

To: Council
Date: 29 November 2021
Report of: Head of Law and Governance
Title of Report: Questions on Notice from members of Council and responses from the Cabinet Members and Leader

Introduction

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

Questions and responses

Cabinet Member for a Safer, Healthier Oxford

LU1 From Cllr Jarvis to Cllr Upton – Covid-19

Question	Written Response
With Covid-19 cases still high across the country and in Oxford and Covid patients putting increasing strain on our hospitals, what specific steps is the City Council taking to limit the spread of the virus within the city?	

LU2 From Cllr Jarvis to Cllr Upton – Covid-19 Workplace support**Question**

What advice and support is the City Council giving to workplaces in Oxford to enable them to take measures such as improving air quality in order to limit the spread of COVID-19?

Written Response**Cabinet Member for Affordable Housing, Housing Security, and Housing the Homeless****DB1 From Cllr Wolff to Cllr Blackings – Council housing waiting list numbers****Question**

According to the City Council website, we had 2355 families on the waiting list for desperately-needed new council housing a year ago (2nd Oct 2020). More recently I have heard a figure of "nearly 3000" mentioned, which would represent an annual increase of 27%. What is the current figure, and if the "nearly 3000" figure is correct, what might be the reason for the dramatic increase?

Written Response**Cabinet Member for Citizen Focused Services****MR1 From Cllr Pegg to Cllr Rowley – HGV damage to street furniture and residential properties?****Question**

In the past year, on how many occasions has street furniture been damaged by heavy vehicles (e.g. HGVs and coaches) using residential streets in Oxford? Where have these incidents taken place?

Written Response**MR2 From Cllr Miles to Cllr Rowley – City Council app**

MR2 From Cllr Miles to Cllr Rowley – City Council app

Question	Written Response
What is the annual number of downloads of the oxford city council app for the last 12 months? Does the city council track the number of active users of the app, if so what is the number of active users? Within the report it function of the app, what is the breakdown of number of reports submitted by each category (e.g. graffiti, litter etc.) for the last 12 months?	

MR3 From Cllr Gant to Cllr Rowley – QL payments and accounting system

Question	Written Response
Could the Cabinet Member provide an update on the rollout of the QL payments and accounting system? What is the current state of service delivery? What is the cumulative effect of delays and changes to process? Do we have an estimate of the cost of the issues experienced, not just in cash terms but in terms of officer time?	

Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism**MC1 From Cllr Jarvis to Cllr Clarkson – Menorah lighting on Broad Street**

Question	Written Response
Why, after almost 20 years, is the Council now refusing to support the Jewish community's menorah lighting on Broad Street which is held annually in memory of former Oxford City Councillor Dr Mike Woodin who tragically died aged 38 whilst still a serving Councillor?	

Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management; Deputy Leader of the Council

ET1 From Cllr Jarvis to Cllr Turner – Commercial property purchase expenditure

Question

Against the advice of Scrutiny Committee, Council set aside £20 million at the last budget for the purchase of commercial property to rent out. Can the portfolio holder update Council on how much has been spent on commercial property since the budget, whether this expenditure is on-track, and the revenue generated?

Written Response

ET2 From Cllr Wade to Cllr Turner – Cost of Broad Meadow

Question

A grant of £150,000 was made by the Outbreak Management Fund towards the cost of Broad Meadow. This has covered the fees of external consultants LDA Designs (£24,800), the artist's fees, and ODS. I understand that there may be further costs for infrastructure, operational and project management costs. Could the Cabinet Member please confirm the total expenditure?

Written Response

Cabinet Member for Green Transport and Zero Carbon Oxford; Deputy Leader of the Council

TH1 From Cllr Wolff to Cllr Hayes – ZEZ: expected air quality improvements

Question

Given that the so-called zero emission zone being piloted in 2022 will not prevent any vehicle from entering the area covered by the ZEZ, is only in place 7am to 7pm, and that of the streets covered all are either already restricted or dead ends, what air quality improvements are expected?

Written Response

TH2 From Cllr Wolff to Cllr Hayes – ZEZ: classic cars**Question**

Why are classic cars - which have some of the most polluting engines - exempt from the ZEZ charge?

Written Response**TH3 From Cllr Wolff to Cllr Hayes – Implications of London’s ULEZ for Oxford’s air quality plans****Question**

Does the recent evidence on the limited impact on air quality of the London ultra low emission zone affect the plans for Oxford's air quality plans?

Written Response**TH4 From Cllr Pegg to Cllr Hayes – Safety of cyclists in relation to motorcycle and moped food delivery drivers****Question**

Has the Council had any dialogue with food delivery companies in relation to danger to cyclists caused by the irresponsible driving of some of their delivery drivers using motorcycles or mopeds?

Written Response**TH5 From Cllr Wade to Cllr Hayes – Seacourt Park & Ride Extension****Question**

At last Full Council you responded that usage levels remained low in the main Seacourt car park and that was why the extension had been fenced off. Can you now advise when the extension is scheduled to open? When will the final accounts for the capital scheme be available, and are any costs currently being incurred in the operational budget for the extension?

Written Response**TH6 From Cllr Miles to Cllr Hayes – OCC representation at COP26**

TH6 From Cllr Miles to Cllr Hayes – OCC representation at COP26**Question**

How many representatives of, and who, attended the COP26 conference in Glasgow on behalf of Oxford City Council and for what purposes? What were the top three practical insights and learning gained from this participation that will be applied to inform action on climate change by Oxford City Council?

Written Response**Cabinet Member for Inclusive Communities****SA1 From Cllr Jarvis to Cllr Aziz – East Oxford Community Centre****Question**

Since the Council took back control of East Oxford Community Centre from the Community Association, how have the number of bookings changed? Does the Council have an assessment of whether there are groups which have ceased using the space since the takeover?

Written Response**Cabinet Member for Parks and Waste Reduction****LA1 From Cllr Pegg to Cllr Arshad – Tree felling in Donnington Ward****Question**

How many trees have been felled or otherwise removed in Donnington Ward per year for 2019, 2020 and 2021 to date?

Written Response**LA2 From Cllr Pegg to Cllr Arshad – Use of glyphosate****Question**

Can the public access information about where the Council, ODS and its

Written Response

LA2 From Cllr Pegg to Cllr Arshad – Use of glyphosate

contractors are using glyphosate? If so, where can they access this information?

LA3 From Cllr Gant to Cllr Arshad – Cutteslowe Park**Question**

Many users and local residents to Cutteslowe Park are concerned that the presence of the ODS depot in the middle of the park, and in particular the regular traffic of large vehicles along routes inside the park and out through the well-used entrance to Harbord Rd, a road shared by pedestrians and vehicles, is unsatisfactory. Does the cabinet member agree?

Written Response**LA4 From Cllr Gant to Cllr Arshad – Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)****Question**

As Cabinet member for Parks, what is your view of the arrangements for BNG from Oxford North?

Written Response**Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Delivery****AH1 From Cllr Bely-Summers to Cllr Hollingsworth – Littlemore Ward infrastructure****Question**

Littlemore ward has 6.400 residents, no GPs practice, no dentist, only two bus services not running on Sundays nor Bank Holidays. Littlemore is among the 20% most deprived areas in England and experiences multiple levels of deprivation: low skills, low income and relatively high levels of crime. The life expectancy there is 15 years less than in Summertown ward.

Written Response

AH1 From Cllr Bely-Summers to Cllr Hollingsworth – Littlemore Ward infrastructure

In the next few years Oxford City council will build 1000 new accommodations in Littlemore with no plans to deliver comprehensive infrastructure. This will put pressure on local schools, already stretched GPs and dentist practice in surrounding wards. We want to attract NHS workers in these new developments but no provision for direct route to hospitals.

Is there not a duty on this council to provide adequate infrastructure and amenities in areas of deprivation such as Littlemore firstly to redress social/economic/health inequalities between have and have not wards but also more importantly because the Council intent to exert even more pressure on what is already lacking.

AH2 From Cllr Landell Mills to Cllr Hollingsworth – Diamond Place

Question

Is the Council supportive of the proposal from the local community in North Oxford that there should be a joint working party of the City, Oxford University Developments, and the community, to co-design a master plan for Diamond Place?

Written Response

AH3 From Cllr Landell Mills to Cllr Hollingsworth – Master Planning for Diamond Place

Question

Given the expressed willingness of Oxford University Developments to join in a master planning exercise for Diamond Place, and the urgency of providing a new health centre for the expanding residential areas in North Oxford and the need for new social housing, is the Council supportive of starting a master

Written Response

AH3 From Cllr Landell Mills to Cllr Hollingsworth – Master Planning for Diamond Place

planning exercise for Diamond Place now?

AH4 From Cllr Landell Mills to Cllr Hollingsworth – Health Centre at Diamond Place

Question

In view of the severely inadequate accommodation for GPs and patients at the two GP surgeries in Summertown, what is the council doing to progress the development of a new health centre for the north of Oxford at Diamond Place?

Written Response

AH5 From Cllr Gant to Cllr Hollingsworth – Active travel route from North Oxford to Parkway

Question

The CDC LPPR site PR6a, being brought forward by the site owners, has the opportunity to provide a key active travel route from North Oxford to Parkway station and beyond, something which clearly should have been delivered when the station opened. NCR51 crosses the A40 by the footbridge from Wren Rd to the entrance to Cutteslowe Park. There is clearly therefore a challenge in joining this route legibly and safely to routes through and/or adjacent to PR6a and the Croudace site at Frideswide Farm. Would the Cabinet Member join me in calling for this to be done in a way which provides a safe and convenient route for cyclists and at the same time respects the needs of local residents and all other stakeholders?

Written Response

SB1 From Cllr Jarvis to Cllr Brown – Vacancy rate for City Centre retail units

Question

How does the vacancy rate for retail units in the City Centre including the Covered Market compare with the situation prior to the tripling in size of the Westgate Shopping Centre?

Written Response

SB2 From Cllr Wolff to Cllr Brown – Support for Cave Street small businesses

Question

What support is the Council giving small businesses forced to relocate during the development works at Cave Street?

Written Response

SB3 From Cllr Wolff to Cllr Brown – Cave Street

Question

How many of the businesses are planning to return to Cave Street after the works are complete? How does that affect the business plan used to justify the redevelopment?

Written Response