

To: Council
Date: 13 July 2026
Report of: Director of Law, Governance and Strategy
Title of Report: Questions on Notice from members of Council and responses from the Cabinet Members and Leader

Introduction

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.

Responses are included where available.

Questioners can ask one supplementary question of the Cllr answering the original question.

This report will be republished after the Council meeting to include supplementary questions and responses as part of the minutes pack.

Unfamiliar terms may be briefly explained in footnotes.

Questions and responses

Cabinet Member for Partnership Working, Inclusive Economic Growth and Culture; Leader of the Council

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SB1: From Cllr Henwood to Cllr Brown

Question

Can the Leader explain what process was followed to identify and select the successful candidate for Lord Mayor, and which group leaders were consulted before a recommendation was brought to Council?

Written Response

I approached members of the council in order of the longest serving councillors who have not yet served as Lord Mayor and to ask them in turn if they would wish to be Lord Mayor.

SB2: From Cllr Henwood to Cllr Brown

Question

Given that the appointment of Lord Mayor is one of the most significant civic appointments made by the Council, does the Leader believe it is appropriate that discussions on the preferred candidate take place between a limited number of political groups rather than through an open and transparent process involving all group leaders?

Written Response

It is not a discussion between political groups.

SB3: From Cllr Henwood to Cllr Brown**Question**

While recognising that length of service does not guarantee appointment as Lord Mayor, can the Leader explain what criteria were applied in this year's selection process and how those criteria were communicated to councillors prior to the appointment being made?

Written Response

The criteria used this year were the same as every previous year and as usual an announcement was made at council.

SB4: From Cllr Smowton to Cllr Brown**Question**

What footfall has been observed at the Museum of Oxford in the period January-June this year compared with 2025 or previous years?

Written Response

The footfall total for January – June 2026 = **11,797**

This has been calculated by adding the following together:

- Tickets sold **7,362** (source = ticketing system data)
- Visitors to hires, events and activities (source = event tickets and hire forms) **2,967**
- Schools and group visits (source = booking forms and group tickets) **1,468**

The estimated footfall total for January – June 2025 is known to be inaccurate and to likely include double counting.

- Of actual bookings, visitors to hires, events and activities **4,258** (source = event tickets and hire forms)
- Schools and group visits **1,788** (source = booking forms and group tickets)

The footfall figures have been calculated using different methods; therefore, no direct comparison can be made.

SB5: From Cllr Yeatman to Cllr Brown**Question**

Given recent FOI data suggests Museum of Oxford visitor numbers have fallen by around two-thirds since charging was introduced, while net income from admissions remains relatively modest, does the administration still believe the charging policy is consistent with widening access to Oxford's civic history?

Written Response

The business plan will be reviewed by Cabinet in Autumn 2026 when sufficient data has been collected on footfall and income including over the summer season. Changes if required, will need to ensure a balanced business plan as well as meeting aspirations to widen free access.

SB6: From Cllr Davis to Cllr Brown**Question**

The recent election was unfortunately followed by concerns regarding student voter disenfranchisement, including through an article in the Cherwell in which several student voters claimed they had been 'removed' from the electoral roll without their knowledge. I have also spoken to several of my constituents who experienced this and faced this myself as a student. Will the portfolio holder commit to ending the process of 'bulk removing' students in student accommodation to avoid disenfranchising young and student voters?

Written Response

The registration of students in Oxford is complex, particularly since the introduction of individual electoral registration in 2014. Given that many students move address each year and sometime more, the electoral register quickly becomes very out of date for students. The Council, along with other university cities have, since informal guidance from government in 2014, followed a process to enable control of the register through the review of those students in formal student accommodation on the basis of both information confirming residents for the following year and return of Polling Cards.

In light of the election bill which is progressing through parliament we will seek to encourage government, working closely with other university cities and the universities in Oxford, to formalise an approach to management of the electoral role in the draft legislation specifically in relation to students. In any event we will review the process in advance of the elections to

	the Shadow Authority resulting from the decision on LGR. In addition, we will continue to work closely with the universities and the Students Unions to ensure appropriate and timely communication with students.
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SB7: From Cllr Davis to Cllr Brown	
Question Given the changes incoming to our national government, can the portfolio holder outline any conversations she may have had with national government officials regarding Local Government Re-Organisation since the prime minister announced his resignation and if there are any doubts over whether it is still to go ahead?	Written Response I and council officers have continued to speak regularly to ministers and civil servants and continue to expect an announcement before parliamentary recess. At LGA Conference last week this was reconfirmed repeatedly by ministers.

SB8: From Cllr Muddiman to Cllr Brown	
Question As a City of Sanctuary and following the motion passed at full council in Oct 2024, can the portfolio holder confirm whether the Council is making a submission to the Planning Inspectorate to object to the planning application to expand Campsfield by the consultation closing date of 24 July?	Written Response Yes. Several weeks ago, I commissioned officers to draft such a letter, and this has now been sent.

SB9: From Cllr Mundy to Cllr Brown	
Question In response to question AH3 at Full Council 20 November 2025, then Cllr Hollingsworth stated that “evidence from [the Museum of	Written Response

Oxford]... confirms that if entry is free then visitors are less likely to perceive the offer as positive” and “less likely to spend time in the location and therefore money in the museum shop.” Can the portfolio holder confirm whether we are now seeing more visitors spending more time in the Museum and in the shop since charges were introduced?	Dwell time data has not been collected. Total shop income from January – June 2025 was £19,898 compared to £14,641.70 January – June 2026.
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SB10: From Cllr Mundy to Cllr Brown	
Question Can the portfolio holder explain whether the Council is still pursuing grants to help fund our museum, or has this been stopped since the new charges have been introduced?	Written Response The Council is still pursuing grants to help fund the museum. 9 grant bids have been submitted since the new charges have been introduced and a further 7 are in process. Grant successes since charges have been introduced, including Arts Council England £84,409 for Sounds of the City Exhibition and grassroots music project; William Delafield Foundation £9950.13 for a loan box project with older people and OCVA £4997.24 for the older people’s programme.

SB11: From Cllr Mundy to Cllr Brown	
Question Can the portfolio holder set out what the change in levels of donations at the Museum has been since the introduction of entry fees?	Written Response From January-June 2026 we have taken £993.44 in donations compared to £5,265.89 for January-June 2025. Expanding donation schemes will form part of revisions to the MOX business plan to be considered by Cabinet Autumn 2026. I note that no Group in the council proposed ending charging for the Museum in their budget proposals, and that the business plan for the Museum does need to add up.

SB12: From Cllr Powell to Cllr Brown**Question**

Many residents of Oxford were dismayed by the decision of the Oxford Union to extend an invitation to Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, commonly known as Tommy Robinson, to a debate in Oxford on June 17. I note that the leader offered a clear response. As the portfolio holder for partnership working would she undertake to write to the Oxford Union asking that they adopt a more considered and thoughtful approach to inviting speakers going forward?

Written Response

I have tried that approach, but they do not seem to pay much attention! From several weeks prior to the occasion, I have asked council officers to work with all other public and other bodies who incurred costs as a result of the Oxford Union's activities to seek reimbursement from the Oxford Union. The cabinet member for Community Safety and I have written to the PCC and Thames Valley Police to invite them to join us in so doing.

SB13: From Cllr Powell to Cllr Brown**Question**

Does the portfolio holder agree that local businesses that were forced to close in order protect the safety of their staff and the community at the time of Tommy Robinson's appearance at the Oxford Union should be compensated by the union for their losses?

Written Response

That is the approach that I am taking, and I am supportive of others doing so too.

SB14: From Cllr Powell to Cllr Brown**Question**

Regarding the invitation of Stephen Yaxley Lennon, commonly known as Tommy Robinson, and Laurence Fox to speak at the Oxford Union, does the leader agree that the Oxford Union owes a civic duty to consider the residents of the city which hosts it and will she undertake to write to the union requesting the generation of a set of agreed principles between the city and the union for speakers at future events?

Written Response

As per my response above, unfortunately that approach does not seem to get any traction.

SB15: From Cllr Powell to Cllr Brown**Question**

I was very concerned to see the collapse of negotiations regarding the formation of a Thames Valley Foundation Strategic Authority after 18 months of negotiations and work. Given the significant benefits of regional devolution, can the portfolio holder confirm what steps the council will be taking to encourage a resumption of work towards a Thames Valley FSA?

Written Response

The negotiations did not collapse – the new Leader of the County Council imposed his personal views and vetoed a deal at the final moment, entirely contrary to the position that the County Council had been progressing up until that moment and without any warning.

As I reported to cabinet (and via cabinet to this council), the City Council is doing its best to continue to work with other councils in the Thames Valley to campaign to see how we can ensure that councils in Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Swindon (and Buckinghamshire should they choose to join us) can form a Foundation Strategic Authority and benefit from the powers and investment that would come to our area as a result.

SB16: From Cllr Powell to Cllr Brown**Question**

Can the portfolio holder please confirm what processes are applied when the council becomes aware of an event with potential equalities implications and which is going ahead without appropriate permissions?

Written Response

To the extent that an event requires permissions from the Council they would be required to submit an application for the necessary approval. I would expect any event to do a proper equalities impact assessment and make any mitigations necessary. Depending on the nature of the event, this is not a matter for determination by the Council as a general rule.

SB17: From Cllr Powell to Cllr Brown**Question**

The County Council has recently seen proposals to give parking wardens civil enforcement powers to target pavement parking. Will the portfolio holder take this opportunity to lend public support for the introduction of these powers, in light of the significant disruption and frustration that residents of our city are frequently forced to endure by those selfishly using pavements as parking spaces?

Written Response

I am supportive of measures taken to tackle unwarranted pavement parking which causes problems for pedestrians, particularly those in wheelchairs or pushing prams and buggies. However, as I have said to other members who have raised this, the county council will have to decide what it is then going to do about the rather large number of roads in the city where it has drawn lines on pavements to encourage pavement parking.

SB18: From Cllr Robinson to Cllr Brown**Question**

With the recent release of visitor numbers and income since the introduction of the entrance fee to MOX, we can see a dramatic and unsurprising reduction in footfall of approximately 70% and income of about 60% of the council's projections. In light of these marked changes, what does the Cabinet Member suggest that the City Council can do – to stop a potentially huge shortfall in income by the end of the year? Can the portfolio holder offer some urgent solutions; such as stopping the entrance fee and working with the MOX team to promote alternative revenue streams as soon as possible?

Written Response

A range of revenue streams are already in existence at MOX and additional ones are in process. Revisions to the MOX business plan will be considered by Cabinet in Autumn 2026.

I note that no Group in the council proposed ending charging for the Museum in their budget proposals, and that the business plan for the Museum does need to add up.

SB19: From Cllr Robinson to Cllr Brown**Question**

Can the portfolio holder explain whether there is currently a plan or strategy to collaborate with Oxfordshire County Council to create a Cool Shelters Policy or a Cool Shelters Map, such as there is in London. If so, what is the criteria for a cool shelter and which wards in the city are included in this?

Written Response

The following information is available on the council website: <https://www.oxford.gov.uk/approach/severe-weather-updates>

SB20: From Cllr Powell to Cllr Brown**Question**

Can the portfolio holder confirm how disability is considered when undertaking considerations for granting event licenses?

Written Response

When determining an application for a Premises Licence, including applications that may authorise a range of events and regulated activities, the Council considers each

	application on its individual merits and against the four licensing objectives. The Council's Statement of Licensing Policy also recognises its duties under equality legislation and its expectation that licensed premises do not discriminate against people with protected characteristics, including disability. Where relevant representations are received, conditions may be imposed where necessary and proportionate to promote the licensing objectives, including supporting the equal treatment of disabled people. The specific policy provisions can be found at: • Section 2.5.6 – General licensing principles • Section 2.5.16 – Equality Act 2010 considerations • Section 2.5.18 – Equality and access to the licensing process • Appendix 8, Sections 6 and 7 – Disability discrimination and licensing conditions relating to the licensing objectives.
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Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management; Deputy Leader of the Council (Statutory)

ET1: From Cllr Miles to Cllr Turner

Question

How many and where are the commercial properties that are owned by the city council in Oxford? When will the council publish a list of these properties on its website?

Written Response

The list of properties has been prepared, and the Property team will discuss with ICT how best to upload on the website.

ET2: From Cllr Powell to Cllr Turner

Question

During the last budget setting process, council agreed to £40,000 for a survey of public toilet provision in the city. Can the portfolio holder please confirm a timeline for the completion of this work?

Written Response

A stock condition survey is underway, and the output is expected by the end of July. This data will then need to be assimilated into an options appraisal which will be expected in October. Our ambition is to bring forward improvement work on public toilets as far as possible.

AR1: From Cllr Henwood to Cllr Railton

Question

The original Armstrong Road development was approved on the basis that developer contributions of approximately £1,000 per dwelling would be used to support improvements to local bus services. Given that a significant proportion of this funding appears to have been allocated to bus service enhancements in Wallingford, can the Cabinet Member confirm how much of the developer funding generated by the Armstrong Road development has been invested within the Armstrong Road, Littlemore and Sandford-on-Thames area, and what specific transport improvements have been delivered for local residents as a result?

Written Response

The outline permission for Littlemore Park, Armstrong Road (14/02940/OUT) secured circa £200k contributions towards public transport routes. The obligation required improvements to existing bus services including additional daytime and evening journeys and a Sunday service within the Littlemore section of the route.

It should be appreciated that this obligation was with the County Council as the Local Highways Authority. The County Council have confirmed that all the S106 funding from the Armstrong Road developments have been used to fund an enhancement of Service 3A from its previous every 30-minute frequency to its current 15-minute frequency, including better services in the evenings and on Sundays. This contract runs from February 2025 to August 2027.

They have also confirmed that none of this funding has been used on the X40 service, which were improved using S106 from Benson and Wallingford.

AR2: From Cllr Henwood to Cllr Railton**Question**

The Warneford Hospital development has recently undergone scrutiny at both Planning Committee and Planning Review Committee, with considerable attention given to the number of parking spaces provided on site.

Would the Portfolio Holder agree that maintaining adequate parking provision at hospital sites should be regarded as a strategic priority, recognising the needs of patients, visitors, carers and NHS staff, and that decisions on healthcare parking provision should be driven by operational need and accessibility rather than political ideology?

Written Response

The application for the Warneford Hospital was approved by both the Oxford City Planning Committee and the Planning Review Committee. The officers' report set out the assessment of the parking provision for the development as a whole, including the entire range of uses that were being provided across the site. The level of parking put forward by the applicant was supported by a transport assessment which explained the operational need for this level of parking. The officers' assessment, as accepted by both committees, was that the level of parking satisfied the objectives of the Local Plan.

AR3: From Cllr Turkson Wood to Cllr Railton**Question**

Some years ago, Oxford City Council allowed the old pavilion in the Five Mile Drive recreation ground to literally fall down, causing Summertown Stars football club to be held to account by the F.A. for not providing adequate facilities. This council eventually replaced the pavilion not with a new-build but with pre-assembled buildings and a shipping container, with much of the cost landing on Summertown Stars. Since then, Summertown Stars has delivered remarkable growth, particularly among girls, with huge benefits for public health. Over 500 children now play at Five Mile Drive each weekend. However, Oxford City Council has failed to

Written Response

Oxford City Council work closely with Summertown Stars and have done so for a number of years. This has included working closely with the club to enable significant inward investment enabling the full funding of the redevelopment of the club's main pavilion at Cutteslowe Park and the pavilion at Five Mile Drive historically.

Both projects utilised funding from the Council as well as external funding through the Football Foundation and Sport England.

conclude a lease for the shipping container with the club for eight years. When will the council issue and sign the lease?	The building at Five Mile Drive was a new build of modular construction and was built in 2019 with regular engagement with the club at the time, which helped meet the needs of the club at the time of delivery. The shipping container was purchased separately by the football club and is used for storage. The significant growth of the club has been incredible and is testament to the work of the Chair and volunteers. Officers continue to support them with their future ambitions, meeting them regularly including formal meetings twice per year. In addition, Cllr Linda Smith and Cllr Mark Lygo met Summertown Stars on 20th June at their tournament in Cutteslowe Park. Cllr Railton met them on 7th July, and the ongoing lease issue was one of the action points taken up. The Council is in active discussion with Summertown Stars but the proposal for the lease is broader than just the shipping container. The proposal under consideration would better support the long-term provision of community benefit from Summertown Stars at this location.
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AR4: From Cllr Goddard to Cllr Railton	
Question Oxford City Council has failed to agree a lease for the cricket nets in Cutteslowe Park with Wolvercote Cricket Club for over 7 years and 6 prime ministers. HS2, and the Botley Rd Bridge will take less time. This delay has caused and is still causing considerable frustration, inconvenience and worse, and limiting the club's	Written Response The Council is actively engaging with the club on what will be included in the lease as the club's requirement has changed and expanded and the Council is supportive of this in principle. The terms of the lease are now broadly agreed. A binding date cannot be provided as it is a negotiation with a third party and not entirely in the Council's control.

ability to deliver its vital services locally. Will the Cabinet Member finally give a binding date for when this will be done?	As per my emails of 10 th April, 12 th April, 26 th April, and 23 rd May I am more than happy to meet with the club to help sort this out.
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AR5: From Cllr Fouweather to Cllr Railton	
Question Having asked the same question at the Council meetings of March 26th and November 24th 2025, I find that the promised actions have still not been carried out. A survey at the weekend of June 27th/28th showed that none of the promised basketball net replacements have been carried out. Cutteslowe Park has two hoops, one without a net and one with a damaged net. Sunnymead has four hoops, none with nets. Alexandra Park has three hoops, one with no net and two with partial nets. Players report that not only does the absence of a net affect their ability to score but that injuries can happen, and have occurred, when a hand or wrist gets caught in a damaged net. Can the Cabinet member ensure that all nets are replaced as soon as possible and that regular inspections (as claimed by ODS on notices on the fence around the court) are carried out to pick up damage to nets and replace them?	Written Response We trialled rope nets at Alexandra Courts, Aristotle Lane rec, Court Place Farm and Margaret Road rec in March and all of the nets have failed due to damage and general use. RoSPA (The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) recommend not using rope nets at all. Chain nets are around £500 a set and also require a complete replacement of hoop and fixings, as well as the on-going cost of net replacement and maintenance. We will therefore not be replacing these nets with rope nor chain nets.

AR6: From Cllr Yeatman to Cllr Railton	
Question Does the administration consider small-site intensification to be a core delivery model under the emerging Local Plan, and if so, what concrete safeguards will ensure that densely populated	Written Response We need housing to come forward in all locations, and small sites in already built-up areas are an important part of this. Unlike other authorities which have the opportunity to plan for

communities across Oxford are not over-intensified without matching infrastructure?	large scale new development, most of Oxford's new development comes from small to medium sized sites and almost all from the redevelopment of sites in existing use. Unfortunately, this means that we have to look beyond Oxford's existing boundaries for the sites that will make a real difference to tackling Oxford's huge housing need. Sites contribute to infrastructure requirements, usually through Section 106 agreements. Development cannot be asked to pay to resolve pre-existing issues, but officers will be pushing hard for all relevant infrastructure requirements, and this Council will continue with its judicious use CIL funding to provide much needed infrastructure such as the recently delivered Community Centres. We are working with the Growth Commission around proposals for a Development Corporation which would be a way of helping to resolve some of Oxford's bigger infrastructure problems.
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AR7: From Cllr Yeatman to Cllr Railton	
Question Can the Cabinet Member explain whether Equality Impact Assessments for new housing schemes, including Bertie Place, consider not only individual protected characteristics in isolation, but also the cumulative effects of densification, overcrowding and reduced access to family-sized green spaces on vulnerable communities?	Written Response Equality Impact Assessments for new (direct delivery) affordable housing schemes consider the direct impact of development and also wider impacts such as addressing housing needs and the lack of affordable housing supply in Oxford. Broader city-wide assessments of housing growth and community needs are considered and balanced more widely

	in the development of the Local Plan, with its own detailed evidence base and standalone assessment. This is because the Local Plan is where the principle of development is established through site allocations. The evidence is very strong that living in unstable, overcrowded accommodation has very severe impacts on people's health, welfare and children and young people's attainment prospects. Building more affordable housing provides hope and better prospects for families.
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AR8: From Cllr Bala to Cllr Railton	
Question Given the deaths and injuries caused by wild swimming in Oxford, please can the portfolio holder explain why sufficient water safety signage at key sites was only installed after a heatwave and following a death?	Written Response In June 2025 OCC commissioned a review of the Council's water management including ownerships and conditions of assets. As part of this work the Royal Life Saving Society reviewed the Public Rescue equipment (PRE) provision and signage along with Risk Assessments on the higher risk sites. This concluded in March 2026. Recommendations from the reviews were started from April 2026 including the updating of the council web pages, initiation of water safety awareness campaigns and installation of additional PRE and signage. These actions were ongoing at the time of the heatwave and tragic death.

AR9: From Cllr Dhall to Cllr Railton**Question**

Can the portfolio holder explain why in the Jericho Conservation Area a change to an external appearance of a property would be refused as it would affect the character of the Conservation Area, while other infrastructure may be permitted directly outside the property?

Written Response

There is an Article 4 Direction in place in the Jericho Conservation Area which has removed a number of the available permitted development rights afforded to properties to make alterations to their properties. This does not mean that all external alterations are automatically refused, but that the Local Planning Authority are able to consider the impact that changes have on the conservation area through the determination of planning applications for such developments.

The Article 4 Direction also specifies the parts of the conservation area that are considered to be most significant.

The removal of these rights does not mean that other pieces of infrastructure cannot be provided throughout the public realm of the conservation area. There are other available permitted development rights available to various parties to undertake works in these areas without planning permission. For example, Local Authorities can install various pieces of infrastructure without the need for permission (e.g. lampposts, street furniture, etc). This would also include works the Local Highways Authority undertake on the highway.

AR10: From Cllr Robinson to Cllr Railton**Question**

The Bellway Housing Development in Mill Lane, Old Marston has been a nightmare for the residents of Old Marston throughout the past eight months. The construction traffic management plan has been breached; listed buildings, pavements and verges in

Written Response

I understand Cllr Robinson has recently met with council officers regarding these concerns, and they discussed the matter in depth with her, outlining some of the challenges the City Council faces in dealing with some of the issues raised

conservation areas have been damaged and the notion of a safe quiet lane for wheelers and walkers has been completely lost. As a second housing development starts in Old Marston this month, can the portfolio holder let us know what lessons have been learnt; if the council will now demand a Banksman at this dangerous junction and whether CCTV will be positioned to monitor construction traffic moving forward?	previously. Looking forward, we have spoken to OX Place who are developing the new site and have advised them that they need to monitor the impact of construction traffic and ensure they act accordingly in conjunction with their planning permission, in particular the agreed Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP). Regarding, the request for a permanent Banksman and CCTV, this is not something that the City Council can enforce. Both the planning permissions for Bellway development on the former paddocks site and OX Place development were consulted upon by the County Council as the Highway Authority. They did not deem it necessary to ask for these requirements when the decision to approve was being made nor when the respective CTMPs conditions were being discharged.
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AR11: From Cllr Robinson to Cllr Railton

Question

As part of the Air Quality Action Plan, the City Council's top two priorities are: 1) encourage active travel and reduce car use and 2) accelerate zero-emission transport. Can the portfolio holder therefore explain why Marston residents are continually frustrated by the irregular, infrequent and expensive bus services, and the total lack of any public e-charging points or EV car clubs?

Written Response

Provision of on-street charging infrastructure moved to be entirely delivered by the county council with the announcement of the central government LEVI grant.

The last on-street charger in the city was put in 2024 with the bulk delivered some years before that. Since then, the focus has been on the Government Grant, local electric vehicle infrastructure (LEVI) which was successfully awarded in July 2025 and has since been out to tender and awarded in March 2026.

County Council have plans to install chargers on-street in Marston are in a tranche to be delivered in the first half of 2027.

	Car club cars (not always EV) are more commercially driven, with the county needing to put in a TRO for a designated bay. Unfortunately, take-up has been very slow by users across the city, but we remain committed to ensuring that we keep the car clubs, especially focussing on EV hire cars where possible. Whilst Marston has historically had limited public EV charging provision within the ward itself, residents are able to access public charging facilities in nearby Headington. Oxford City Council's LEVI programme has also identified both Court Place Farm Car Park and Northway Community Centre as potential locations for future public charging infrastructure, subject to feasibility. In addition, the wider Park & Ride facilities at Pear Tree, Seacourt and Redbridge provide further charging opportunities across the city transport network. It may be useful for residents to attend the upcoming EV event in Oxford at Seacourt Park and Ride, EV GO ELECTRIC Saturday 25th July 2026, where the City Council EVI Team will be in attendance and looking to obtain information from residents about future sites for EV charging. It is useful if residents flag where they would like to see chargers in the county's online tracker. https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshire-electric-vehicle-charger-and-car-club-demand-tracker Finally, the city continues to lobby for equitable access to bus routes across Oxford.
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AR12: From Cllr Davis to Cllr Railton**Question**

Can the portfolio holder explain whether the council has been assessing the impact that the additional cut of grass verges has had on biodiversity in the city? Are there any concerns regarding the impact of this additional cut on the populations of insects, small mammals and other urban wildlife?

Written Response

When we moved to fund extra cuts, after the County Council unilaterally reduced the number to one across the whole year, our City Ecology officer assessed all the verges across the city and found discernible biodiversity gain in around seven of them and these have remained with a single cut (and collect) a year.

In all the other cases, there was no worthwhile biodiversity gain by leaving them uncut, so I am confident it is appropriate to respond to the overwhelming views of the public and instigate the extra cuts. Our move has been widely welcomed.

Cabinet Member for a Safer Oxford**LA1: From Cllr Davis to Cllr Arshad****Question**

Can the portfolio holder outline what conversations they had with Thames Valley Police with regards to policing relating to the debate featuring Tommy Robinson at the Oxford Union on June 17, and if there were any additional costs incurred by the council in relation to the event? If additional costs were incurred by the council, what efforts - if any - has the council made to recoup these costs from the Oxford Union?

Written Response

Please see the previous answer to the question to Cllr Brown.

LA2: From Cllr Davis to Cllr Arshad**Question**

Can the portfolio holder explain what impact the Oxford Union's decision to invite Tommy Robinson to speak has had on the council's approach to the Oxford Union and its events? Will the council be changing its approach to help ensure that no taxpayer money will be used to help platform divisive far-right figures?

Written Response

Please see the answers given to the questions to Cllr Brown.

LA3: From Cllr Davis to Cllr Arshad**Question**

A number of my constituents have contacted me about hate crimes they have personally experienced whilst in the city centre, leaving them fearful to leave the house at night. However, they are also understandably mistrustful of the police to assist them in this matter. As far-right narratives continue to demonise minority communities, can the portfolio holder explain how the city council has been working to combat the threat that hate crimes pose to our community, particularly efforts beyond policing?

Written Response

Oxford is known as city of internationalism and solidarity, rich in cultures and heritage. This is reflected in the city's commitment to being a recognised City of Sanctuary, demonstrating a formal pledge to create a welcoming, inclusive environment where all residents, particularly those seeking refuge, are supported, respected and able to contribute to community life. The Council, police and other organisations share information, align resources, and work together to strengthen local resilience against hate crime, manage the right to peaceful protest, and promote community cohesion.

The Council are a member of the Oxfordshire Civic, Community and Faith Leaders Group who come together to promote tolerance and understanding between communities, including the Oxford Peace and Friendship Walk of Faiths event.

	I remind the Councillor of the Council's Anti-Racism Charter adopted by this Council on 9th August 2019. It sets out the principles which guide this Council's commitment to being both anti-racist and lays the foundation to advancing equality of opportunity for all ethnic minorities, people of colour and those with protected characteristics in our city As a member of the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel that holds the Police and Crime Commissioner to account, I review the levels of hate crime across the force area. This issue has become more prevalent across the Thames Valley in recent years and is reflected in the crime figures reported to the police. Hate crime is also discussed at the annual Oxford City Council meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable. This is scheduled for January 2027, and I encourage all councillors to attend this extremely useful meeting. More information will follow closer to the time.
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LA4: From Cllr Mundy to Cllr Arshad	
Question Complaints about antisocial driving and moving vehicle offences are very common. This includes speeding, excessive vehicle noise and riding motorcycles on pavements and cycle paths. Enforcement appears to be limited. What conversations is the portfolio holder having with Thames Valley Police to ensure residents' concerns about safety are being heard?	Written Response Complaints about antisocial driving, speeding, excessive vehicle noise, dangerous parking, and motorcycles being ridden on pavements and cycle paths are concerns that we hear regularly from residents across Oxford. These issues have a real impact on people's sense of safety and quality of life. While the enforcement of moving traffic offences, speeding, and most road traffic offences is primarily the responsibility

	of Thames Valley Police, the City Council works closely with the police and other partners to ensure residents' concerns are raised and acted upon wherever possible. The recent Oxford City Residents survey highlighted residents' concerns regarding the anti-social use of motor vehicles and scooters. This information has been shared with local Neighbourhood Police Teams. The police encourage Community Speed Watch in locations of local concern and residents should get in contact with their local Neighbourhood Policing Team. I meet regularly with senior officers from Thames Valley Police through partnership meetings, including discussions on community safety priorities. I continue to press for targeted enforcement in areas where residents report persistent problems and encourage intelligence-led operations based on local complaints. We encourage residents to continue reporting incidents directly to Thames Valley Police, particularly where there is an immediate danger, as this evidence helps inform deployment and enforcement priorities. I would also encourage the councillor to support the motion that the Labour Group have later on the council agenda.
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LA5: From Cllr Robinson to Cllr Arshad	
Question Could the portfolio holder explain what measures the City Council has put in place to help reduce illegal use of e-bikes and unregistered mopeds along cycle lanes and pavements? Has the	Written Response The management of cycle lanes and pavements is the responsibility of the County Council and police depending upon the nature of the issue.

portfolio holder engaged with TVP and Operation Brake – and how do you see the future of enforcement?	As a member of the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel that holds the Police and Crime Commissioner to account, I raised concerns about the increasing number of modified e-bikes and mopeds being used for antisocial behaviour across Oxford. The PCC confirmed that the police are continuing to carry out stop, seize and destroy operations and highlighted that enforcement alone will not solve the issue and believes new national legislation is needed to better regulate modified e-bikes and mopeds. The Commissioner reported that in April alone, 38 e-bikes, scooters and similar vehicles were seized in Oxfordshire, and he has committed to continuing this work with the local policing team and partners. Between April 2025-March 2026, 247 e-bikes and e-scooters were seized across Oxfordshire, and the police conducted 366 patrols relating to the issue. I encourage all councillors to contact their local neighbourhood police team through the TVP website to report these issues and help identify people and vehicles causing the anti-social behaviour. I would also encourage the councillor to support the Labour Group motion on the council agenda.
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LA6: From Cllr Miles to Cllr Arshad	
Question	Written Response
How many fines for littering have been handed out by the council to businesses over the last 12 months? Specifically, can you break	Over the last 12 months there has been 17 Fixed Penalty Notices issued to business.

down the data by type of business receiving the fine if it is categorised.	10 – S47 Environmental Protection Act 1990 (waste) 4 – S34 Environmental Protection Act 1990 (Duty of care) 3 – S33 Environmental Protection Act 1990 (fly tipping) It is not possible to break the data down to the type of business.
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Cabinet Member for Citizen Focused Services and Council Companies

NC1: From Cllr Davis to Cllr Chapman

Question

Can the portfolio holder explain what potential there will be for the voices of local LGBTQ+ and trans residents to be included in the council's implementation of the EHRC's Code of Practice to ensure that trans voices are protected and centred as much as possible in the process of implementing the EHRC guidance?

Written Response

The work of the Council to review and assess the impact of the ECHR's code of Practice is at an early stage and there will need to be several stages, including establishing a policy position and then reviewing each service and space provision for current compliance against the code and next steps for each on a case-by-case basis. As the work continues the Council will consider the impact and input of all affected persons with the protected characteristics upon which it impacts, given that the scope of the changes spans many areas beyond single sex spaces.

I would add that where there is a need as a result of the guidance to implement any changes to specific sites or services, we will ensure engagement and consultation is undertaken as required.

NC2: From Cllr Mundy to Cllr Chapman**Question**

Can the portfolio holder set out how much making bulky waste collection free has cost the council since charging was abolished?

Written Response

The free service has cost just over £100,000 since it was introduced in April. This provides citizens with 2 free scheduled collections of up to 3 items annually, and their items are collected within 20 days of the booking. To date we have collected over 6200 items from 3600 sites. There has been widespread public approval of this service, and we want to see its use increase as more people become aware of it.

NC3: From Cllr Mundy to Cllr Chapman**Question**

Can the portfolio holder explain what the change in frequency of fly tipping reports has been since bulky waste collection charging was abolished?

Written Response

It is too soon to see what the long-term impact the bulky waste service will have on fly tipping since it was only introduced in April 2026. Our current data shows a marginal decrease, averaging 6.5%, in the number of recorded incidents compared with Q1 2025/26. However, these should not be considered as indicative for the rest of 2026/27, as incidents can fluctuate over the course of 12 months. We will continue to monitor these figures closely.

ML1: From Cllr Davis to Cllr Lygo

Question

With the recent hot weather making wild swimming and swimming at leisure centres increasingly popular, can the portfolio holder explain what efforts, if any the council has been making to ensure swimming and swimming lessons are accessible to marginalised communities, particularly ethnic minority communities (who are historically less likely to be able to access swimming lessons in the UK) and the LGBTQ+ community?

Written Response

The Council recognises that some communities continue to face barriers to learning to swim and accessing swimming opportunities. Through our leisure contract, we provide around [37 hours of free swimming each week](#) for Oxford residents aged 16 and under, alongside school swimming programmes, water safety assemblies for schools, and free taster swimming lessons during Big Splash Weekends, most recently on 6th and 7th June.

We have also supported a range of targeted initiatives aimed at widening participation, including swimming lessons for refugee families through the [in-kind Leisure Community Fund](#), weekly female-only swimming sessions at our leisure centres, support for Oxford Pride summer swimming sessions at Hinksey Pool, and water-confidence courses delivered in partnership with a local community group at Leys Pools and Leisure Centre, aimed at women from ethnic minority backgrounds.

We recognise there is more to do, both as a local authority and across the wider system and are currently exploring options for additional targeted swimming lessons for children and young people who are least likely to be able to swim safely, alongside further opportunities to improve access to swimming across the city. We're also working with the River Learning Trust and Radley College to explore further initiatives.

ML2: From Cllr Mundy to Cllr Lygo**Question**

Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre has been closing the shallow/learner pool during opening hours. Can the portfolio holder explain whether this has been happening due to not having enough lifeguards on duty to cover all pools at the Centre during opening hours?

Written Response

The learner and splash pools are not open throughout all opening hours, as the pool timetable varies during the day to accommodate different activities, including public swimming, lessons and school use. The Council has not been advised of any unplanned closure of these pools.

ML3: From Cllr Powell to Cllr Lygo**Question**

Can the portfolio holder please confirm whether he has been in contact with More Leisure regarding the EHRC Code of Practice and what intentions, if any, they have communicated to him in regard to this?

Written Response

Officers have been kept informed of communications regarding the implications of the Supreme Court judgment and subsequent EHRC guidance. We've received an interim position statement confirming that the operator was actively reviewing its policies, awaiting final EHRC guidance and sector advice before making any policy changes. The operator advised that, pending publication of the final Code of Practice, existing arrangements would remain in place, staff should continue to treat all customers with dignity and respect, and the organisation's aim would remain to provide an inclusive environment while ensuring compliance with legal requirements. The Council will continue to engage with More Leisure through normal contract management arrangements to understand any changes required following the final EHRC Code of Practice.

ML4: From Cllr Powell to Cllr Lygo**Question**

Will the portfolio holder undertake to encourage More Leisure to engage proactively with the Council regarding service delivery in their moves to implement the EHRC code of practice?

Written Response

The Council would expect More Leisure to engage proactively with officers regarding any changes to service delivery arising from the EHRC Code of Practice, and this would be managed through the Council's established contract management and partnership arrangements. As noted in the previous response, More Leisure has already kept the Council informed of its interim position and has indicated that it is reviewing its policies in light of the evolving legal and regulatory framework. The Council will continue to engage constructively with the operator to understand any implications for service delivery and to ensure services are delivered in accordance with legal requirements and contractual obligations.

ML5: From Cllr Robinson to Cllr Lygo**Question**

As the new member for health inequalities, can you let the residents of Marston know how you plan to help make improvements to the inadequate health services in their ward: there is no GP, optician, dentist or community health centre and the one pharmacy that is left has been poorly managed for many years?

Written Response

Challenges of limited GP provision across the city have been raised at a strategic level through several channels including with the Oxford Growth Commission. The council's ability to make improvements directly are fairly limited as this is reliant on Integrated Care Board (ICB) funding. I have asked officers to raise the issues faced by Marston residents at their meetings with the ICB covering our area.

These issues are not unique to Oxford or Oxfordshire. They are the sorts of issues that would be good to be raising at a Foundation Strategic Authority level.

Cabinet Member for Regulation of the Private Rented Sector and Preventing Homelessness

MR1: From Cllr Miles to Cllr Rowley

Question

Are there any costs associated with triggering the SWEP protocol and if so, what does it cost each time it is triggered for extreme heat or cold temperatures, and how is it currently funded?

Written Response

There are costs associated with triggering Severe Weather Emergency Provision (SWEP) in both cold and hot weather. When SWEP is triggered due to cold weather, the Council has arrangements in place with venues and providers in three locations in the city to provide overnight accommodation. This incurs both venue rental and staff costs. In some instances, we will also make discretionary hotel/B&B placements where the circumstances require it. During a red heat alert, the Council will offer discretionary placements into hotels/B&Bs where there is a risk to health/life. This will also incur costs for the bookings. The Council funds SWEP through its Preventing Homelessness Budget. The cost for triggering SWEP will be different each time, depending on how many persons are estimated to be needing access to the provision. Other costs, such as bedding, camp beds, transport to venues, sunscreen, and hats for example, will also be funded through this budget as needed. During winter 2025/26, SWEP opened a total of 28 nights, with 394 attendances, with the total cost to the City Council £48,612.00. The average cost to the Council for SWEP per night was £1,736, with an average of 14 people attending SWEP per night. During the recent red heat alert, 15 bedspaces were offered across 4 nights, of which 9 were utilised to a total cost of £1,038. No other cost where incurred, as arranged by organisations through a range of means including donations.

MR2: From Cllr Mundy to Cllr Rowley**Question**

Recent hot weather has triggered the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol. But this is currently limited to 10 people during day times only. Homeless people are still at risk after the hottest part of the day, especially if they are sleeping in a location that easily overheats like a car. Does the portfolio holder agree that it is time to extend the SWEP support available during heatwaves?

Written Response

During amber and red heat alerts, O'Hanlon House in Oxford will open up for 10 additional people to access the building during the day. Other venues and homelessness support providers, such as The Porch, also provide shelter from the heat and sun as well. Outside of our commissioned services there are a number of cool spaces available for people to attend in the city, and details of these are published on the Council's website www.oxford.gov.uk/severeweather- The St Mungo's outreach team will provide advice to all individuals experiencing rough sleeping on how to protect themselves during periods of intense heat, and the importance of hydration. In red alerts, we work with our outreach team to ensure that those most at risk can be offered accommodation so that they have shelter from the heat and sun. We review operations of SWEP regularly, and together with partners, will seek to amend processes where needed to ensure there are offers of support in place. This will include looking at further provisions of shelter during the daytime and during heat alerts, if the current provision is exhausted. We do not believe that anyone should be sleeping rough, at any time of the year, and we are working closely with commissioned providers to ensure that those who are experiencing rough sleeping can access long-term accommodation and support.

	In relation to the 10-day time spaces at O'Hanlon House, these are available every day when there is an amber or red heat alert. We are not asking staff to track attendance at present, as we do not want to add additional work for their staff. We have very good working relationships with O'Hanlon House, and they would alert us if there started to be concerns that the provision would be oversubscribed. Similarly, the team here is in regular contact with outreach, The Gatehouse and The Porch, to ensure that we are aware of what is happening on the ground and reviewing arrangement if needed. As mentioned in the answer, there are also a number of cool spaces across the city where people can access shelter from the heat. In relation to the overnight bedspaces that are in operation during red alerts, the team will work with outreach to ensure that those at risk are offered a space. Not everyone has this far taken up this offer, but the outreach team will continue to engage with individuals on a daily basis to make sure they are aware that the offer of a bedspace is open to them should they change their mind or their circumstances change.
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LS1: From Cllr Fouweather to Cllr Smith

Question

As a landlord, the Council has a duty to its tenants to ensure that safety inspections including damp and mould, gas and electrical installations, fire and CO2 alarms are carried out on a regular basis. Can the Cabinet member provide data for Council owned properties showing the number of safety inspections carried out annually over the past 5 years both in total and as a percentage of the total housing stock? Can she also provide the number of properties which have had to be visited more than once because of difficulties in gaining access?

Written Response

As a landlord, the Council monitors compliance through a range of building safety management information measures. Performance data shows that the Council has consistently maintained high levels of compliance over the last five years.

Gas, water and lift safety inspections achieved 100% compliance over the last five years. Fire safety compliance remained consistently high, improving from 99.0% in 2021-22 to 100% in 2022-23 and 2023-24, before a slight reduction to 98.6% in 2024-25 and returning to 100% in 2025-26. Asbestos compliance was maintained at 100% between 2021-22 and 2023-24, fell temporarily to 70.1% in 2024/25 and increased to 100% in 2025-26. Electrical safety compliance was 97.30% in March 24-25 and increased to 98.8% in 2025-26. Fire alarm and carbon monoxide (CO) alarm compliance were both maintained at 100% in 2024-25 and 2025-26.

In preparation for the introduction of Awaab's Law, which came into force on 27 October 2025, the Council has enhanced its monitoring of damp and mould cases. As at the end of March 2026, 100% of emergency damp and mould hazards investigated and safety works completed within 24 hours, 73.3% of significant damp and mould cases were investigated within

	10 working days and 88.9% had any relevant safety work undertaken within 5 working days at the end of the investigation. These results demonstrate the Council's continued commitment to meeting its landlord safety obligations and maintaining safe homes for tenants. Where access difficulties arise, officers make repeated attempts to contact residents and arrange appointments. Where necessary, the Council follows formal escalation and legal processes to secure access and ensure mandatory safety inspections are completed.
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LS2: From Cllr Yeatman to Cllr Smith	
Question With nearly 4,000 households still on the housing waiting list and many overcrowded families facing acute cost-of-living pressures, can the Cabinet Member advise what specific proportion of the Council's current approved and proposed affordable housing pipeline consists of larger three and four-bedroom family homes, rather than one and two-bedroom flats?	Written Response In the current (committed) affordable housing supply programme – expected to deliver over 1,500 affordable homes to rent – 27% of the programme are 3, 4 and 5 bed homes, and 69% are 1 and 2 bedrooms (41% of which are one beds). The programme has deliberately increased the proportion of one beds in newly added schemes to address high housing need for one beds. Over 50% of households in temporary accommodation have a one bed need, and just over 50% of applicants in Bands 1 -3 on the housing register also need 1 or 2 bed homes. The 'match' between demand and supply is regularly monitored. The mix is in broad accordance with the Local Plan 2036 (Policy H4) which is based on broad housing needs data and supports 50 to 70% of new build homes as 1 & 2 bed, to best meet needs.

LS3: From Cllr Jarvis to Cllr Smith

Question

Can the portfolio holder set out the usage levels of the East Oxford Community Centre and how this compares to levels prior to its closure for redevelopment?

Written Response

The Council undertook a soft launch of East Oxford Community Centre on the 25th November 2025. A soft launch enables the return of a reduced number of community users, that enables effective engagement with communities and tenants, tests new systems within the building and helps enable effective training for staff members.

This helps mitigate the risk of smaller things going wrong but with a larger impact and helps ensure that any defects can be managed appropriately. It also supports tenants in effectively and carefully being inducted back into the building in a phased and managed way.

The community opening of the building was on the 27th March 2026 and we still have a couple of tenants who are in the process of moving back. Given these considerations we wouldn't be in a position to compare like for like at this stage. Typically, any new facility would have 9 months to a year to satisfactorily compare to previous usage numbers to ensure comparing like for like. The current usage figures are increasing month on month with June 2026 figures showing 2,525 users in the month.

LS4: From Cllr Thorniley to Cllr Smith**Question**

Can the portfolio holder set out what policies are in place to ensure that where council funds (i.e. HRA) are used to build new homes that the new homes are to the greatest extent possible affordable houses, of which to the greatest extent possible council houses?

Written Response

In policy terms, the ambition to maximise the number of affordable homes and in particular the cheapest rented tenure of Social Rent, is driven from the Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2028; the Tenancy Strategy & Tenancy Policy (adopted Jan 2026); and the Local Plan 2036.

Behind this, the programme is managed to ensure schemes include the most affordable homes but are also viable to deliver. This work feeds into both the HRA and OX Place Business Plans and the Budget/ MTFP.

At scheme level, reports on each direct delivery scheme in the programme come to Cabinet for approval, with the proposed tenure mix and rationale clearly set out. Building more Affordable Housing is a priority for this administration and within that our priority remains providing more homes for social rent.

LS5: From Cllr Thorniley to Cllr Smith**Question**

Can the portfolio holder explain what the actual number of affordable houses delivered or still in development directly by the council (where the council website [says](#) this should be 847 according to the current programme) is?

Written Response

We report on affordable housing completions annually, for example, last year there were 173 affordable home completions (89 by the Council and OX Place for the HRA, and 84 by housing associations).

This year (2026/27) we are forecasting 553 affordable home completions (over half into the HRA), which would be the most completions in any single year for a generation.

	There are currently over 900 affordable homes in delivery and on-site, with considerably more in the future pipeline.
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LS6: From Cllr Thorniley to Cllr Smith	
Question Can the portfolio holder set out what policies the council has in place to ensure council-funded (either through the HRA or through the subsidiary companies) new build affordable housing are zero carbon and car free?	Written Response The direct delivery programme by the Council and OX Place build quality sustainable homes that usually exceed Planning and Building Reg requirements. Many schemes are delivered as car free and low car (often with car club and disabled/visitor spaces) but, the housing company needs to balance viability and costs with the demand for car parking spaces. The City Council has ambitious but pragmatic car free and car light policies though its Local Plan, with further refinements in the draft Local Plan. These criteria apply to all residential development across the city. While car free will be suitable in some areas of the city, there is a need to improve public and active travel across the city to enable us to go further, faster. Recent coverage of the outcry over the new County Council parking standards, which apply car free to many development sites outside of the city where access is less good, shows that without a degree of pragmatism car free policies run the risk of stalling development of family homes without much better access to alternative means of transport. I know my colleague Cllr Railton has written to the County Council to set out our concerns relating to the County's new parking standards and the likely negative impact on the delivery of housing on the edge of the city, specially released to meet the city's unmet need.

LS7: From Cllr Stares to Cllr Smith**Question**

Can the council confirm the total cost of Statutory Home Loss Payments made to former residents of both Windale and Northbrook House?

Written Response

The statutory Home Loss payment is currently £8,100. As at 03/07/26, Home Loss payments had been made to 38 former tenants of Windale and Northbrook House, totalling £307,800.

LS8: From Cllr Stares to Cllr Smith**Question**

Could the Council confirm the total spend on the refurbishment of both Windale and Northbrook House?

Written Response

There has been no spend to date on refurbishment of Windale and Northbrook House

LS9: From Cllr Powell to Cllr Smith**Question**

The Government is proposing to utilise a military site in Oxfordshire to house people seeking asylum. The CEO of Oxford based charity Asylum Welcome has denounced these proposals as 'astounding'. Given that Oxford is a city of sanctuary, will the portfolio holder take this opportunity to condemn these proposals and the broader government endorsement of populist narratives about asylum accommodation that they represent?

Written Response

Oxford is a welcoming place, and we are a proud Council of Sanctuary and continue to advocate for a fair and equitable asylum system where decisions are made in a timely way to ensure people are able to move on and make progress in their lives. I am supportive of closing hotels used as asylum accommodation as they are not suitable. I note the recently publicised plans by the government to open a site in Oxfordshire for people seeking asylum which is in the feasibility stage.