

Minutes of a meeting of Council on Thursday 15 May 2025

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Council members present:

Councillor Altaf-Khan	Councillor Arshad
Councillor Azad	Councillor Brown
Councillor Chapman	Councillor Clarkson
Councillor Corais (Deputy Lord Mayor)	Councillor Diggins
Councillor Djafari-Marbini	Councillor Fouweather
Councillor Fry (Sheriff)	Councillor Gant
Councillor Harley	Councillor Henwood
Councillor Hollingsworth	Councillor Hunt
Councillor Jarvis	Councillor Kerr
Councillor Latif	Councillor Lygo
Councillor Malik	Councillor Miles
Councillor Muddiman	Councillor Mundy
Councillor Munkonge	Councillor Ottino
Councillor Pressel	Councillor Qayyum
Councillor Railton	Councillor Rawle
Councillor Regisford	Councillor Rehman
Councillor Robinson	Councillor Rowley (Lord Mayor)
Councillor Sandelson	Councillor Linda Smith
Councillor Roz Smith	Councillor Snowton
Councillor Stares	Councillor Taylor
Councillor Turner	Councillor Upton
Councillor Waite	Councillor Yeatman

Also present for all or part of the meeting:

Caroline Green, Chief Executive
Emma Jackman, Director of Law, Governance and Strategy
Mish Tullar, Director of Corporate Strategy (Interim)
Jonathan Malton, Committee and Member Services Manager

Celeste Reyeslao, Scrutiny and Governance Advisor
Uswah Khan, Committee and Member Services Officer
Hannah Carmody-Brown, Committee and Member Services Officer

Apologies:

Councillor(s) Goddard, Jupp, Max Morris and Powell sent apologies.

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 2025/2026

Councillor Rowley, outgoing Lord Mayor, invited nominations for the office of Lord Mayor.

Councillor Railton moved, and Councillor Fry seconded, that Councillor Louise Upton be elected Lord Mayor for the 2025/26 Council Year. There being no other nominations or dissent, Councillor Upton was duly declared elected Lord Mayor.

Council resolved that Councillor Louise Upton be elected Lord Mayor for the 2025/26 Council Year.

Cllr L Smith left the Council Chamber.

2. Appointment of Deputy Lord Mayor for the Council Year 2025/2026

The Lord Mayor invited nominations for the office of Deputy Lord Mayor.

Councillor Clarkson moved, and Councillor Lygo seconded, that Councillor Mike Rowley be appointed Deputy Lord Mayor for the 2025/26 Council Year. There being no other nominations, Councillor Rowley was duly declared appointed.

Council resolved that Councillor Mike Rowley be appointed Deputy Lord Mayor for the 2025/26 Council Year.

Cllr L Smith returned to the Council Chamber; Cllr Regisford joined the meeting.

3. Appointment of Sheriff for the Council Year 2025/2026

The Lord Mayor invited nominations for the office of Sheriff.

Councillor Miles moved, and Councillor Kerr seconded, that Councillor Andrew Gant be appointed Sheriff for the 2025/26 Council Year. There being no other nominations, Councillor Gant was duly declared elected.

Council resolved that Councillor Andrew Gant be elected Sheriff for the 2025/26 Council Year.

4. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations.

5. Announcements

The Lord Mayor announced her chosen charities for the 2025/26 Civic Year were The Gatehouse, OXSRAD and TRAX. She also announced that during the Mayor Making Ceremony, she would formally welcome Cadet Serjeant Ffion Trinder of the Blackbird Leys Detachment as the Lord Mayor's Cadet for 2025–2026, a tradition that was lost over the last years but today revived.

The Leader congratulated the new Civic Office holders and Councillor James Taylor to their new posts. She thanked the outgoing Civic Members, and Cllr Barbara Coyne for their service to the Council over the years.

There were no announcements from the Chief Executive.

Reverend Buckley, City Rector offered his congratulations to new and returning Members noting the shuffle of the seats within the Chamber. He gave his best wishes to the Council for the 2025/26 Council Year.

6. Report of the Leader of the Council

Councillor Brown, Leader of the Council moved the report, seconded by Councillor Chapman, which set out the appointment and responsibilities of the Deputy Leader, Cabinet portfolio holders and other executive appointments. They were as follow:

Deputy Leader and Cabinet appointments and responsibilities

Role	Member	Portfolio
Leader	Cllr Susan Brown	Partnership Working and Inclusive Economic Growth
Deputy Leader (Statutory)	Cllr Ed Turner	Finance and Asset Management
Deputy Leader	Cllr Anna Railton	A Zero Carbon Oxford
Cabinet Member	Cllr Lubna Arshad	A Safer Oxford
Cabinet Member	Cllr Nigel Chapman	Citizen Focused Services and Council Companies
Cabinet Member	Cllr Alex Hollingsworth	Planning and Culture
Cabinet Member	Cllr Chewe Munkonge	A Healthy, Fairer Oxford
Cabinet Member	Cllr Linda Smith	Housing and Communities

Oxfordshire Joint Leaders Committee appointments

Body	Member	Named Substitute
Oxfordshire Joint Leaders Committee	Cllr Susan Brown	Cllr Ed Turner Cllr Anna Railton

Council resolved to note the report.

Cllr Roz Smith joined the meeting.

7. Appointment to Council Committees 2025/2026

Council had before it a report from the Director of Law, Governance and Strategy (Monitoring Officer) asking Council to appoint committees and the members serving on those committees for the 2025/26 council year, in accordance with the provisions under Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and other relevant legislation.

The Lord Mayor noted the late amendment to Appendix 3 to the report which nominates Councillor Jupp to the Audit and Governance Committee, explaining that the reallocation of the seat would mean that political proportionality rules would not be met across committees.

On being moved by Councillor Brown and seconded by Councillor Smowton, the recommendation was put to the vote. Council approved the recommendations and nominations to committee places, with no member voting against the amendment.

Council 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 2025-2026;
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 2025-2026;
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 2025-2026;
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** one non-executive member to the Joint Oxfordshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as shown in Appendix 3: Committee Nominations 2025-2026.

The meeting started at 5:00 pm and ended at 5:15 pm

Lord Mayor

Date: Monday 14 July 2025

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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