

## **Independent Oxford Alliance Budget Amendment 2026/27**

Our IOA budget proposal for 2026 / 27 continues on the theme laid out last year with a focus on community, youth & public space investment.

On the basis of our focus stated above we have therefore removed the additional funding allocated to the town twinning support. We feel in such challenging times for our local communities that these funds can be better directed elsewhere.

There are concerns that some of the changes initiated by the County Council are impacting the City Councils ability to maintain the public spaces. This is an oversight / poor planning initiated by the County Council who should shoulder or at least share the cost of additional maintenance. Our contribution has been reduced to reflect this stance.

We support the Sporting infrastructure improvement fund, but will reduce the budget to insure investment in local community parks where smaller play equipment is reaching end of life. We have also allocated an additional £145 to support developments in our larger parks – inc lighting and new equipment to improve their safety and useability.

We also support the plan for additional neighbourhood wardens to tackle persistent ASB issues, but have reduced this to two to allow for more proactive investment in youth centre schemes which will support many families, particularly those on lower income, to provide activities and safe spaces for children.

The Cowley Road Carnival has a special place in the Oxford calendar and is a celebration of Oxford's multiculturalism. We have redirected the funding for unspecified music events to help support this iconic event.

Community centres are valuable assets to our residents. Providing affordable space and providing a wide range of support services. Littlemore remains one of our City's most deprived area and the Community Centre has an important role to play, but is becoming unfit for purpose. Budget has been allocated to make it more energy efficient and sustainable for the future alongside improvements to toilet and the kitchen to meet residents needs.

This page is intentionally left blank