

Record of Decisions of the meeting of the Council

On Monday 23 March 2026

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Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Council held on Monday 23 March 2026.

Decisions made by the Cabinet and Planning – Oxford City Planning Committee will be subject to a two-day call-in period.

The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Committee and Member Services.

8 HRA Policies: Electrical Safety, Legionella Management

Council resolved to:

1. **Approve** the Electrical Safety Policy
2. **Approve** the Legionella Policy

9 Allocations Scheme Review

Council resolved to:

1. **Approve** the new draft Social Housing Allocations Scheme for Oxford;
2. **Delegate authority** to the Director of Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, to authorise the date on which the Allocations Scheme is implemented, noting the explanation and timelines in paragraph 23;
3. **Delegate authority** to the Director of Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, to make minor changes to the Allocations Scheme in order to comply with changes to legislative and statutory guidance, related Council policies (approved by Cabinet) and to make technical changes to ensure the effective and efficient functioning of the scheme.

10 Annual Pay Policy Statement

Council resolved to:

1. **Approve** the Annual Pay Policy Statement 2026/27 as set out in Appendix 1 to this report
2. **Agree** the proposed pay agreement for April 2026 and April 2027 reached with

Unison and Unite as set out in paragraph 3.

14 **Petition submitted in accordance with Council procedure rules - Save Our Museum**

Council resolved to:

1. **Note** the contents of the report
2. **Hear** the address by the petition organiser
3. **Debate** the proposal contained within the petition and any relevant motion or recommend
4. **Recommended** to Cabinet that further opportunities to provide free access to the Museum to local people be explored

18a **Better use of Oxpens Bridge Funding (Proposed by Cllr Jupp, Seconded by Cllr Miles)**

Council resolved to:

Reject the following motion:

Council notes:

- The cost of the Oxpens bridge has substantially increased since its original approval, and is running considerably behind other Growth Deal projects.
- That government has the option to repurpose the money for use in other active travel schemes and entrust the County Council to manage this.
- Government can and does vary the rules of the Deal from time to time. Thus far, government has rightly prioritised the spirit and objectives of the Deal above the letter of the agreement.
- Doubt remains that the Oxpens bridge will be able to provide a dry route to Osney Island and thereby unlock housing, due to the low-lying railway underpass in-between.
- The Growth Board (now Future Oxfordshire Partnership) was strongly urged against pursuing the Oxpens bridge project to begin with.
- £8.8 million of the funding for the proposed Oxpens Bridge came from the Government Growth Deal via Oxfordshire County Council and £1.5 million of the funding came from Homes England.
- These 2 funds should be spent on unlocking affordable homes, which this bridge does not do.

Council therefore believes it would be sensible to examine alternatives, and open a

conversation with the County and/or the Ministry on options that deliver greater benefits for the residents of Oxford.

Council therefore resolves

- to ask the Leader to write to the relevant Minister, in full consultation with the accountable body for the Growth Deal funds, requesting that in the event of the bridge not going ahead:
 - That the Growth Deal be varied as necessary to permit the funds to be used for other specified purposes in Oxford;
 - That other options be explored to better employ the funds, including but not limited to:
 - Resurrecting the substantive scheme for Woodstock Road improvements to mitigate the effect of housing development to the north;
 - Revisiting the pedestrian bridge across the A40 at Barton Park which was dropped at planning stage, resulting in very real and significant safety concerns for residents;
 - Resurrecting the long-discussed plan for a foot/cycle bridge across the Thames at Jackdaw Lane, providing a safe and convenient alternative to the challenging Plain roundabout for residents of south and east Oxford.

Council notes that each of these schemes has been worked up in detail, and are thus available to re-visit, making any one of them attractive to a government which has the best interests of Oxford's residents at heart.

18b **Prisoners for Palestine hunger strikes (Proposed by Cllr Jarvis, Seconded by Cllr Mundy)**

Council resolved to:

Support the following motion:

Council notes

1. Since September 2024 eight remand prisoners detained as a result of alleged activities with Palestine Action have participated in hunger strikes, including at least one individual from Oxford.^[1]
2. The prisoners are expected to be on remand for over a year before they face a trial^[2], despite the CPS guidance suggesting the maximum time anyone should be held on remand is 182 days.^[3]
3. In January 2026, the last hunger strike terminated their protest, bringing the hunger strikes to an end^[4]
4. Among the demands of the hunger strikers were:^[5]
 - a) Immediate bail for the prisoners held on remand.
 - b) While they are imprisoned, for the prisoners to be able to send and

receive communications without restriction, surveillance, or interference from the prison administration.

- c) The right to a fair trial.
- d) For Palestine Action to be de-proscribed.

5. All of those participating in the hunger strikes were detained for alleged activities with Palestine Action prior to parliament adding it to the list of proscribed organisations.
6. 71 MPs - including Oxford West and Abingdon MP Layla Moran - have signed an Early Day Motion calling for the Secretary of State for Justice to ensure the treatment of the hunger strikers is “humane” and that their human rights are upheld.^[6]
7. A number of other councils, including Belfast^[7] and Derry^[8], passed motions expressing solidarity with the hunger strikers and for the government to enter proper negotiations with the prisoners to bring an end to the strikes.

Council believes

1. It is extremely concerning that these prisoners have felt that they had no other recourse to protest against their prison conditions but to engage in hunger strikes.

Council resolves

1. To request that the leader of the council:
 - a) Write to the Secretary of State for Justice and other relevant government ministers, requesting that they, or officials representing them
 - i. Where written consent has been given by the prisoner, meet with the families and representatives of those who have been on hunger strike to discuss the conditions they have faced.
 - ii. Do everything they can to ensure that prisoners, whether they are on remand or serving custodial sentences, have their human rights respected and that they are treated humanely.
 - iii. Review, far more regularly and systematically whether any proscribed organisation still needs to be proscribed.
 - iv. In light of the High Court ruling on Palestine Action, move to de-proscribe the group and cease attempts to overturn the ruling.
 - v. Because it conflicts with an individual's right to free speech, review whether simply saying you support a proscribed organisation should be an arrestable offence.
 - b) Write to local MPs Anneliese Dodds and Layla Moran requesting that they work to ensure that government ministers carry out the requests in resolves 1.

^[1] <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/dec/16/palestine-action-hunger-strikers-may-die-without-lammy-intervention-lawyers-say>

^[2] <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2026/jan/07/palestine-action-hunger-strikers-government>

^[3] <https://www.cps.gov.uk/prosecution-guidance/custody-time-limits>

^[4] <https://prisonersforpalestine.org/strike-ends/>

^[5] <https://prisonersforpalestine.org/demands/>

^[6] <https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/64800/palestine-action-hunger-strike>

^[7] <https://belfastmedia.com/belfast-city-council-backs-motion-supporting-palestine-action-hunger-strikers-in-england>

^[8]

<https://meetings.derrycityandstrabanedistrict.com/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIid=189&MIid=2378&Ver=4>

18c **Support for Mini Plant Oxford (Proposed by Cllr Linda Smith, Seconded by Cllr Ottino)**

Council resolved to:

Support the following motion:

Challenges for the automotive manufacturing sector have impacted countries including France, Italy and the UK, resulting in falling car production figures. This is driven by a number of factors, including competition from cheaper imports.

As one of the biggest employers in Oxford, a significant number of agency workers' jobs have been lost at the Mini Plant Oxford.

The plant needs to adjust to the government reinstating the 2030 ban date on new Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) models, the only models the plant currently builds. Also, due to there being no Electric models being manufactured at the Oxford plant, the Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) target for 2026 will potentially create a situation whereby ICE production will need to be artificially lowered to ensure BMW can hit the 33% target via imports. This is to prevent it being subject to either a £12,000 fine per car or pushed into buying credits from Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) such as Tesla.

Economic growth is the number one mission of the government.

Growing the economy increases tax revenue, and is one way of funding improvements to public services.

It is vital different government departments work in harmony to support UK jobs and industry. It's especially important that the Department for Transport and the Department for Business and Trade understand what support car plants including our Mini Plant need in order to adapt to the ZEV targets and be ready for the end of new ICE vehicle production.

This council therefore resolves to ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Transport Heidi Alexander to ask her to:

1. Meet with Unite the Union and its representatives at the factory to hear their concerns and to support their work to make Oxford the future home of affordable EV production.
2. Engage to as full an extent as possible with BMW on the UK's transition to electric vehicles and policies which affect demand for new vehicles and investment and jobs in the UK automotive sector.
3. Seek support for full economic re-integration with the EU, including pursuit of a customs union and European single market membership, in order to minimise friction to trade and employment.

For more details on the subject of the Decision or for a copy of the Decision Note please contact:

Jonathan Malton, Committee and Member Services Manager, Mobile: 01865 602767
or Email: democraticservices@oxford.gov.uk

The Record of Decision sets out the decision taken by the Committee. Details of the reasons for the decision and any alternative options put forward for consideration (if any) were published within the reports

The Decision is available on the [Council's website](#) for the call-in period.