

Decision type:	Single Member Decision
Decision date:	12 th March 2026
Decision maker:	Anna Railton - Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for a Zero Carbon Oxford
Decision title:	Approval of the transfer of the existing Go Ultra Low (GUL)–funded EV charging estate from Oxford City Council to Oxfordshire County Council, enabled by the GULO Agreement.

Summary

Decision being taken:	Agree the transfer of the City Council EV charging estate from Oxford City Council to Oxfordshire County Council delivery pursuant to the GULO Agreement.
Key decision:	No
Source of delegation:	<p>The responsibility for approval was delegated to the Director of Corporate Affairs pursuant to the Cabinet decision of 15th June 2022 and Cabinet decision of 18th October 2023. The role of the Director of Corporate Affairs has since the original decision been dissolved.</p> <p>On 4 March 2026 the Leader of the Council (Cllr Susan Brown) pursuant to Rule 4.6 of the Constitution delegated the authority to the Cabinet Member for a Zero Carbon Oxford (the Portfolio Holder Cllr Anna Railton) in consultation with the Head of Financial Services/Section 151 Officer, and the Council’s Monitoring Officer to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agree the transfer of the EV charging estate pursuant to the GULO Agreement between Oxford City Council and Oxfordshire County Council. 2. Acknowledge that City Council will remain the reporting authority for the relevant data to the Department of Transport for the GULO chargers. <p>Rule 4.6 of the Constitution.</p> <p>The Leader may delegate executive responsibilities to a single Cabinet Member with or without consultation with officers or other Cabinet Members.</p>

Any decisions delegated to a single Cabinet Member shall only be taken having regard to a written report submitted to them by the relevant officer within the senior management structure including any advice from the Group Finance Director and the Director of Law, Governance and Strategy.

Previous Decisions:

Cabinet decision dated 15th June 2022 - [Issue - items at meetings - Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Grant and Project | Oxford City Council](#)

Cabinet decision dated 18th October 2023 - <https://mycouncil.oxford.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=36811>

Delegated decision dated 31st January 2025 - [Decision - Go Ultra Low Grant funding Transfer to Oxfordshire County Council | Oxford City Council](#)

Cabinet Member: Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for a Zero Carbon Oxford

Corporate Priority: Net Zero Council.

Policy Framework: None

The Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for a Zero Carbon Oxford decides as follows:

1. To transfer the existing on-street elements of the Go Ultra Low Oxford (GULO) project from Oxford City Council to Oxfordshire County Council for ongoing delivery.
2. To enter into the necessary contractual agreements with Oxfordshire County Council to give effect to this transfer.
3. To acknowledge that City Council will remain the reporting authority for the relevant data to the Department of Transport for the GULO chargers. The GULO Agreement sets out the requirement by the County Council to ensure that all relevant data will be given to the City Council in order they may fulfil this reporting requirement.

Appendix No.	Appendix Title	Exempt from Publication
Appendix 1	Gulo Agreement Form	Yes
Appendix 2	GULO Heads of Terms	Yes

Introduction and background

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1. The Department of Transport (formerly Office for Lower Emission Vehicles) awarded a Go Ultra Low (GULO) grant to Oxford City Council to trial EV chargers on the highways across the city. To date 52 locations have been installed. Oxfordshire County Council granted permission for these installations.
2. In 2023, Oxfordshire County Council informed the City Council they wished to bring any EV charges installed onto the highways back under their control. As a result, the GULO chargers are required to be transferred to the County Council.
3. This decision by the County Council will result in a loss of revenue from the chargers which is paid to the City Council by the incumbent Charge point Operators who operate and manage the existing estate. Additionally, the decision will result in the City Council unable to realise the full return on the investment made in the estate to fund the operation and management of it.
4. The County Council agreed to recompense the City Council for these losses by using future income from the existing GULO chargers, as well as future charger installations. This arrangement to recompense is set out in the GULO Agreement.
5. The GULO Agreement sets out the arrangements in detail for the transfer of the existing GULO assets and the mechanism for recompense to the City Council.
6. Legal has helped draft the GULO Agreement and is content it meets the City Council's requirements.
7. For further information please see -
[oxfordcityintranet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s75366/Delivery of Electric Vehicle Infrastructure for...](https://oxfordcityintranet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s75366/Delivery%20of%20Electric%20Vehicle%20Infrastructure%20for...)

Reasons for the decision

8. If approved, the GULO Agreement will be sealed, and the process of transfer can commence. **This is due to complete no later than the 31st March 2026.**
9. If approval is not granted, the City Council will have no choice but to arrange for the EV chargers to be turned off and made safe and the equipment removed. This is not the preferred option as this will have a significant impact on residents, visitors and those who work in the city. The City Council would have no opportunity to recoup the investment made to date, nor any future revenue from the charging estate.

Alternative Options Considered

10. Oxford City Council had few options available owing to the County Council taking back control of EV charging on the highways. If no transfer agreement were put in place, the chargepoints would have to be decommissioned to avoid them becoming stranded assets.

Equalities Impact

11. None

Risks

12. As set out in the table below.

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	Risk	Impact	Mitigation
1	City doesn't approve the transfer and the GULO Agreement	Incumbent City contracts cease 31 st March 2026 and the chargers are decommissioned. City users are significantly impacted.	Stakeholder engagement to ensure key parties are appraised of the GULO agreement content and implications of not approving the signing of it.
2	Once signed, parties do not adhere to the GULO Agreement	Impact on the operation of the estate, breakdown of trust/relationships between relevant parties, end user possibly impacted if estate is non-performant.	Clauses in the GULO Agreement set out clear remedial routes, impacts of non-compliance and subsequent escalation/compensation/liabilities for each party
3	The nominated Charge Point Operator contracted to the County doesn't fulfil their obligations and the chargers ease to operate	Impact on the operation of the estate, breakdown of trust/relationships between relevant parties, end users impacted if estate is non-performant.	Whilst there is no direct recourse for City should this risk occur, as the contract between the Charge Point Operator is with County only, there are numerous clauses in the GULO Agreement that set out how City would be protected.

Carbon and Environmental Considerations

13. The operation of the existing EV estate directly contributes to carbon reduction in the city by enabling the transition to EV away from carbon emitting vehicles. It also supports the improvement of air quality by reducing the NOx emissions.

Implications of making the decision

Financial implications	This section should be completed by finance officers. You will need to provide all relevant background information to the finance officer to enable them to complete this section. completed	Completed by: Barbara Smolonska Senior Management Accountant Date: 05/03/2026
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<p>Legal implications</p>	<p>The Leader of the Council may pursuant to Rule 4.6 of the Constitution delegate executive responsibilities to a single Cabinet Member, as further set out in the Summary section of this report. Such delegation was made by the Leader on 4 March 2026.</p> <p>The previous decisions namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. Cabinet decision dated 15th June 2022; 15. Cabinet decision dated 18th October 2023; and 16. Delegated decision dated 31st January 2025, <p>have all supported this approach which culminated in an agreement being reached between Oxford City Council and Oxfordshire County Council to transfer the existing charging estate (“GULO Agreement”).</p> <p>By way of background, the Department for Transport (“DfT”) awarded the funding to Oxford City Council to install the charging estate pursuant to the Grant Letter dated 10 February 2016. Consent has been obtained from the DfT to transfer the charging estate to Oxfordshire County Council on the condition that Oxford City Council remains the accountable body.</p> <p>The GULO Agreement has been drafted and agreed to accommodate this, ensuring that appropriate contractual mechanisms are in place to ensure compliance with the said grant letter as well as to recover the initial investment by the Council by way of a revenue share mechanism.</p> <p>JZ/80640</p>	<p>Completed by: Justin Zizys</p> <p>Date: 5-3-26</p>
<p>Other implications</p>	<p>none</p>	<p>Completed by: Insert name and job title</p> <p>Date:</p>

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		Insert date
Member declared interests	none	Completed by: Insert name and job title Date: Insert date


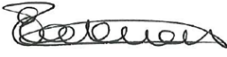
Background Documents
<p>List the background documents and, if possible, link to them.</p> <p>Original Cabinet report- OxCityCouncil Cabinet report</p> <p>GULO transfer report - 28012025 Officer Decision Form - GULO transfer.pdf</p> <p>Cabinet decision approved 31/0125- Decision - Go Ultra Low Grant funding Transfer to Oxfordshire County Council Oxford City Council</p> <p>Cabinet decision approved on 18/10/23 https://mycouncil.oxford.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=36811</p> <p>See specifically Point 7 - Issue details - Delivery of Electric Vehicle Infrastructure for Oxford Oxford City Council</p> <p>See e Cabinet paper - https://mycouncil.oxford.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=34665</p> <p>All confidential, exempt, copyrighted and published works are EXCLUDED from this requirement.</p> <p>All confidential, exempt, copyrighted and published works are EXCLUDED from this requirement.</p>

Report author	
Job title	Vikki Robins
Service area or department	Environmental Sustainability
Email contact	vrobins@oxford.gov.uk


Consultee checklist

Consultees	Name and job title	Date

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<p>Senior officer e.g. the relevant service manager / Director where the decision maker is the Chief Executive or a Deputy Chief Executive.</p>	N/A	
<p>Group Finance Director Where required by the Constitution or conditions of the delegation</p>	 Nigel Kennedy/ Clare Patterson	12/03/26
<p>Director of Law, Governance and Strategy Where required by the Constitution or conditions of the delegation</p>	 Emma Jackman	6/3/26
<p>Cabinet Member(s) Where required by the conditions of the delegation</p>		
<p>Ward Members Where required by the Constitution or conditions of the delegation</p>		

Decision Maker Approval

Name and job title	Date
<p>Anna Railton - Cabinet Member for a Zero Carbon Oxford (the Portfolio Holder)</p> 	12-3-26

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This form must be completed and sent to Committee and Member Services on the date that the decision maker signs it. This must be only done once all consultees have given their approval. The decision shall be effective from the date of publication; therefore, it is important that you send to Committee and Member Services as soon as it is completed and dated by the decision maker. Please note that it is not effective until it is published and the call in period has passed.

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NOTES

The law¹ requires the Council to record executive and non-executive decisions taken by officers under delegated powers and to publish them on the Council's website.

These requirements apply to decisions that would have been taken by Council or the Cabinet if delegated powers had not been given to an officer:

- under an express delegation granted at a meeting of Cabinet, Council or a Committee.
- in accordance with Part 4.4 of the Constitution as follows:
 - Awarding a contract where authority has been specifically delegated to officers by Cabinet or a Cabinet Member (regardless of value)
 - Acquiring or disposing of freeholds or leaseholds granting new leaseholds (excluding assignments and rent reviews) where authority has been specifically delegated to officers by Cabinet or a Cabinet Member (regardless of value)
 - Making a regulatory order which affects a number of people, for example a Public Space Protection Order or a Parking Place Order
 - Where the effect of a decision is to grant a licence or permission or it affects the rights of citizens
 - Discharging any other express delegation from Cabinet or a Cabinet Member a committee or Council.

These requirements **do not** apply to:

- planning and licencing matters where there are established arrangements for recording decisions: or
- decisions which are purely administrative or operational in nature

All other officer decisions should be recorded on an officer decision form but do not need to be published. They must though be stored so as to ensure that they are not lost should an officer leave the authority.

Exempt or Confidential information

Information relating to a delegated officer or single member decision does not have to be made public if it is exempt or confidential. Summary information from this decision sheet (excluding all exempt or confidential information) will be published on the Council's website.

¹ the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012/2089 (Regulation 13(4)) and The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014/2095 (Regulation 7)

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Key or Non Key Decision

A key decision is an executive decision which is likely to:

- Have a significant effect on people living or working in a least two wards or
- Involve spending, income, or saving a significant amount – whether an amount is significant depends on the Council’s total budget for the service involved. For this Council ‘significant’ in budgetary terms is:
 - Expenditure, income, or savings of £750,000 or greater in the context of the medium term financial strategy,
 - Acquiring or disposing of freeholds with a consideration over £500,000 in the context of the medium term financial strategy except for disposals pursuant to right to buy legislation
 - Acquiring or disposing of leaseholds where either the rental value is in excess of £250,000 per annum and/or the premium is £750,000 except for statutory lease renewals under Part 2 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 and disposals pursuant to right to buy legislation and disposals pursuant to right to buy legislation.
 - Acquiring or disposing of easements with a value over £750,000 and/or rental value over £250,000 each year

A key decision can only be taken and recorded here if notice of it has been published on the Forward Plan for at least 28 clear days. Key decisions taken by officers may be “called in” by any four councillors or the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee within two days of the notice of decision being published.

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