

Level of risk

29. Any risks inherent in this programme are already identified elsewhere, with actions to mitigate these detailed in the OCHL and HRA Business Plans and the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

Equalities impact

30. There are no adverse impacts in undertaking this activity, with the potential to improve provision for persons in housing need, through the provision of more affordable and accessible housing to better meet client needs.

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Background Papers:	None
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To: Cabinet
Date: 15 June 2022
Report of: Executive Director (Development)
Title of Report: Proposal for public realm improvements on Council owned land in the City Centre

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To seek approval of this public realm improvement scheme on Council owned land in the city centre including approval of planned works and required property and legal procedures to deliver the scheme (see Confidential Appendix 1 for more details)
Key decision:	Yes
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Ed Turner, Deputy Leader (Statutory) - Finance and Asset Management
Corporate Priority:	Inclusive Economy
Policy Framework:	Oxford Local Plan 2036
Recommendations: That Cabinet resolves to:	
1.	Approve this public realm improvement scheme on Council owned land in the city centre including approval of planned works and required property and legal procedures to deliver the scheme (see Confidential Appendix 1 for more details);
2.	Recommend to Council to approve a capital budget of £297K for delivery of this public realm improvement scheme (see Confidential Appendix 1 for more details); and
3.	Delegate authority to the Executive Director (Development) in consultation with the Council's Section 151 Officer, the Head of Law and Governance and the Deputy Leader (Statutory) - Finance and Asset Management to agree the final works details, budget changes, and submission of any planning application for this public realm improvement scheme on council owned land in the city centre (see Confidential Appendix 1 for more details).

Appendices	
Appendix 1	Confidential – Officer Report
Appendix 2	Confidential - Risk Register

Introduction and background

1. The Council has a responsibility to effectively manage assets it holds in order to advance Council priorities, maximise future income returns for the Council, and bring about wider public benefits.

Public realm enhancement opportunity

2. Analysis of the urban design context of the site has been undertaken by external design consultants. Retail and community analysis has been undertaken through conversations with relevant Council departments including Property and Community Safety.
3. On balance, it is felt that overall the existing situation is now limiting the longer term future development and enhancement of this site and wider area. It is now felt that benefits arising from key improvements to the visual appearance and character of the site, in the short and long term, will far outweigh any short term financial losses from not renewing a number of leases. Due to commercial sensitivity, more information on the public realm scheme is contained within Confidential Appendix 1 – Officer Report.

Other options considered

4. Other options have been considered but would only result in a limited and short term improvement in visual amenity. Due to commercial sensitivity, more information on other options are summarised within Confidential Appendix 1 – Officer Report.

Milestones and Programme

5. In order to best secure the Council's interests for the site, minimise risks; and maximise the wider benefits of an improved public realm quickly, including increased rents in the area, this scheme needs progressing urgently.
6. It is expected that detailed technical design and tendering will happen in the autumn with works then on site between April and July 2023. This programme is subject to further work with the design consultants, and as such is indicative at this stage.

Financial implications

7. Estimated maximum costs of the project are £327K and include officer time, external consultants, and capital works costs.
8. An estimated maximum cost for the capital works has been included at this stage, but it is hoped the costs will be lower. Works costs may change as a result of more detailed assessments of site conditions in due course, but any increases required will be within the delegated authority limits of the Executive Director of Development. This delegation is necessary to allow the Council to

achieve the benefits of these public realm improvements in a timely fashion, and to minimise risks, for reasons explored further in Confidential Appendix 1 - Officer Report.

9. The budget allocation will be staged, and reviewed by the Council's officer level Development Board at key gateways. The costs include public realm consultants, internal project management, property and legal resource, and contingency.
10. A budget of £45K from the officer delegated feasibility pot was allocated to this project in January 2022 for the feasibility stage costs of officer time and architects fees. £15K has been spent to date so there is £30K which can go towards costs of the detailed and technical design stage.
11. Cabinet is therefore now asked to recommend that Council approve a £297K ceiling budget of funding for this project right for the technical design and through to the delivery phase.

Legal issues

12. The Council's legal team has advised on this report. See Confidential Appendix 1 – Officer Report.

Level of risk

13. Please refer to the attached Confidential Appendix 2 – Risk Register.

Equalities impact

14. This project will allow a greater range of people to use, and enjoy spending more time in the space. There will be improved visibility and access to adjacent land uses and destinations through this scheme. New public realm features will be designed to be accessible for different groups of people.

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Background Papers: None

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To: Cabinet
Date: 13 July 2022
Report of: Executive Director (Development)
Title of Report: Approval of additional loan finance to Oxford West End Development (OxWED) to support the redevelopment of Oxpens

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To secure an in-year budget increase to allow the City Council to lend Oxford West End Developments (OxWED LLP) up to £600,000 to support additional costs associated with the preparation and submission of an Outline Planning Application and site acquisition and promotion works.
Key decision:	Yes
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Ed Turner, Deputy Leader (Statutory) - Finance and Asset Management
Corporate Priority:	Enable an inclusive economy; Deliver more, affordable housing; Support thriving communities; and Pursue a zero carbon Oxford
Policy Framework:	Oxford Local Plan 2016-2036; Council Strategy 2020-24
Recommendations: That Cabinet resolves to:	
1.	Recommend to Council that it increases the capital budget by £600,000 to allow the City Council to loan Oxford West End Developments (OxWED) LLP these funds;
2.	Delegate authority to the Head of Financial Services/Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Deputy Leader (Statutory) - Finance and Asset Management to agree terms and draw down the up to £600,000 loan to OxWED.

Appendices	
Appendix 1	Confidential – Detailed costs and rationale
Appendix 2	Confidential – Risk Register

Introduction and background

1. Further to the (then) City Executive Board's (CEB) approval in January 2016, the Council entered into a joint venture with Nuffield College and formed a new company, Oxford West End Development Ltd (OxWED) on the 18 January 2016. The aim of the company is to work together to bring forward development that is both commercially viable and socially beneficial in the West End of Oxford. The City Council and Nuffield College both have a 50% share of the company.
2. In February 2016, OxWED purchased freehold land on the Oxpens site from London & Continental Railways, which was added to by adjoining freehold land from Oxford City Council in November 2018, thus ensuring the viability of the site for future development.
3. In March 2020 Cabinet and Council, in parallel with Nuffield College, agreed an additional loan to OxWED to support costs associated with the submission of an Outline Planning Application for land it ins control at Oxpens. Funds and approvals were also agreed to OxWED move from being a company limited by guarantee (LTD) to a Limited Liability Partnership (LLP). The LLP has now been established.
4. Oxpens is an allocated site for mixed used development, which sits within the Area of Change (AOC1) – West End and Osney Mead in the City Council's adopted Local Plan 2036. The site forms part of the proposed West End and Osney Mead SPD.

Proposals

5. OxWED has assembled a world class multidisciplinary team, led by architects and masterplanners, Hawkins/Brown, and including landscape architects, Gillespies, and planning agents, Prior & Partners. G&T are the project managers and cost consultants, Max Fordham are providing providing input on sustainability, whilst a number of local firms have been working on the project, including AKSWard and Glanville.
6. OxWED has entered in a Planning Performance Agreement with Oxford City Council as the Local Planning Authority. To date OxWED has held 13 pre-application meetings, with two further meetings scheduled for June and July. While significant progress has been made, the complex nature of the site, and the need to find the right balance of uses on the site has led to a number of iterations to the masterplan, taken alongside the subsequent changes to related technical work, this has increased the cost for the work needed to secure a planning submission. While unfortunate, this is not unusual for a site of the scale and complexity. A detailed breakdown of the additional cost, set against the original budget is included in the Confidential Appendix to this report.
7. The masterplan, costs and viability work is based on delivering a scheme that is policy compliant with the Oxford Local Plan 2036, which include land use and housing tenure mix. This also means it seeks to deliver standards that are at least 40% better in terms of carbon reduction that current Building Regulation for the residential buildings, with the offices achieving BREEAM Excellent. While the scheme is not in the total control of Oxford City Council, both Joint Venture partners are aligned on the need to explore the opportunity to go further, subject to feasibility

and viability. As such, environmental sustainability will be a key focus during this next stage of work.

8. In addition, work has continued on the third-party land acquisition strategy for the wider Oxpens area. As such, there is a need for both Oxford City Council and Nuffield College to loan OxWED additional funds to advance and deliver critical elements of this work.
9. Given the commercial nature of the project, the detailed rationale and supporting information for the recommendations set out in this report, and the budget, is included in confidential appendices.

Other implications

10. Two stages of public consultation have been carried out. A third stage of consultation, which will set out the key messages from earlier rounds, and who OxWED is responding to those will be undertaken in the early autumn ahead of the submission of the Outline Planning Application.

Financial implications

11. The OxWED Shareholder Agreement sets out the basis on which the two Joint Venture Partners can loan funds to the company. This is based on a 6.5% p.a. interest rate and that both Joint Venture partners must invest equal amounts.
12. To date OxWED has received loans totally £33.34m (i.e. £16.67m each from the City Council and Nuffield College). This includes £10.6m for land purchases and accrued interest.
13. The rationale for further investment by both Joint Venture partners and the associated risks and their mitigations are set out within Confidential Appendix to this report.

Legal issues

14. The Cabinet is being recommended to make a loan to OxWED as set out in the report. The power for a Local Authority to make a loan would be governed by section 111 *Local Government Act 1972* which provides that a Local Authority shall have the power to do anything whether or not involving the lending of money or the acquisition or disposal of any property which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of their functions.
15. Further, *section 12 Local Government Act 2003* provides the Cabinet with the power to invest in OxWED for any purpose relevant to its functions which in this case would be for economic development and regeneration and *section 120(b) Local Government Act 1972* confirms that the Local Authority may invest as such investment is for the benefit, improvement or development of the area of the City of Oxford.

Level of risk

16. The risks for this project are commercial sensitive and are included within Confidential Appendix 2. This is focused on risks and mitigation in relation to securing the planning permission and a return on investment from the Phase 1 scheme and the third party land acquisition strategy.

Equalities impact

17. There are no equalities impact associated with the decision to loan further money to OxWED.

Environmental Impact

18. The Outline Planning Application will include an Environmental Impact Assessment.

Programme

19. A submission of the planning application is currently programmed for late 2022.

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Background Papers: None

To: Standards Committee
Date: 11 July 2022
Report of: Head of Law and Governance
Title of Report: Parish Council representation on the Standards Committee

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	This report details the proposal for Parish Council representation on the Standards Committee.
Key decision:	No
Recommendation: That the Standards Committee resolves to:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recommend that Full Council appoints Councillor Peter Nowland of Blackbird Leys Parish Council as the co-opted, non-voting member of the Standards Committee representing the four Parish Councils in Oxford until May 2026. 	

Introduction and background

1. The Council may appoint members of committees who are not members of the local authority. Such persons may be appointed because they can offer specialist knowledge, expertise or enthusiasm in the work of the committee or because they represent sections of the local community that are relevant to the work of the committee.
2. Effective from May 2022, the Members' Code of Conduct is shared by all District Councils and the County Council within Oxfordshire. It is the intention that all local authorities within Oxfordshire will share the same Code of Conduct once the new Code has been considered by Parish Councils in the next few months. If adopted by all local authorities within Oxfordshire, the Members' Code of Conduct will apply equally to parish councillors as to city (and county) councillors.

Parish Council representation on the Standards Committee

3. The Oxford City Council Standards Committee membership provides for one co-opted (non-voting) member to represent the four Parish Councils in Oxford.

4. On 29 November 2021, Council resolved to appoint Councillor Peter Nowland to the position until May 2022 (when his term of office ended, pending re-election). That period has now lapsed, therefore Council is required to agree an appointment.
5. The Parish Councils may agree jointly on a single nominee or they may submit individual nominations from each Parish Council.
6. There are no rules concerning the qualifications but common sense suggests that:
 - The appointment would be for the duration of the representative's term of office on the Parish Council; this is to provide a degree of consistency and continuity.
 - The appointment should not be for a dual-hatted City and Parish Councillor.
7. Only one Parish Council submitted a nomination, with no objections from the remaining Parish Councils:
 - Councillor Peter Nowland, Blackbird Leys Parish Council
8. Councillor Nowland's current term of office at Blackbird Leys Parish Council ends in May 2026. Councillor Nowland has been a member of the Parish Council since 2016.

Legal implications

9. The Council has the power under Section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972 to appoint persons other than members of the authority to committees. The composition of the Standards Committee is set out in Part 14.3 of the Constitution and provides for a non-voting co-opted member to represent the parish councils in Oxford.

Financial implications

10. There are no financial implications arising from this report. Co-opted members of committees are not entitled to be paid allowances under the Councillors' Allowances Scheme (Part 26 of the Constitution).

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Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet on Wednesday 13 April 2022



Cabinet members present:

Councillor Brown	Councillor Hayes
Councillor Arshad	Councillor Aziz
Councillor Walcott	Councillor Hollingsworth
Councillor Rowley	Councillor Upton

Officers present for all or part of the meeting:

Tom Bridgman, Executive Director (Development)
Stephen Gabriel, Executive Director for Communities and People
Susan Sale, Monitoring Officer and Head of Law & Governance
Nigel Kennedy, Head of Financial Services
Tom Hudson, Scrutiny Officer
Bill Chamberlain, Senior Surveyor
Dave Scholes, Housing Strategy & Needs Manager (Affordable Housing Supply Lead)
Emma Lund, Committee and Member Services Officer

Apologies:

Councillors Turner and Clarkson sent apologies.

135. Declarations of Interest

None.

136. Addresses and Questions by Members of the Public

None.

137. Councillor Addresses on any item for decision on the Cabinet agenda

None.

138. Councillor Addresses on Neighbourhood Issues

None.

139. Items raised by Cabinet Members

None.

140. Scrutiny reports

Tom Hudson, scrutiny Officer, presented reports which had been considered by Scrutiny Committee at its informal meeting on 12 April and prior meetings.

Procurement Update

Scrutiny Committee had considered potential changes to the Council's Procurement Strategy, which was currently under review. The Committee's considerations had focused on social value in procurement and learning from good practice, most notably from Preston Council. It had also considered ways of broadening the impact by working with other anchor institutions across the City in order to develop the social value and community wealth-building approach. Recommendations made in relation to specific policies included ensuring that the definition of 'value for money' within the policy was consistent with the community wealth building agenda, and that the Council undertook ethical due diligence checks to ensure compatibility of commercial partners with its own standards.

In the absence of Councillor Turner, Deputy Leader (Statutory) - Finance and Asset Management, the Chair replied that the response which had been provided by the Cabinet Member was broadly in support of the recommendations, and they had been taken on board.

Oxfordshire 2050 Plan

Scrutiny had considered a report on the progress of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050; in particular looking at responses to the most recent consultation exercise. The recommendations had largely centred around two main categories, which were (i) greater transparency and representation in the consultation exercises; and (ii) specific policies around water treatment; parks, play areas and nature reserves; and inequality and deprivation. Scrutiny would be considering a further report in June or July; the recommendations before Cabinet therefore represented an interim response.

Councillor Alex Hollingsworth, Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Delivery, responded that whilst he generally supported the recommendations, he had also included some clarifications. Although the consultation process was important - and the recommendation for a wider demographic mix was accepted – it was not a referendum on options. The tests which a Local Plan had to pass in order to be found sound were set out in the National Planning Policy Framework and were not contingent on the number of representations received.

One of the recommendations had referenced local policies on issues such as play areas, parks and nature reserves. The Cabinet Member responded that these were issues for Local or Neighbourhood Plans, rather than the overarching Oxfordshire 2050 Plan.

The recommendation that the Council works with partners to ensure alignment between Thames Water's future investment plans for water treatment works and those areas outlined in Oxfordshire for growth was endorsed, and the Chair undertook to raise this with the Future Oxfordshire Partnership.

DSS Discrimination Motion Update

The Housing and Homelessness Panel had considered an update report on progress made against actions sought by Council in a motion passed in July 2021 to strengthen safeguards against DSS discrimination.

The Panel had heard that good progress had been made in almost all areas. The main outstanding action related to the setting up of a tenants' forum, although this was underway. Two recommendations had been made which had related to: (i) extending the reach and awareness of the support in place by publicising this amongst third party organisations such as advice centres and unions; and (ii) asking the tenants' forum to decide whether it wished to include both private rented sector and social tenants simultaneously, or alternatively whether their interests would be better served by splitting into two.

Councillor Diko Walcott, Cabinet Member for Affordable Housing, Housing Security and Housing the Homeless responded that she fully accepted the recommendations, which were solution-focused, and thanked the Panel.

Tenant Involvement and Empowerment

The Scrutiny Officer presented the report of the Housing and Homelessness Panel on Tenant Involvement and Empowerment, which represented the outcome of work undertaken by the Panel throughout the year. 19 recommendations had been made, of which many involved formalising or regularising existing tenant involvement activity. Recommendations for new innovations included a suggestion for an overarching Board to discuss tenant and leaseholder issues and report on performance, and a new case management system. There had also been a recommendation relating to the adequacy of structures to enable tenants to challenge areas of spending, so as to meet requirements contained in the Social Housing white paper.

A response to the recommendations would be given at the first Cabinet meeting after the forthcoming election.

The Chair announced that Tom Hudson, Scrutiny Officer, would shortly be leaving the Council to take up another post, and was attending his final Cabinet meeting. On behalf of Cabinet she thanked him for all of his work, and wished him well for the future.

141. Affordable Housing Delivery Programme

The Head of Housing Services had submitted a report to seek further project approvals and delegations to enable the continued delivery of more affordable housing.

Councillor Alex Hollingsworth, Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Delivery, highlighted the continuing need for affordable housing within the City and presented the recommendations in conjunction with Councillor Diko Walcott, Cabinet Member for Affordable Housing, Housing Security and Housing the Homeless.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Note** the 64 affordable homes that have already been acquired from OCHL as per Table 1, and the 111 affordable dwellings that are currently in delivery as listed in Table 2, in accordance with the previous Cabinet approvals in February 2017 and May 2019.
2. **Give project approval** for the continued acquisition of affordable dwellings developed by OCHL for which budgetary provision has been made in the Council's Housing Revenue Account in respect of:
 - a) The 6 affordable dwellings listed in rows 6 to 10 in Table 3, and
 - b) The development of 80 affordable homes at Almonds Farm, Mill Lane, Marston as laid out in paragraphs 6 to 10.

3. **Delegate authority** to the Executive Director for Development, in consultation with the Executive Director for Communities and People; the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Delivery; the Head of Financial Services/ Section 151 Officer; and the Head of Law and Governance, to approve and facilitate the sale of the council owned site, to facilitate the OCHL development and the subsequent acquisition of affordable dwellings by the HRA, within this project approval for Mill Lane, Marston.
4. **Delegate authority** to the Executive Director for Communities and People, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Affordable Housing, Housing Security and Housing the Homeless; the Head of Financial Services/ Section 151 Officer; and the Head of Law and Governance, to enter into agreements and facilitate the agreed purchase by the HRA of all the affordable housing units from OCHL within this project approval, for Mill Lane, Marston (as recommended at 2b above) and the extensions (as recommended at 2a above).
5. **Give project approval** to the proposals, to accept and distribute grant; enter into funding agreements; and any other necessary agreements or contracts, as set out in paragraphs 11 to 13 of this report for Gibbs Crescent, for the purpose of delivering more affordable housing in Oxford, through the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal programme.
6. **Delegate authority** to the Executive Director for Development, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Delivery; the Head of Financial Services/Section 151 Officer; and the Council's Monitoring Officer, to enter into funding and other necessary agreements for the purpose of delivery affordable housing through the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal programme, within identified budgets, for the Gibbs Crescent scheme listed in this report.
7. **Recommend to Council** that it approves a revision to the general fund capital budget of £2,150,000 to fund the grant payable for the additional 43 affordable homes on the Gibbs Crescent scheme, all of which will be funded by capital grant income from Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal (OGD). This to be profiled as £1,935,000 (90%) in 2022/23 for the initial grant payment, and the balance of £215,000 in 2024/25.
8. **Give project approval** to the proposals to enter into funding agreements, and any other necessary agreements or contracts, with Homes England to receive grant under the Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) for the purpose of delivering more affordable housing in Oxford, as set out in paragraphs 14 and 15 of this report.
9. **Delegate authority** to the Executive Director for Communities and People, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Affordable Housing, Housing Security and Housing the Homeless; the Head of Financial Services/Section 151 Officer; and the Council's Monitoring Officer, to enter into funding and other necessary agreements for the purpose of delivery of affordable housing with Homes England, in accordance with recommendation 8 above.

10. **Delegate authority** to the Executive Director for Communities and People, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Affordable Housing, Housing Security and Housing the Homeless; the Head of Financial Services/ Section 151 Officer; and the Head of Law and Governance, to enter into agreement and facilitate the agreed purchase by the HRA of the affordable housing units, from OCHL, referenced at paragraphs 16 to 20 of this report, at a cost that exceeds the usual financial parameters for the HRA in respect of the 5 properties listed in Table 3, within further information provided in the confidential Appendix 2, to ensure units remain at Social Rent, within overall budget envelopes for affordable housing buy-backs.

142. Award of a Works Contract for Concrete and Guard Rail Repairs to Balcony Walkways and Access Stairs to Five Apartment Blocks at Blackbird Leys

The Executive Director (Communities and People) had submitted a report to seek Cabinet approval for concrete and guard rail repairs to balcony walkways and access stairs to five apartment blocks at Blackbird Leys; and delegated authority to authorise, sign and award a works contract.

In presenting the report, Cllr Diko Walcott, Cabinet Member for Affordable Housing, Housing Security and Housing the Homeless, thanked housing officers for their work in identifying sources of funding and enabling the repairs to be progressed. She commented that the work was badly needed, and once completed would improve the living conditions of residents.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Approve** the award of a contract for concrete and guard rail repairs to balcony walkways to five apartment blocks at Blackbird Leys; and
2. **Delegate authority** to the Executive Director (Communities and People) to award the concrete repairs contract to suppliers following completion of the procurement competitive closed compliant tender process described in the report.

143. Authority to Tender Contract for Insurance Services

The Head of Financial Services had submitted a report to seek approval to invite tenders in respect of proposed insurance services contracts to start on 1 January 2023, as required by the Council's Contract Rules, and delegate authority to the Head of Financial Services in consultation with the Head of Law and Governance to award a contract(s) following a compliant procurement exercise.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Approve** commencement of a procurement project to renew the insurance contract for the Council and its companies; and
2. **Delegate authority** to the Head of Financial Services in consultation with the Head of Law and Governance to award a contract for the provision of insurance services to Oxford City Council and group companies from 1 January 2023 for a period of 3 years with an option to extend for up to 2 years (1+1) following a compliant procurement exercise.

144. Minutes

Cabinet resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2022 as a true and accurate record.

145. Dates of Future Meetings

Meetings are scheduled for the following dates:

15 June 2022

13 July 2022

10 August 2022

14 September 2022

19 October 2022

16 November 2022

14 December 2022

All meetings start at 6.00pm.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 6.30 pm

Chair

Date: Wednesday 15 June 2022

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet on Wednesday 15 June 2022

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Cabinet members present:

Councillor Brown

Councillor Turner

Councillor Aziz

Councillor Chapman

Councillor Hollingsworth

Councillor Linda Smith

Councillor Thomas

Councillor Upton

Councillor Walcott

Officers present for all or part of the meeting:

Tom Bridgman, Executive Director (Development)

Ian Brooke, Head of Community Services

Alice Courtney, Committee and Member Services Manager (Interim Acting)

Stephen Gabriel, Executive Director for Communities and People

Bill Graves, Landlord Services Manager

Caroline Green, Chief Executive

Emma Gubbins, Senior Estates Surveyor

Sarah Harrison, Team Leader (Planning Policy)

Tom Hook, Executive Director (Corporate Resources)

Nigel Kennedy, Head of Financial Services

Hagan Lewisman, Active Communities Manager

Emma Lund, Committee and Member Services Officer

Phil McGaskill, Revenues Manager

Matthew Peachey, Economic Development Manager

Malcolm Peek, Property Service Manager

Carolyn Ploszynski, Head of Regeneration and Economy

Susan Sale, Monitoring Officer and Head of Law & Governance

Mish Tullar, Head of Corporate Strategy

Carri Unwin, Regeneration Manager

Also present:

Councillor Lizzy Diggins, Scrutiny Committee Vice-Chair

Councillor Dr Christopher Smowton, Scrutiny Committee Chair

Apologies:

Councillor Munkonge sent apologies.

1. Declarations of Interest

None.

2. Addresses and Questions by Members of the Public

None.

3. Councillor Addresses on any item for decision on the Cabinet agenda

None.

4. Councillor Addresses on Neighbourhood Issues

None.

5. Items raised by Cabinet Members

None.

6. Scrutiny Reports

Scrutiny Committee had met on 8 June, and had considered two reports which were before Cabinet: Oxford's Economic Strategy and the Draft City Centre Action Plan. It had also considered the report of the Child Poverty Review Group. The Waterways Update had been deferred to its next meeting on 5 July.

Cabinet welcomed Councillor Smowton as Chair of Scrutiny for the 2022/23 Council year. In Councillor Smowton's absence on 8 June the meeting had been chaired by Councillor Diggins, who presented the scrutiny findings to Cabinet.

Oxford's Economic Strategy

Scrutiny Committee had considered the report and also noted comments made by a public speaker. Nine recommendations had been made, which included: effectively engaging with diverse communities as part of consultation processes; engaging with wider stakeholders such as trade unions and the third sector; developing a clearer way of demonstrating how competing priorities had been assessed; and making explicit reference to Brexit within the Strategy. The Leader responded that the recommendations were largely accepted. Where recommendations were considered to have already been addressed within the document this had been referenced in the Cabinet Member's response.

Draft City Centre Action Plan

Four recommendations had been made, which had largely focused on effective engagement with diverse communities, and ensuring that the Plan was adaptive to diverse needs.

The Cabinet Member for Zero Carbon Oxford and Climate Justice responded that the recommendations were generally accepted. Whilst there had been a good level of engagement with the Action Plan, consultation was an area where there was always scope for improvement.

Report of the Child Poverty Review Group

In the absence of Councillor Djafari-Marbini who had chaired the group, Councillor Diggins presented the report of the Child Poverty Review Group. This represented a cross-cutting piece of work to address child poverty in the City, and had looked at what more the Council could do to embed poverty prevention methods into its activities and

how it might work with partners on a collaborative response. 42 recommendations had been made, which had included a recommendation that the Council should adopt the socio-economic duty and lobby other local organisations to do the same. The report recognised the work which was already being done by the Council, but noted that there was scope for further action. Councillor Aziz highlighted the work of the Council in implementing the Oxford Living Wage as an example of an existing initiative in the area of poverty reduction.

The Chair responded that the review had been a thorough and detailed piece of work which required further consideration in order that a sufficiently full response could be given. It would therefore be brought back to a future Cabinet meeting. The Chair thanked Scrutiny members for the report, which was a very helpful and valuable piece of work, and noted that the group's recommendations would enable the Council to enhance and add benefit to its work.

7. Oxford's Economic Strategy - Consultation Report and Recommendations

The Executive Director (Development) had submitted a report inviting Cabinet to note the recommended revisions to Oxford's Economic Strategy following the recent consultation, and to recommend its adoption.

In introducing the report the Leader highlighted that the Strategy had been developed over a long period of time, had involved conversations with Members and stakeholders, and sought to embed the values of the Council. It did not set out new plans or proposals for transport, housing, or employment sites but rather it reflected on what was already planned across those areas and sought to ensure that work with partners on delivery was done in as inclusive a way as possible in order that everybody could benefit from the wealth and economic growth which existed in the City. It also reflected the well-known problems of economic and social division within the City, and lack of affordable housing, and was complementary to other strategies and workstreams both at City and County level. The points which had been raised by Scrutiny with regard to making improvements to consultations were accepted: improving engagement with local communities and local business was an existing aim, and would be further progressed as part of the work of the Strategy. The Council had already sought to improve representation of local business with the various bodies with which it worked in developing and delivering the Strategy, and to ensure that the representation was reflective of the City.

Matt Peachey, Economic Development Manager, clarified in relation to paragraph 10 of the report that points and challenges contained in the table within that paragraph were not all from 'Transform Oxford's Economic Strategy' (TOES), but had come from individuals or other organisations which had referred to TOES' literature or had raised related issues. It had not been intended to suggest that TOES was involved with generating misinformation.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Note** the recommended changes to the Consultation version of Oxford's Economic Strategy as set out at Appendix 3 to the report;
2. **Adopt** and publish the revised version of Oxford's Economic Strategy at Appendix 1, with authority to make any minor amendments required before publication

delegated to the Head of Regeneration and Economy in consultation with the Leader.

8. Oxford City Centre Action Plan - Consultation Report and Recommendations

The Head of Regeneration and Economy had submitted a report setting out recommended revisions to the Consultation version of the City Centre Action Plan and recommending adoption of the Plan.

Councillor Imogen Thomas, Cabinet Member for Zero Carbon Oxford and Climate Justice, highlighted that the Plan was a cohesive strategy which sought to draw together good work which was already being done as well as make newer plans for the future. In addition to giving ownership and momentum to existing work, it would also help to identify and fill gaps and enable better partnership working with stakeholders. The Plan was community and stakeholder owned, and, although led by the Council, could not be delivered in isolation. It was also a 'living document' which would be regularly reviewed.

In response to a question about how progress against the Plan would be monitored, Matt Peachey, Economic Development Manager, reported that it was intended to adopt a delivery board and internal officer group approach, with an annual review by officers and a quarterly update to the delivery board. The delivery board would explore setting key performance indicators, and it was also expected that there would be an annual conversation with residents about the City centre.

It was also hoped that the cohesive Plan would help in attracting public realm funding.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Note** the recommended changes to the consultation version of the City Centre Action Plan as set out within Appendix 3 of the report; and
2. **Adopt** and publish the revised Oxford City Centre Action Plan, with authority to make any minor amendments required before publication delegated to the Head of Regeneration and Economy in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Zero Carbon Oxford and Climate Justice.

9. Proposal for Public Realm Improvements on Council Owned Land in the City Centre

The Executive Director (Development) had submitted a report to seek approval for a public realm improvement scheme on Council owned land in the City Centre, including approval of planned works and required property and legal procedures to deliver the scheme.

Councillor Ed Turner, Deputy Leader (Statutory) – Finance and Asset Management informed Cabinet that the report proposed significant improvements to the character and appearance of the site referred to, which could be secured at a reasonable cost to the Council. Further detail was contained in the Part 2 appendix, which was exempt by reason of commercial confidentiality. It was currently an opportune time to pursue this, due to forthcoming lease expiries.

In response to a question about a discrepancy in the capital budget referred to at recommendation 2 and the cost of the scheme given in paragraph 7 of the report, Carri

Unwin, Regeneration Manager, clarified that the cost of the scheme was £327k; however, £30k already existed in the project budget, so that the additional budget request was for £297k.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Approve** the public realm improvement scheme on Council owned land in the City Centre, including approval of planned works and required property and legal procedures to deliver the scheme;
2. **Recommend** to Council to approve a capital budget of £297k for delivery of the public realm improvement scheme;
3. **Delegate authority** to the Executive Director (Development) in consultation with the Council's Section 151 Officer, the Head of Law and Governance and the Deputy Leader (Statutory) – Finance and Asset Management to agree the final works details, budget changes, and submission of any planning application for this public realm improvement on Council owned land in the City Centre.

10. Draft West End and Osney Mead Supplementary Planning Document

The Head of Planning Services had submitted a report seeking Cabinet approval for the Draft West End and Osney Mead Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to go out to public consultation.

Councillor Alex Hollingsworth, Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Delivery, highlighted that the area formed a prominent part of both the Oxford Economic Strategy and the City Centre Action Plan and was a large, important, and complex site. The site allocations for West End and Osney Mead were within the Local Plan; the SPD provided greater certainty for landowners and also the public on the implementation of existing adopted policies. If approved by Cabinet, a formal consultation process would be undertaken and once concluded, and if adopted, the SPD would form an additional element to the 2036 Local Plan.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Approve** the Draft West End and Osney Mead Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to go out to public consultation;
2. **Delegate authority** to the Head of Planning Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Delivery, to make any necessary editorial corrections to the SPD prior to going out to consultation.

11. Oxford Local Plan Local Development Scheme 2022 - 2027

The Head of Planning Services had submitted a report to present for approval the updated programme for the preparation of documents which would form the Council's Development Plan.

Councillor Alex Hollingsworth, Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Delivery, clarified that the Local Development Scheme (LDS) was a document which the Council was required to publish. It set out which local development documents were development plan documents, as well as timescales for the preparation and revision of

documents forming part of Oxford City Council's development plan and other planning policy documents.

A key update to the LDS had been a change in the timetable for the Local Plan consultation which was required as a result of the Oxfordshire 2050 Plan having been rescheduled. The intention remained for the Local Plan to follow, and be shaped by, the 2050 Plan; however, this would not be possible in the event of any further delays due to the need for adopted Plans to not become more than 5 years old. The LDS also included the addition of the Draft West End and Osney Mead Supplementary Planning Document for consultation.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Approve** the Oxford Local Development Scheme 2022 – 2027.

12. Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Grant and Project

The Head of Corporate Strategy had submitted a report which sought approval for the Council's participation in a countywide bid to Government under the new Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) pilot fund, led by Oxfordshire County Council which, if successful, would fund the installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure in Oxford.

Councillor Imogen Thomas, Cabinet Member for Zero Carbon Oxford and Climate Justice, highlighted that participation in the pilot would support the Council's aim of 25% of the City's cars being electric by 2025, and would allow the necessary infrastructure to be quickly provided. This included up to 500 cable gullies for homeowners without access to off street parking and 3 – 5 residential charging hubs, with a total of 18 charge points to be installed on City Council owned land / car parks. Project C (up to 35 electrified disabled parking bays) had subsequently been removed from the funding bid by the partnership developing the project; however, the Council would continue to work with the County Council with a view to progressing this in the future.

The Cabinet Member for Zero Carbon Oxford and Climate Justice highlighted that due to the nature of the planning process it could not be guaranteed that planning permission would be granted for cable gullies; therefore there would need to be consideration during the pilot process of options to mitigate the risk to homeowners of paying for a planning application which may subsequently be refused. Eventually, this might involve permitted development rights for home EV chargers. Councillor Alex Hollingsworth, Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Delivery, recommended that planning design guidance be produced both for the team leading the project and residents thinking of taking up the opportunity of a cable gully. It was also recommended that other electric vehicles such as cargo bikes, and the inter-operability of their charging formats, be considered as part of the pilot.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Grant approval** for Oxford City Council to collaborate in the project (called OXLEVI) and funding bid in June 2022 and, if successful, to deliver the scheme, subject to negotiations with Government and partner organisations associated with the project;
2. **Delegate authority** to the Head of Corporate Strategy, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Zero Carbon Oxford and Climate Justice; the Cabinet Member for Health and Transport; the Head of Financial Services / s151 Officer; and the

Council's Monitoring Officer to enter into funding, partnership, contracts and other necessary agreements for the purpose of delivering the scheme, including expenditure as necessary of remaining GULO grant funding held by the Council;

3. **Authorise officers** to deliver installation of EV charging infrastructure in Oxford's car parks, having regard to other potential purposes to seek to optimise the use of space;
4. **Grant approval** for funding of up to £80k (£8k per annum) to cover contract management for the installed infrastructure over the next 10 years, with the expectation that this figure will be increasingly offset by revenues generated; and
5. **Note** that the Oxford City Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy is scheduled for the July Cabinet meeting, while due to the June grant deadline the OXLEVI project item has been brought to the June Cabinet meeting. The delivery of this project within Oxford will be aligned with the principles of the Strategy.

13. Review of the Anti-Racism Charter

The Head of Community Services had submitted a report which highlighted the scheduled review of the Anti-Racism Charter and which asked Cabinet to approve the recommended changes and actions.

In presenting the report Councillor Shaista Aziz, Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture, highlighted the deep and wide ranging impacts of racism. Examples were provided of the disproportionate impacts of Covid on diverse communities, as well as impacts on education, health and employment. Addressing racism was fundamental to creating a fairer society.

The Charter, which had been developed as a result of a Council motion to make Oxford an anti-racist city, aligned with the Council's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and aimed to build trust and transparency within communities.

In response to a question, it was confirmed that the Charter would be reviewed every two years in order to enable sufficient time to implement any actions which arose. An action to develop a Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities definition had also been added following feedback.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Approve** the updated Anti-Racism Charter at Appendix 1 and the actions shown in Table 1 of the report, subject to an amendment that review should take place every two years.

14. Draft Oxfordshire Food Strategy

The Executive Director (Communities and People) had submitted a report setting out the partnership work which had enabled the development of the draft Oxfordshire Food Strategy and which outlined the ambitions established in Part 1 which would guide the development of the action plan in Part 2.

Councillor Louise Upton, Cabinet Member for Health and Transport, highlighted that the Strategy aligned with many of the Council's corporate priorities and wider initiatives across the county. In addition to food poverty, the Strategy also included healthy

eating; addressing health inequalities; the environmental impact of food and promoting biodiversity; security of food supply; and the social role of food in communities.

A detailed action plan, to underpin the Strategy, would be brought to Cabinet later in the year.

In considering the Strategy it was highlighted that, in terms of environmental impact, the term 'food miles' could be misleading. It was recommended that this should be clarified to 'carbon footprint' in future iterations. Additionally, consideration should be given in the future to including reference to farming methods.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Endorse** the Oxfordshire Food Strategy Part 1, including the principles and framework for delivery;
2. **Delegate** authority to the Executive Director (Communities and People) in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health and Transport and the Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture to make any necessary amendments to the draft strategy as it goes through the County and District approvals process, with a revised document returning in the autumn;
3. **Note** that Part 2 will see the development of a detailed action plan and that this will return to Cabinet in the autumn;
4. **Note** the grant allocation proposed by the County Council to assist with the development of Part 2.

15. National Non-Domestic Rates Discretionary Rate Relief Policy

The Head of Financial Services had submitted a report to seek approval for an updated National Non-Domestic Rates Discretionary Relief Policy.

Councillor Nigel Chapman, Cabinet Member for Citizen Focused Services, reported that the Policy related to reliefs which could be given to organisations which were considered to provide public and social value. These reliefs were given to some organisations (including charities and sports clubs) on a mandatory basis: the Policy allowed, and gave transparency on, discretion to give up to 100% relief to organisations which did not meet the mandatory criteria (such as arts organisations or youth clubs which did not have charitable status) but which nonetheless provided benefit to the community.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Approve** the updated National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) Discretionary Rate Relief policy as attached at Appendix 1.

16. Repairs to 2-4 Gloucester Street & 24-26 George Street, Oxford

The Head of Corporate Property had submitted a report to seek approval for a budget of £770,000 for the repair of 2-4 Gloucester Street and 24-26 George Street, Oxford in order to facilitate letting of the building.

Councillor Ed Turner, Deputy Leader (Statutory) – Finance and Asset Management reported that the property (formerly 'Jamie's') had reverted to the Council following the company which previously held the lease entering into administration. Survey works

were subsequently done, and had identified water ingress. A new tenant had now been found: however, substantial works were required to prevent further deterioration and to facilitate the letting. Cabinet was therefore asked to agree a spend for the works from the existing budget assigned for condition survey works.

In response to questions it was clarified that the building had been surrendered back to the Council in January 2021. The previous lease had been on a full repair basis; however, the administrator bore no health and safety or repair liabilities. The timescale for completing the works and leasing the building was expected to be around 10 months.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Approve** a budget of £770,000 to spend on 2-4 Gloucester Street and 24-26 George Street, Oxford from the existing budget assigned for condition survey works.

17. Disposal of Council Dwelling Houses

The Head of Housing had submitted a report to seek approval for the sale of four Council owned properties on the open market, with the use of the resulting capital receipts into the General Fund for regeneration purposes.

The Cabinet Member for Housing reported that the four properties were void, and were considered to be beyond economic repair. The principle of the disposals had been previously approved by Cabinet in January 2022 within an item on the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

The Leader recommended that preparation of the properties for sale should be made evident as soon as possible, in order to avoid any misperception that repair work was about to start.

In response to a question as to whether the Council might develop the properties itself prior to putting them for sale on the open market, the Head of Financial Services advised that the option of refurbishing the properties within the HRA had been considered as part of the budget setting process in February 2022. It would have required additional borrowing, and, as there was no capacity to undertake additional borrowing in the HRA over the next few years without breaching the interest covered covenant set for the HRA, this option had been rejected.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Approve** the disposal of the freeholds of 39 Long Close, 163 Walton Street, 8 Cowley Road and 46 Stubbs Avenue;
2. **Approve** the use of the resulting capital receipt into the General Fund for regeneration purposes; and
3. **Delegate authority** to the Executive Director (Communities and People) in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing to approve the terms of sale for each property.

18. Minutes

Cabinet resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13 April 2022 as a true and accurate record.

19. Dates of Future Meetings

Meetings are scheduled for the following dates:

13 July 2022

10 August 2022

14 September 2022

19 October 2022

16 November 2022

14 December 2022

25 January 2023

All meetings start at 6.00pm.

20. Other Business

The Leader reported that Andrew Brown, Committee and Member Services Manager, would be leaving the Council at the end of June to take up a new post at West Oxfordshire, Cotswold and Forest of Dean Councils, which worked in partnership.

On behalf of Cabinet, the Leader thanked Andrew for his work over a number of years in supporting Members and the Council, and wished him well for the future.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 7.43 pm

Chair

Date: Wednesday 13 July 2022

When decisions take effect:

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

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

All other committees: immediately.

Details are in the Council's Constitution.

To: Council
Date: 18 July 2022
Report of: Head of Law and Governance
Title of Report: Petition submitted in accordance with Council procedure rules – No to Greyhound Racing in Oxford

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To set before Council a petition meeting the criteria for debate under the Council’s petitions scheme.
Key decision:	No
Cabinet Member with responsibility:	Councillor Chewe Munkonge, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Parks
Corporate Priority:	Not applicable
Policy Framework:	Local Plan 2036 Council Strategy 2020-24
Recommendation(s): That Council in accordance with the Council’s petitions scheme:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hears the address by the petition organiser; 2. Debates the proposal contained within the petition and any relevant motions/recommendations submitted by Members by the deadline; and 3. Agrees the action it wishes to take. 	

The petition

1. An ePetition titled ‘No to Greyhound Racing in Oxford’ was submitted in accordance with the Council’s petitions scheme and ran from 18 August 2021 to 31 December 2021.
2. The petition is available to view on the Council’s website [here](#) and states in full:

We the undersigned petition the council to work cross-party and support the development of leisure facilities at Oxford Stadium in line with the Local Plan, but that do not involve greyhound racing or gambling.

Oxford City Council has designated Oxford Stadium for leisure activities in the latest Local Plan. The site is currently owned by a developer, and leased to someone who is planning to reopen the Stadium as a venue for greyhound racing.

Greyhound racing failed at Oxford Stadium in 2008 - there is no widespread support for this activity across the UK or for resuming it in our city; the cruelty involved in breeding and racing greyhounds is well documented, and should no longer be part of a city with Oxford's reputation.

The site can be put to much better use as a leisure facility that is inclusive, providing a range of activities for all ages and disabilities, centred around Oxford's renown as a cycling city through the development of a velodrome. This focus will enable a variety of biking activities as well as the attraction of an elite sport, offering a hub for additional activities including reuse of the existing building.

3. 3,138 people signed the ePetition.
4. The petition organiser submitted an address to the Council meeting on 21 March 2022, but was unable to attend in person. A copy of the wording of the address can be viewed in the briefing note and supplementary papers for that meeting.
5. A written response to the address was provided by the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism:

The Council's involvement at the Oxford Stadium was to ensure the site was protected for community use. We do not own the Stadium or play a role in running it, and there is no decision within the remit of Oxford City Council as to whether or not greyhound racing returns to Oxford Stadium. The licensing of the racing would be by the national body, the National Greyhound Board of Great Britain, not the Council.

The site is allocated in the Local Plan for community and leisure uses with enabling residential development on the car park. Policy SP51 states that in circumstances in which speedway and greyhound racing are not viable, "...residential-led development supported by appropriate uses that will benefit the wider community, for example, complimentary leisure or community uses...will be supported". The City Council will consider any planning application for the site in this context.

6. In accordance with the Council's petitions scheme, any petition presented as part of an address directly to Council and that contains at least 1,500 signatures will not be debated at that meeting but at the next ordinary meeting.

Actions for Council

7. Possible actions available to Council include:
 - a. Noting the petition
 - b. Taking the action the petition requests¹
 - c. Not taking the action the petition requests
 - d. Commissioning a further review
 - e. Where the matter falls to the Cabinet to make the final decision, decide whether to make recommendations to the Cabinet to inform that decision.

¹ Where a petition is about something over which the Council has no direct control, it can only consider making representations on behalf of the community to the relevant body, or where possible it will work with its partners to respond to the petition.

Constitution rules and procedure

8. The Council's petitions scheme outlines the procedure for handling petitions and is set out in the Constitution. The scheme specifies that a petition containing at least 1,500 signatures will be debated at full Council if the petition organiser makes a request for a debate in writing directly to the Head of Law and Governance.
9. The Council procedures are set out in the Constitution. The Council procedures specify that any petition presented as part of an address directly to Council and that contains at least 1,500 signatures will not be debated at that meeting but at the next ordinary meeting.
10. The Constitution states that the petition organiser may address Council upon the petition for up to five minutes before the debate upon the petition at the next ordinary meeting.
11. The motion for debate is set out above in paragraph 2.
12. An alternative substantive motion/recommendation must be proposed if councillors wish to take any action other than adopting the action in the petition, not adopting the action in the petition, or deferring, referring or noting the issues raised by the petition.
13. If a Member wishes to put a substantive motion/recommendation on a petition they must let the Head of Law and Governance have that motion/recommendation by 10am on Friday 15 July 2022 (the working day before the Council meeting). These would then be published in the Council briefing note. Any amendments to these would have to be with Committee and Members' Services by 11am on 18 July 2022 (the day of the meeting).

Financial implications

14. The implications of this report will depend on Council's recommendations, if any, and Council should be mindful of the possible costs in formulating its recommendations.

Legal issues

15. The implications will depend on Council's recommendations, if any. Any recommendations will be considered in detail by the Cabinet, before returning to Council should this be necessary.

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Background Papers: None	

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To: Council
Date: 18th July 2022
Report of: Cllr Diko Walcott, Cabinet Member for Safer Communities
Title of Report: Oxford Safer Communities Partnership (OSCP) Annual Update 2021-22

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	Provide a summary of OSCP's achievements in 2021-22
Key decision:	No
Executive Board Member with responsibility:	Cllr Diko Walcott, Cabinet Member for Safer Communities
Corporate Priority:	Support Thriving Communities
Policy Framework:	Council Strategy 2020-24
Recommendation(s): Note the report	

Appendices: No

Introduction and background

1. The introduction of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed statutory responsibilities on the police, local authorities and other Responsible Authorities to convene a multi-agency partnership to tackle crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in their local area.
2. Oxford Safer Community Partnership (OSCP) meets on a quarterly basis to set local community safety priorities in the city and develop and monitoring multi-agency plans to address these priorities.
3. The Oxford's Community Safety Partnership comprises:
 - Oxford City Council
 - Oxford Local Police Area
 - Oxfordshire County Council's Youth Justice and Exploitation Service, Fire & Rescue Service, Trading Standards, and Child and Adult Social Care Services

- National Probation Service
- Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust,
- Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group,
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner,
- Oxford Brookes University
- University of Oxford
- Turning Point

OSCP achievements 2021-22

4. Each financial year OSCP agrees a set of annual priorities based on a Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA) of crime and disorder in the city. The SIA, and an interactive crime dashboard can be found on the Oxfordshire Insight website:

<https://insight.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/community-safety>

5. The summary of the partnership's achievements in 2021-22 includes:

- 5.1. With the support of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Oxford City Council was awarded £426,000 to address Violence against Women and Girls through new measures to help women and girls travelling in and out of Oxford at night. "Safe Journey, Safe, Safe Destination" brought together the Police Crime Commissioner, Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford Police Area, Oxford University Security Services, and Oxford Brookes University, West Oxfordshire, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils, in a unique partnership that makes a difference for women and girls in the City.
- 5.2. Upgrade of CCTV cameras in Oxford city centre to high definition digital cameras and improve sight-lines for CCTV and in overgrown areas.
- 5.3. Expanded CCTV coverage to include The Plain, Cowley Road and Temple Cowley.
- 5.4. Upgrade of the Oxford City Council-owned CCTV Suite in St. Aldates Police Station to a fully digitised solution with the capacity to monitor new CCTV cameras in Oxford City Council tower blocks, low rise blocks and the Covered Market.
- 5.5. Improved street lighting on transport routes across Oxford, Abingdon, Didcot and Witney.
- 5.6. Introduced a Safe Places scheme within the night-time economy to provide a place where people can get support in a safe environment.
- 5.7. Launched the Nightsafe Oxford Network to bring together partners and organisations in the night-time economy, including the police, CCTV operators, Street Pastors, night bus drivers, taxi drivers, fast food outlets and licensed premises. Members of the network will receive bystander training to spot and assist people in need, communicate with each other through a radio system, have direct contact with the police CCTV control room and receive briefings from the police on what to expect during the weekend.

<https://www.oxfordcitycrimepartnership.co.uk/nightsafe-oxford/>

- 5.8. Promoted to licensed premises the Licensing Security and Vulnerability Initiative (SAVI), an online assessment programme designed to help the owners and operators of licensed premises provide a safe and secure environment for their managers, staff, customers and local communities.
- 5.9. Commissioned a Drink Spiking Awareness Course to train as many front-line workers such as bar and security staff as possible, in order to raise awareness about drink spiking amongst venues, ensuring staff know what they can do to help victims, and minimising the frequency of this crime. Drinking spiking testing kits purchased for use by police officers and universities.
- 5.10. Project Vigilant targeted predatory behaviour and sexual assault in the evening economy. Dedicated uniformed and plain clothed officers patrol areas of the city to identify people who may be displaying signs of predatory behaviour. Oxford City Council serve notices on subjects of concern.
- 5.11. Oxford City Council became a member of the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) and are working towards accreditation which will demonstrate a client-led approach for all customers who have or are experiencing domestic abuse. Policies and procedures, robust risk and case management, inclusivity, domestic abuse informed staff will need to be embedded into working practice to achieve this.
- 5.12. Recruited 2 full time Domestic Abuse Housing Link workers within the City Council. They provide a single point of contact for the customer journey through the process from homelessness to secure accommodation. In addition they identify good practice and areas for improvement within the Council departments which will assist in achieving the DAHA accreditation.
- 5.13. Councillors conducted a scrutiny review of provision to support survivors of domestic abuse in Oxford. There were 48 recommendations, the majority of which will be completed through the DAHA accreditation. Staff training was a common theme and a programme of training has already started.
- 5.14. Deployment of mobile CCTV cameras in six locations including within the Covered Market to prevent business burglary and installation of a new lighting column in Wytham Street in response to drug dealing and ASB, match-funded by City Council councillors.
- 5.15. Developed a new structure and pathway to identify and support adult victims of exploitation and slavery. To ensure a strong response, all cases of modern slavery and human trafficking cases are alerted to Anti-Slavery Coordinator who records and assesses the information and coordinates the response with the police, Gangmasters Labour Abuse Authority, DWP and Adult Safeguarding.
- 5.16. Successful disruption activities carried out on a guesthouse where sex working was causing significant community concerns. Police, Fire Service, Victims First Specialist Service and Oxford City Council's Community Response Team, ASBIT, Planning Enforcement, Revenues and HMO Enforcement teams executed a warrant on the property. Although there were no victims of trafficking, other enforcement actions were taken resulting in the property being closed temporarily.

OSCP Priorities for 2022-23

6. The priorities detailed in OSCP's annual Rolling Plan 2022-23 were developed by all the members of the partnership taking into account the overview of crime trends affecting Oxford. The plan is due to be signed off by the partnership in August and the priorities for 2022-23 are:
 - 6.1. Develop responses to neighbourhood crime priorities such as open space drug misuse and dealing, anti-social behaviour and alcohol-related violence through the work of the Community Safety Problem Solving Officer.
 - 6.2. Address anti-social behaviour that effects our communities through support and enforcement processes.
 - 6.3. Coordinate and implement Oxfordshire's Modern Slavery Strategy through the work of the Oxfordshire Anti-Slavery Coordinator
 - 6.4. Prepare for and deliver the Serious Violence Duty in partnership with the Thames Valley Violence Reduction Unit.
 - 6.5. Coordinate activity to address the violence against women and girls agenda with the Safe Journey, Safe Destination project that aims to keep women safe when out and about in Oxford late at night.
 - 6.6. Continue to tackle domestic abuse and support the delivery of the government's Violence Against Women and Girls strategy through the introduction of DAHA accreditation in social housing stock, support for the Oxfordshire DA Strategy Group and the implementation of Oxford City Council's scrutiny review recommendations.
 - 6.7. Build on the work of the Safer Streets 3 project to improve our approach to alcohol-related disorder through the Nightsafe Oxford Network.
 - 6.8. Develop a hate crime action plan to support communities.
 - 6.9. Reduce the level of cycle crime in the city through the Bike Crime Reduction Partnership.
 - 6.10. Support the work of the Prevent and Protect Duty of the Counter-Terrorism strategy.
 - 6.11. Work with partners in Oxfordshire to evaluate the feasibility of an Oxfordshire CCTV Hub.
 - 6.12. Use our Common Place consultation process to engage with our communities in order to understand their community safety concerns and develop responses.
 - 6.13. Develop partner support and use of the Interact web-based dashboard to better understand local community safety trends and evaluate interventions.
 - 6.14. Review our membership, structures and working groups to ensure we have the partnership capacity to support delivery of our priorities.

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Background Papers: None

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To: Council

Date: 18 July 2022

Report of: Chair of the Scrutiny Committee

Title of Report: Scrutiny Committee Update Report

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To update Council on the activities of the Scrutiny function
Scrutiny Lead Member:	Councillor Dr Chris Smowton, Chair of the Scrutiny Committee
Corporate Priority:	All
Policy Framework:	Council Strategy 2020-24
Recommendation:	That Council resolves to note the update report.

Appendices
None

Introduction

1. This report provides an update on Scrutiny activity during the period from 12 March 2022 to 30 June 2022.
2. During the period from 12 March 2022 to the end of the 2021/22 municipal year there were relatively few meetings of the Scrutiny Committee and its Panels. The following reports were submitted to Cabinet in March and April 2022:

March 2022

- Climate Emergency Review Group Update
- Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Strategy
- Allocation of Preventing Homelessness Grant 2022/23
- Housing Assistance and Disabled Adaptations Policy

- Oxford City Council Corporate Business Plan 2022
- Oxfordshire Recovery and Renewal Framework

April 2022

- Procurement Update
 - Oxfordshire 2050 Plan
 - DSS Discrimination Motion Update
 - Tenant Involvement and Empowerment Report
3. Most of the reports submitted in March and April received Cabinet responses, the majority of which were positive. The response to the Tenant Involvement and Empowerment report was delayed as a result of the departure of the Scrutiny Officer. A response is expected at Cabinet in July 2022.

Scrutiny Committee 2022/23

4. Since the start of the 2022/23 municipal year up to 30 June 2022, the Scrutiny Committee has met once, on 08 June 2022. At this meeting a new Chair, Councillor Dr Chris Smowton was elected – taking on the role from former Councillor Liz Wade. Councillor Lizzy Diggins was elected Vice-Chair.
5. The Committee agreed to establish the same three standing panels as in previous years: Housing & Homelessness, Finance & Performance, and Companies Scrutiny Panel. Recommended changes to the way in which Companies Scrutiny Panel operates were noted; namely that Companies Scrutiny Panel will join Shareholder and Joint Venture Group meetings as non-voting members to enable more effective and efficient scrutiny of the Shareholder function. These meetings will not be clerked by the Scrutiny Officer, meaning there is capacity within the Scrutiny function for other work. The membership of the Finance & Performance Panel and Companies Scrutiny Panel were reduced from six members to four.
6. The membership of the standing panels is as follows:
- | | |
|--|---|
| Housing & Homelessness Panel: | Councillor Paula Dunne (Chair), Councillor Lizzy Diggins, Councillor Laurence Fouweather, Councillor Jabu Nala-Hartley, Councillor Rosie Rawle, Councillor Jo Sandelson |
| Finance & Performance Panel: | Councillor James Fry (Chair), Councillor Chris Jarvis, Councillor Tom Landell Mills, Councillor Dr Amar Latif |
| Companies Scrutiny Panel: | Councillor Mike Rowley (Chair), Councillor James Fry, Councillor Tom Landell Mills, Councillor Alistair Morris |
7. There was a suggestion from the Committee that a Climate & Environment Panel should be established; a report is expected to be considered by the Committee in July 2022 seeking the formal establishment of this new standing panel, with a more detailed report on its remit to be submitted to a future meeting. The Committee is also expected to consider establishing a Budget Review Group at its next meeting in July 2022. If both proposals are agreed, capacity for one additional review group

(five meetings) would remain, as a result of the changes to Companies Scrutiny Panel arrangements.

8. In addition to the agreement of the Scrutiny Operating Principles for 2022/23, four substantive reports were considered on 08 June 2022:
 - Report of the Child Poverty Review Group
 - Waterways Update (*Scrutiny-commissioned report*)
 - Oxford's Economic Strategy – Consultation Report and Recommendations (*Cabinet report*)
 - City Centre Action Plan – Consultation Report and Recommendations (*Cabinet report*)
9. The Child Poverty Review Group produced a cross-cutting report urging action to address child poverty in Oxford City. The draft report was finalised at the beginning of the 2022/23 municipal year, setting out 42 recommendations. The report focused on what more the Council could do to embed poverty prevention methods into Council activity; along with how the Council might work with partners and local anchor institutions on a collaborative response. A key recommendation within the report was that of the Council adopting the Socio-economic Duty and lobbying other local organisations to do the same. The report recognised the work that the Council is already doing, but noted that more could be done to bring the issue of child poverty to the forefront. At its meeting on 08 June 2022, the Scrutiny Committee endorsed the work of the Child Poverty Review Group and approved the report for submission to Cabinet.
10. The Waterways Report was a Scrutiny-commissioned report which provided an update on recommendations made by the Committee in November 2020. Priorities had shifted during the time since then due to a number of health and safety issues which had been identified and taken high priority. The Committee welcomed the report and expects to produce a report to Cabinet with recommendations based on the discussion at the meeting, which is anticipated will be submitted to Cabinet in July 2022. During discussions on water quality, the Committee expressed a desire to invite representatives from Thames Water to a future meeting to present water quality data and answer questions.
11. The report on Oxford's Economic Strategy aimed to address existing planned growth, as set out in Local Plans, and ensure that growth would be inclusive. The Committee's discussion largely focused on the need for effective engagement with diverse communities, particularly minoritised groups and young people, as part of consultation processes and engaging with wider stakeholders (e.g. Trade Unions and the Third Sector). A total of 9 recommendations were agreed.
12. The report on the City Centre Action Plan was introduced as a community-owned plan that encouraged feedback into the future and would add structure, momentum and ownership. Again, the Committee's discussion focused on effective engagement with diverse communities, particularly minoritised groups and young people, and ensuring that the Plan is adaptive to diverse needs. A total of 4 recommendations were agreed.

Cabinet Responses to Recommendations: June 2022

13. The following reports were submitted to Cabinet in June 2022:
- Report of the Child Poverty Review Group
 - Oxford's Economic Strategy – Consultation Report and Recommendations
 - City Centre Action Plan – Consultation Report and Recommendations
14. Due to the length and cross-cutting nature of the Child Poverty Review Group report, Cabinet responses to recommendations are expected at a future meeting.
15. All recommendations contained in the Oxford's Economic Strategy and City Centre Action Plan reports received positive responses.

Housing and Homelessness Panel

16. The Housing and Homelessness Panel has met once during the reporting period, on 22 March 2022. The following reports were considered and submitted to the Scrutiny Committee for approval before submission to Cabinet:
- DSS Discrimination Motion Update
 - Tenant Involvement and Empowerment Report

Finance and Performance Panel

17. The Finance and Performance Panel has not met during the reporting period.

Companies Scrutiny Panel

18. The Companies Scrutiny Panel has met twice as a standalone panel during the reporting period, on 28 March and 07 April 2022, to consider reports relating to Oxford City Housing Limited, Barton Oxford LLP, OxWED LLP and Oxford Direct Services. Commercial confidentiality prevents the provision of a summary report.
19. In addition, the Companies Scrutiny Panel joined the Shareholder and Joint Venture meeting as non-voting members on 22 June 2022 to consider reports relating to Oxford City Housing Limited, Barton Oxford LLP and OxWED LLP. This was the first meeting under the new operating arrangements which are intended to enable more effective and efficient scrutiny of the Shareholder function. Again, commercial confidentiality prevents the provision of a summary report.

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