

**To:** Council  
**Date:** 18 March 2024  
**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 Inclusive Economy and Partnerships; Leader of the Council

#### SB1 From Cllr Sandelson to Cllr Brown – Elise Benjamin

##### Question

On the next refresh of the excellent new portraits in the council chamber, would the Leader consider featuring former Cllr Elise Benjamin, who became Lord Mayor in 2011 as the first Jewish person to do so, the first Green party representative, and at that time the youngest person to hold the post?

##### Written Response

We will be hoping to add to the portraits as we go forward and I'm very happy to receive suggestions from all groups for inclusion. I will take away an action to formalise a process for putting forward and agreeing future additions.

Criteria will need to be agreed, but the first Jewish mayor that I'm aware of (and she may not be the actual first) is Cllr Susanna Pressel who preceded former

	Cllr Elise Benjamin by several years and many lord mayors will have been the youngest to hold the post at some point!
<p><b>Supplementary Question</b></p> <p><i>I understand that Elise Benjamin is seen by the Jewish Community as first female Jewish Lord Mayor. I am glad to hear you are putting together a process for a future refresh. Can you please confirm that you will aim to bring this in the next civic year?</i></p>	<p><b>Verbal Response</b></p> <p><i>I am happy to confirm that we would come up with a formula that we can agree other portraitures. I am really grateful to Councillor Miles for the work she has done and also to Councillor Pressel to all the work she did previously in trying to get greater representation in this City Council. There is more work to be done and would be really happy to continue the cross party work that we've had on this.</i></p>

<b>SB2 From Cllr Smowton to Cllr Brown – Scrutiny of communities and ODS savings</b>	
<p><b>Question</b></p> <p>Considering the ambitious savings sought from both communities and ODS budgets from FY 25/26, will you commit to engaging scrutiny early and often; for example, bringing a paper to scrutiny at the options phase, rather than only once final recommendations have been developed?</p>	<p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>Scrutiny engagement has been very positive in the Council's budget process. We will ensure that scrutiny of the two reviews is similarly strong.</p>
<p><b>Supplementary Question</b></p> <p><i>Will you ensure that Scrutiny is engaged specifically at the options stage and not just final recommendations?</i></p>	<p><b>Verbal Response</b></p> <p><i>I'm sure we will be continuing to talk to Scrutiny right way through the process.</i></p>

<b>SB3 From Cllr R Smith to Cllr Brown – Fair trade</b>	
<p><b>Question</b></p> <p>As a Fairtrade City, will the leader consider appointing a Fairtrade Champion?</p>	<p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>There have been fairtrade champions in the past and there may be in the future. The role of champions are appointed by the leader around the priorities of the council and areas which need focus. Oxford is a well-established Fairtrade City and we are proud to be so.</p>
<p><b>Supplementary Question</b></p> <p><i>Thank you for your reply, I look forward</i></p>	<p><b>Verbal Response</b></p> <p><i>I believe that the fair trade shop that</i></p>

<p><i>to knowing when the new fair trade champion is appointed. Would you agree with me that we are, as you said fair trade city, but unfortunately have no fair trade shop specifically in the centre as it closed last year partly due to high rents and such? Do you agree with me that it would be beneficial to the city to support a fair trade shop, perhaps in one of the empty city council owned rental outlets as a pop-up shop?</i></p>	<p><i>closed was run by the church and so any increase in rents was not down to us but indeed to the church. Actually that same church owns several other properties outside the Covered Market which I would be delighted to see as fair trade shops rather than American candy. Let's hope that happens.</i></p>
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<b>SB4 From Cllr Aziz to Cllr Brown – Divisive rhetoric over democratic protests</b>	
<p><b>Question</b></p> <p>Will the council leader write to the Prime Minister to register this council's dismay at the framing of Palestine supporters and marchers as "extremists" and "Islamists" along with other smears designed to stoke up tensions and fear in Oxford's diverse communities.</p>	<p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>I'm happy to do so. I share Cllr Aziz's distaste and concern over the way in which the current government seem determined to divide communities rather than bring people together. This is the opposite approach to the one that I have always advocated.</p>

<b>SB5 From Cllr Aziz to Cllr Brown – Mayor of Ramallah video address</b>	
<p><b>Question</b></p> <p>Can the leader provide an update on when the Mayor of Ramallah will be addressing council through a video message.</p>	<p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>We have contacted the Mayor of Ramallah's office several times to invite the Mayor of Ramallah to address council through a video message (on 7th and 8th December 2023, 2nd January, 24th January and 8th March 2024). Apart from a video with a Christmas message, we have not received any further replies. We are all sensitive to the awful situation that they are having to deal with and have sent a message of support. We don't want to put any additional burdens on them by continuing to ask about the video.</p> <p>As Cllr Aziz is aware, we have subsequently issued an alternative invitation.</p>

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

**ET1 From Cllr Miles to Cllr Turner – Fly tipping fines**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Written Response</b>
How many individuals has the Council prosecuted for refusing to pay a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) issued for fly-tipping?	There were no prosecutions in 2022 or 2023 due to unpaid fixed penalty notices for fly-tipping – as all fines were paid.

**ET2 From Cllr R Smith to Cllr Turner – Community Infrastructure Levies**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Written Response</b>
Will the cabinet member for Finance please provide a total of Community Infrastructure Levy monies from developers held by the city council, and what is the interest accumulated over the last financial year?	<p>The balance as at the end of 22/23 was £13,044,828, with a further income this year of £3,937,000 this year – a total of £16,981,828.</p> <p>Interest is not applied to balances.</p>
<p><b>Supplementary Question</b></p> <p><i>Thank you for your answer, Cllr Turner. Could you provide a breakdown of the nearly £17m of how much of it will be spent during the coming year and how much will be earmarked for particular infrastructure projects?</i></p>	<p><b>Verbal Response</b></p> <p><i>I think the information that the Councillor is after will be part of the detailed budget but we can certainly drop the Councillor a line with our Capital financing.</i></p> <p><i>To explain, this is not free money or unallocated funds which we can then cheerfully disperse. This is money just like other source of income that Council has which we need to spend it on our priorities and specifically we still increasingly need to spend on the many items of infrastructure in our Capital programmes, whether its refurbishing play areas, parks, community centres – all of that sort. We really do need it and of course if we don't have the money then we need to borrow and that's then the sort of pressure in the future. But I will be happy to share all information we've got about the financing of our programme.</i></p> <p><b>Written Response</b></p>

	<p>The CIL values allocated for strategic projects is available in the budget paperwork that went through Council in March. Clearly, as projects progress we sometimes find that the spend of the allocated budget falls into future financial years, and this variation is picked up through the annual budget-setting process. The Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) can be found here <a href="#">-What the Community Infrastructure Levy will be spent on   Oxford City Council</a> - and contains details of CIL funding, and annual budget papers - <a href="#">Agenda for Council on Wednesday 21 February 2024, 5.00 pm   Oxford City Council</a> - detail capital projects, to which CIL may be applied.</p>
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**Cabinet Member for Leisure and Parks; Deputy Leader of the Council**

<p><b>CM1 From Cllr Snowton to Cllr Munkonge – Cycling in parks</b></p>	
<p><b>Question</b></p> <p>Do you agree with me that, generally speaking, people expect park pathways to be pedestrian-only, and that consequently cycleways through parkland should be explicitly designated? Will you work to amend the draft parks byelaws to accord with this?</p>	<p><b>Written Response:</b></p> <p>The proposed new byelaws are currently out for public consultation.</p> <p>There is broadly balanced opinion around whether the general ban on cycling in parks should be lifted and it should not be assumed at this stage there is majority support in favour of this proposal. If there is, there would be very significant costs involved in creating designated cycle routes through the council’s many parks and it would be difficult to police without large numbers of staff.</p> <p>However, there are also difficulties in policing the current ban.</p> <p>There will be an opportunity to further consider this issue once the consultation is complete and the wider views of park users and other stakeholders have been</p>

	established.
<p><b>Supplementary Question</b></p> <p><i>It's often mentioned in answers to this sort of question that enforcement is very difficult – do you recognise that enforcement is going to be very difficult and therefore the main purpose of the rules that we're setting is to influence the behaviour of the majority of people who are inclined to obey the rules and not the minority who don't.</i></p> <p><i>Do you agree that the main point is about the majority of people who are inclined to obey the rules are not the minority who don't?</i></p>	<p><b>Verbal Response</b></p> <p><i>I agree, enforcement will be difficult.</i></p> <p><i>Yes, I agree.</i></p>

<b>CM2 From Cllr R Smith to Cllr Munkonge – Quarry Pavilion 1</b>	
<p><b>Question</b></p> <p>1. Who was responsible for the decision to install a key code system for the Quarry Pavillion in the Margaret Road Rec and why were stakeholders, hirers of the building not consulted?</p> <p>2. Is the member content that the key new system is environmentally friendly and was a safeguarding risk assessment undertaken on the new key code system for the Quarry Pavilion building?</p>	<p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>Quarry pavilion is an Oxford City Council asset, the Council delegate the management and maintenance to ODS.</p> <p>The decision to implement the new locking system is part of the general operational management of the pavilion, along with a number of similar sites across the city. This was implemented to improve the effective management of safe access to these spaces and ensure that we have a robust system in place for managing who is utilising these spaces and when.</p> <p>We are working to ensure that we maximise usage across all of our pavilions and the new system will allow our communities to clearly see what availability there is and avoid any conflict with other users, which might in itself be a safeguarding issue. As this is an operational matter on safer access and that there are no fundamental changes, public consultation was not sought on this occasion.</p>

	<p>However, our community users and sports clubs that are registered on our Pitchbooking system were sent an email correspondence to advise them of the changes, notifying hirers of the new method of securing the building.</p>
<p><b>Supplementary Question</b></p> <p><i>From this reply, I take it that ODS made the decision but did not consult with the main users of the building. Does the Cabinet Member agree that informing the main hirers by email on a Friday, that the new key system was going to go live the following Monday was short-sighted and had resulted in a lot of anguish.</i></p>	<p><b>Verbal Response</b></p> <p><i>It depends on the interpretation of the word 'consultation'. This is a Council owned asset which is booked for usage. The fact that they were informed I thought that adhered to working practice, but I agree that more notice could have been given.</i></p>

<p><b>CM3 From Cllr R Smith to Cllr Munkonge – Quarry Pavilion 2</b></p>	
<p><b>Question</b></p> <p>Is the member content that the key new system is environmentally friendly and was a safeguarding risk assessment undertaken on the new key code system for the Quarry Pavilion building?</p>	<p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>The new system is more environmentally friendly than the previous system. It saves on fuel/ emissions as the previous process meant hirers had to come to Cutteslowe park to collect keys in advance of their booking and then return the keys after use. In addition, it saves on travelling emissions and time of Streetscene staff at a weekend having to travel to pavilions to unlock the top lock prior to hirers use. The new system will also avoid the need for replacement keys.</p> <p>Safeguarding risk assessments are carried out across all of our sites as part of the ongoing management and operation of these spaces. The new system will provide a more robust management system to ensure that we know who is entering the pavilions and when, which may help to reduce the safeguarding risk in this area.</p> <p>Hirers of the pavilions need to undertake their own safeguarding risk assessments</p>

	where children, young people and vulnerable adults are in their care as part of the conditions of their bookings and those of the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport.
<p><b>Supplementary Question</b></p> <p><i>I'm pleased that it's going to save some travel for people who are doing one of the hirers for the building. But is the Cabinet Member aware that there is a serious safeguarding risk with this new key system? In that, that building cannot be locked from inside. This means either the door must remain open for the users if they need to be going out to play football and come back again to use the facilities. Or if when there are primary school age children, the door has to be barricaded from the inside because it cannot be locked from the inside. This is not only a safeguarding risk for those children, but is one possibly for the fire safety team as well and should be considered. Barricading children in because you can't lock the door from inside is a safeguard onus.</i></p>	<p><b>Verbal Response</b></p> <p><i>Thanks, Councillor Smith. You've brought up a very good suggestion and I would be happy to take this – as you can see from the answer there are two things to this: we do our own assessment, and we presume that the hirers as well do their own assessments. With what you have brought, we can take it offline for officers advice.</i></p>

## Cabinet Member for Planning and Healthier Communities

<b>LU1 From Cllr Miles to Cllr Upton – Westgate car parking charges</b>	
<p><b>Question</b></p> <p>The Council meets with the Westgate annually to discuss car park usage and how the Westgate could better promote use of the Park &amp; Rides. What was the result of the meeting that was due to take place on the topic at the end of January 2024?</p>	<p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>The Council usually meets with the Westgate management team in Q4 annually to discuss the parking tariff, along with general asset management matters. This year the meeting is scheduled to take place in Q1 24/25 as the Westgate have already confirmed their intention to increase charging in April 24, in addition to the uplift in September 23. The Council will be seeking to understand whether a further</p>



	increase is planned for September 24.
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<b>LU2 From Cllr Smowton to Cllr Upton – E-scooters on off-road cycleways</b>	
<p><b>Question</b></p> <p>In general, Voi e-scooters are permitted to be ridden wherever a pedal cycle may be ridden. However, the draft park byelaws would exclude them from marked cycleways in parks, introducing confusion for riders and suppressing use of a desirable mode of transport. Will you work to bring the byelaws back into line with the general principle that cycle and e-scooter access is harmonised?</p>	<p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>The proposed new byelaws are currently out for public consultation. Provisional feedback suggests there is broadly divided opinion around the lifting of the general ban on cycling in parks, but strong support to ban E-scooters.</p> <p>The legalities around where they can be used is not straightforward and their use 'off road' is also a matter for the landowner. However, there will be an opportunity to further consider this issue once the consultation is complete and the wider views of park users and other stakeholders have been established.</p>
<p><b>Supplementary Question</b></p> <p><i>Do you agree with the general principle that pedal cycles and the Voi e-scooters ought to be treated alike?</i></p>	<p><b>Verbal Response</b></p> <p><i>Seems reasonable principle. But I do not want to prejudge what the outcome of the review of the park conservation is going to be. I think scooters are complicated because private ones are so different from the Voi ones. The Voi ones you can have them be speed controlled in certain areas whereas private ones you can't. Scooters are difficult.</i></p>

<b>LU3 From Cllr Jarvis to Cllr Upton – Interim local centres</b>	
<p><b>Question</b></p> <p>Is it possible to designate 'interim local centres' during the period of a local plan's implementation for areas not designated as local or district centres in the plan. If so, has the city council ever done so previously?</p>	<p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>No, this is not possible. There is no mechanism for designating local centres outside of the Local Plan process.</p> <p>Local Centres have been identified in several previous local plans. In drafting the Local Plan 2040, we considered whether any additional ones should be added. We were alert to the NPPF definition of a local centre being clear</p>

	<p>that it can't just include a parade of shops that serve only the immediate area. Also important to this consideration was the policy approach that applies to local centres (and district centres and the city centre), which is that there should be an area of active frontage notable in the street and that should be protected as an area of activity. We also looked at maps of access to facilities and services and considered where this was lacking. These considerations led us to add Underhill Circus to the list of local centres, other sites were examined, but were considered to be stretching the definition too far.</p>
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<p><b>LU4 From Cllr Muddiman to Cllr Upton – Grandpont Nature Reserve</b></p>	
<p><b>Question</b></p> <p>Is the cabinet member concerned that in beginning to fell trees on Grandpont Nature Reserve, before having planning permission or a Forestry Commission Licence in place, the council risks being accused of predetermining the outcome of the planning committee meeting regarding the planning application for the new bridge?</p>	<p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>The Council was clear in all the press releases and correspondence with local people that the removal of trees did not predetermine the outcome of the planning application for the bridge and, that if planning permission was not forthcoming that replacement tree planting would still be undertaken.</p>

<p><b>LU5 From Cllr Muddiman to Cllr Upton – Felling trees on Grandpont Nature Reserve 1</b></p>	
<p><b>Question</b></p> <p>When did the cabinet member become aware that the council was going to begin felling trees on Grandpont Nature Reserve in preparation for the building of the new bridge?</p>	<p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>Key cabinet members were briefed on the issues and suggested approach by officers between 14<sup>th</sup> February and 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024.</p>

<p><b>LU6 From Cllr Muddiman to Cllr Upton – Felling trees on Grandpont Nature Reserve 2</b></p>	
<p><b>Question</b></p>	<p><b>Written Response</b></p>

<p>Why did the council begin to fell trees on Grandpont Nature Reserve when they did not have planning permission for the new bridge or a Forestry Commission Licence?</p>	<p>The programme for the delivery of the proposed bridge is dictated by the requirement to spend grant funding by March 2025. To meet this deadline construction will need to start over the summer. To remove the risk of birds nesting which would delay the construction and jeopardise the entire project, it was decided to remove and pollard the trees before the bird nesting season began. The Council's technical advisors did not consider the works required a license. The trees removed did not require planning permission or a felling license. When advised a license may be necessary for further felling, work stopped.</p>
<p><b>Supplementary Question</b></p> <p><i>I understand the £8.6m grant funding from the growth deal for the new proposed new bridge is conditional on the project being completed by March 2025. Can you tell me what happens to the money if the project is not completed?</i></p>	<p><b>Verbal Response</b></p> <p><i>I can't tell you what happens to the money. We are very, very focused on it being finished in time. I don't know what the situation would be. I presume if it was half built I don't think that they could take it back but that would be a problem for the County as the money is coming from there.</i></p> <p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p><i>In the event of building work on the bridge having started and not finished by March 2025, discussions would be had with the County Council, to explore how the bridge work could continue. Measures to be taken could include forward funding or continuation with funding from the Growth Deal already held by the City Council. However it remains the intention to meet the time-frame given by central government.</i></p>

**LU7 From Cllr Muddiman to Cllr Upton – Felling trees on Grandpont Nature Reserve 3**

<p><b>Question</b></p> <p>Can the cabinet member confirm that council will not fell any more trees on Grandpont Nature Reserve, in preparation for the new bridge, until it has been given a licence to do so by the Forestry Commission?</p>	<p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>The Council will not fell any more trees until either there is a felling license, or the works are confirmed as exempt from needing a license.</p>
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<p><b>LU8 From Cllr Muddiman to Cllr Upton – Felling trees on Grandpont Nature Reserve 4</b></p>	
<p><b>Question</b></p> <p>Is the cabinet member grateful to the residents who prevented the council felling over 5 cubic metres of trees on Grandpont Nature Reserve, which, without a licence or planning permission in place, would have been an illegal act?</p>	<p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>Officers and members rely on the advice of technical specialists. The appointed technical specialists did not advise the works required a license. When the Forestry Commission informally advised they believed further felling may require a license, no further work was undertaken. It has been confirmed that a felling license was not required for the trees that have been removed. The Council has therefore not undertaken illegal works. The council always seeks to be transparent about the work it undertakes, which is why we publicised that this work would be taking place, and listens to the input of others, which it has in this case.</p>
<p><b>Supplementary Question</b></p> <p><i>Can you tell me on what basis did Council advisers reached the decision that a licence was unnecessary to fell the trees, bearing in mind that the quantity of trees the Council was planning to fell was about three times the legal amount allowed?</i></p>	<p><b>Verbal Response</b></p> <p><i>I have no idea where you got that number from. Our arboculturalists assessed them, ODS assessed them and were clear we would not need a licence to fell them. I'm sorry I just don't recognise that number that you have.</i></p>

<p><b>LU9 From Cllr Muddiman to Cllr Upton – Grandpont Meadow/Oxpens bridge 1</b></p>	
<p><b>Question</b></p> <p>What is the full cost of the proposed new bridge from Grandpont Meadow to Oxpens, and how is it being funded?</p>	<p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>The full cost of providing the proposed Oxpens River Bridge will not be known until the design work is complete later this year. The bridge will need to be</p>

	<p>delivered within the grant funding that has been achieved.</p> <p>Funding of £8.6m from the Oxfordshire Growth Deal is being held for the proposed bridge. Funding of £1.7m has been identified through the Housing Infrastructure Grant from Homes England for path works connected to the proposed bridge.</p>
<p><b>Supplementary Question</b></p> <p><i>Given that the Councillor spending over £10m of public money on the bridge which is mainly for the benefit of the university for their plans to develop in Oxney Mead, can you tell me what the university is doing for the Council in return?</i></p>	<p><b>Verbal Response</b></p> <p><i>Council puts in infrastructure for all sorts of reasons and institutions and residents for making moving around the city better. This bridge will be useful for Oxney Mead and it will also be useful for anyone coming in from the west or from Hinksey to be able to come into the city centre without having to go along Botley Road. There's no quid pro quo for universities.</i></p>

<b>LU10 From Cllr Muddiman to Cllr Upton – Grandpont Meadow/Oxpens bridge 2</b>	
<p><b>Question</b></p> <p>Can the cabinet member give details of what arrangements are in place with the County Council, should the Oxpens Bridge project look at risk not being completed in time and is he satisfied that the County Council has the resources to meet these commitments?</p>	<p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>City and County Council officers are working closely on the planning, design and delivery of the proposed bridge. The current programme shows the bridge being delivered by March 2025 and this is being carefully monitored. The bridge will be adopted by the County Council once complete. The County Council has retained £200k Growth Deal funding for their work on the proposed bridge.</p>
<p><b>Supplementary Question</b></p> <p><i>What were the costs of improving the existing Gas Works bridge and how do they compare to the £10m cost of the new bridge?</i></p>	<p><b>Verbal Response</b></p> <p><i>I don't know what the cost was of repairing it. The point is we are anticipating a lot more volume of people walking and cycling from the west coming into the city. We need second route for them, that's the point of this.</i></p>

<b>LU11 From Cllr Muddiman to Cllr Upton – Grandpont Meadow/Oxpens bridge 3</b>	
<p><b>Question</b></p> <p>Given that the council has declared a</p>	<p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>The bridge is a dedicated cycling and</p>

<p>climate emergency and that it is widely agreed that it is generally much greener to refurbish/improve existing infrastructure rather than to build new, did the council seriously consider improving the existing bridge across the Thames, particularly the landing on North bank, before committing to the proposed new bridge from Grandpont Meadow to Oxpens?</p>	<p>walking bridge, which is fully aligned with the Council's support for increased active travel in response to the climate emergency. The bridge is also required by our adopted Local Plan 2036 to connect future development on Osney Mead with the Oxpens site and the city centre. It is a County Council scheme that is being delivered by the City Council with Oxfordshire Growth Deal Funding.</p> <p>A study was undertaken on behalf of the County Council by Skanska to explore the potential to undertake improvements to the Gas Works rail bridge to enable it to be designated as a cycle route. The study identified that considerable work would be necessary to the bridge, access on the northside, the bridge over Castlemill Stream and the meadows to accommodate cycling. It would also be a longer route than the proposed bridge alignment and not as accessible during times of flooding. This study was completed prior to the proposed new bridge being taken forward and contributed to the decision for a new bridge.</p>
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<b>LU12 From Cllr Pegg to Cllr Upton – Meadow Lane planning application</b>	
<b>Question</b>	<b>Written Response</b>
<p>Can the Cabinet member confirm the arrangements in place to ensure a strategic approach is taken by officers in considering and bringing forward for decision the planning application(s) concerning Meadow Lane, particularly with regards to the riverside land between Fairacres Road and Donnington Bridge?</p>	<p>The Oxford Local Plan sets the vision and strategy for all development within Oxford City. Where sites are allocated in the Local Plan, the relevant site-specific policies provide a strategic overview regarding their delivery and set clear expectations as to what development will be supported. Land at Meadow Lane is currently allocated for residential development within the Local Plan 2036 (SP42) and within the emerging Local Plan 2040 (SPS13). It is the only allocated site in the Meadow Lane area and is located to the south of Fairacres Road and Donnington Bridge. The allocation at Meadow Lane sets out the need for specific consideration about</p>

	<p>open space, nature and flood risk, heritage and movement and access (amongst other factors).</p> <p>Sites which come forward outside of the site allocations are considered on their own merits and are expected to comply with the broad range of policies that comprise the Local Plan. Where relevant, and possible, officers will encourage comprehensive developments that consider neighbouring sites and landowners. For all developments, consultation with statutory and non-statutory consultees is undertaken to inform the decision-making process. Likewise, engagement with internal and external stakeholders will also be carried out by officers throughout the pre-application and application process.</p>
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### Cabinet Member for Citizen Focused Services

#### NC1 From Cllr Miles to Cllr Chapman – Fines for littering

<b>Question</b>	<b>Written Response</b>
What is the total income of fines given out for littering in Oxford over the last 12 months?	Between 1 March 2023 and 14 March 2024, there were fixed penalty notice fines of £675 issued for littering.

#### NC2 From Cllr Smowton to Cllr Chapman – Housing Management System Update

<b>Question</b>	<b>Written Response</b>
Will you please update Council concerning the ongoing remediation of the issues affecting the Housing Management System that led to its late and problematic introduction?	The Council's Housing & Asset Management system and its associated mobile working solution will have been live for three years this coming May. The remediation has taken place successfully and it is fully operational across the many Council and ODS services, including Incomes, Tenancy Management, ASBIT & CRT, Tenancy Sustainment,

	Temporary Accommodation, Housing Needs, the Contact Centre, Property Services for planned maintenance and in ODS, Building Services (repairs), H&S compliance, Voids, StreetScene, Pest Control and Parks. The members briefing of 9 <sup>th</sup> February highlighted the many technological benefits that are operational within ODS.
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<b>NC3 From Cllr Pegg to Cllr Chapman – Cricket Road trees</b>	
<b>Question</b>	<b>Written Response</b>
Can the cabinet member provide an update on the replacement of trees on Cricket Road, following the death of trees planted there last year?	All of the replacement trees have been planted on Cricket Road. The ODS tree team has advised that the reason for the failure of some of the trees, was that with the limited lead time for the planting in Winter 22/23 for the Queen’s Green Canopy, the usual supplier was not available, which impacted on quality. The new trees will be closely maintained over a three-year period.

**Cabinet Member for Safer Communities**

<b>ML1 From Cllr Aziz to Cllr Lygo – Islamophobic hate crime and antisemitism</b>	
<b>Question</b>	<b>Written Response</b>
Following Tell Mama's report on Islamophobic hate crime showing a 235% rise in reported Islamophobic hate-crime since October 8th 2023, with the vast majority of cases impacting Muslim women, what work is being done by the cabinet member and stakeholders to ensure Oxford's diverse Muslim communities know that they are supported and are encouraged to report Islamophobic hate crime, including misogynist hate.	The Council and Oxford Local Police Area work closely with the Oxford Council of Faiths to celebrate the strong friendships between our communities in Oxford. The police Independent Advisory Group, Community and Diversity Officer and our Locality Managers work with community representatives of all faiths to encourage reporting of hate crime.



<p>What work is being done to support members of the Jewish community over a big national rise in antisemitic hate-crime?</p>	
<p><b>Supplementary Question</b></p> <p><i>Councillor Lygo, like you, I celebrate the good work that's done across our city by faith communities who work together and have a long history of doing so. However, respectfully, my questions is not being answered. I'm about what the council is going to do in relation to unprecedented rise in Islamophobic hate of crimes since October the 7<sup>th</sup> vast majority of cases are impacting Muslim women who look like myself and the Lord Mayor, specifically women who wear the hijab and other items of clothing that identify us as Muslim. I appreciate this is not a task just for the Council. What I would really like to see is a strategy specifically focusing on Islamophobic hate crime. We are one of the most diverse cities in the country and I think it would go a long way in building trust amongst residents to know there is a strategy being developed alongside stakeholders. Also, I would like to know what is being done for crimes relating to antisemitism which had seen a huge rise as well. We must make sure we speak loudly to unite communities and drown out those voices.</i></p>	<p><b>Verbal Response</b></p> <p><i>I thought some of the questions have been answered. As you're aware, there is good partnership working within the community, but I do understand that more has to be done. I will make sure that I reply within the next 5 working days because I need to speak to various people within the community making sure what we do is not raising expectations but doing the right thing going forward.</i></p> <p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p><i>In the period April 2023 to April 2024 there were 14 Islamophobic reports to the police that took place in Oxford. In the same time period there were 82 incidents related to the Judaism.</i></p>

<p><b>ML2 From Cllr Aziz to Cllr Lygo – Make knife crime a public health issue</b></p>	
<p><b>Question</b></p> <p>What work is being done by the cabinet member for safer communities and stakeholders across the city to tackle knife crime in the city? Oxford has seen another spate of stabbings over the past few weeks. Will the cabinet member support Cllr Jabu Nala Hartley's call to re-frame knife crime through a public health lens to better support young people - especially with their mental health?</p>	<p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>The Oxford Community Safety Partnership brings together the police, councils, and other local partners to tackle serious violence and knife crime. The Oxfordshire Violence and Vulnerability Strategy illustrates this partnership approach and can be found on the Oxfordshire County Council website. The strategy uses a public health approach, working with youth organisations across the city including</p>

	our Youth Ambition Team, to support young people and provide them with positive activities.
<p><b>Supplementary Question</b></p> <p><i>Sadly since I submitted this question, there's been another stabbing in Oxford. This is the third stabbing in three weeks: one in Barton, one in Littlemore and one in East Oxford. I appreciate the response from the police. The latest incident in particular, I understand there is a lot of concern across the city in relation to the knife crime, I've specifically mentioned Councillor Jabu Nala-Hartley. I'm really calling for Councillor Lygo to have conversation with Councillor Nala-Hartley who has extensive experience of working on the issues of knife crime with working with young men with lived experience of this. I think it's really important that we find new voices to listen to and to speak with especially those young people who are being impacted.</i></p>	<p><b>Verbal Response</b></p> <p><i>I completely agree and happy to speak to Councillor Nala-Hartley. I have had conversations with TVP over the last couple of months and some with the PCC. I asked, specifically in Oxford, if we could have a knife crime summit. We have to be careful the way we would frame things. Oxford is a safe city and continues to be a safe city. It is really unfortunate with the three cases, they are isolated incidents and they were known to each other as well. There are various people who contact me who are very anxious and concerned and I keep reading the headline news about what's going out on social media not always having all the facts.</i></p> <p><i>Before these 3 incidents, I asked for knife summit. I've raised this with the Leader of the Council, the Community Safety Service Manager and Superintendent Bruce. If were going to do it we need to make sure this could be meaningful and it has the positive outcomes that we want to achieve as well. Again, working with our teams in our youth ambition and making sure we got the right people around the table looking at what it means and what we do as well.</i></p>

**Cabinet Member for Culture and Events**

<b>JH1 From Cllr Miles to Cllr Hunt – Museum entry fee for non-residents</b>	
<p><b>Question</b></p> <p>What is the Cabinet's position on charging non-residents a small entrance fee for entry to the museum at the town hall?</p>	<p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>The museum is currently operating a 'Pay What You Can' model, encouraging users do donate what they can afford, including a recommended donation.</p>

	<p>The museum management team are currently reviewing options around charging non-residents and the impact this will have on footfall, income and fundraising outcomes. These options will be available for consideration in Q1 of 24/25.</p>
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<p><b>JH2 From Cllr Miles to Cllr Hunt – Revocation of pavement terraces permissions</b></p>	
<p><b>Question</b></p> <p>Would it possible to revoke pavement licences for cafe’s where pavement parking by customers next to the cafe is a problem, and difficult to enforce? If so, what evidence would be needed to take this course of action?</p>	<p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>Parking enforcement matters on the highway including pavements are enforced by Parking Enforcement, Oxfordshire County Council Highways Department using the Traffic Management Act 2004. When there is a substantiated complaint in relation to a public safety issue concerning a pavement licence and the suitability of the space, due process outlined in the Business and Planning Act 2020 and levelling up and Regeneration Act 2023 would be applied.</p>
<p><b>Supplementary Question</b></p> <p><i>What would constitute a substantive complaint which would allow a review and revocation potentially of a pavement outside a café due to pavement parking next to that café. Notwithstanding and appreciating that enforcement is a County responsibility, but in the spirit of joint working and coordination partnership recognising there can be limited resources to enforce that?</i></p>	<p><b>Verbal Response from the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Inclusive Economy and Partnerships (deputising for the Cabinet Member for Culture and Events)</b></p> <p><i>It might be more helpful to take this offline. It sounds to me you’ve got somewhere in mind which I appreciate you not mentioning in Council but I think it would be helpful to have a discussion around the specifics and then might be easier for us to find a way of helping.</i></p>

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