

Supplementary Papers



Listening Learning Leading

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FOR THE MEETING OF

Council

held in the First floor, 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Milton, OX14 4SB

on Thursday 9 December 2021 at 6.00 pm

Open to the public including the press

The appendix marked 'to follow' on the agenda published on 1 December 2021 is attached.

14. Council Motions Update - May 2019 - present (Pages 2 - 31)

To note progress on the approved Council motions – **report attached**. Appendix one to follow.

South Oxfordshire Council Motions – May 2019 to Present

| Motion ID | Date | Motion | Substantive Action Required | Progress | Relevant Lead Officer | Status |
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| South M1 | 18th July 2019 | <p>Council notes the economic and environmental importance of rail transport in this area and asks the leader of the council to write to the Secretary of State for Transport to request the acceleration of the delivery of rail projects of importance to South Oxfordshire. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Improvements necessary to Oxford City Station · Reopening of Grove Station · Upgrading of the route between Didcot and Oxford · Reopening of the Cowley Branch line · And any other initiatives which come forward in the current Oxfordshire Rail Connectivity Study | Letter from the Leader of the Council to the Secretary of State for Transport | Letter Sent | Head of Planning | Closed |
| South M2 | 18th July 2019 | <p>Council notes that, increasingly, the only type of housing in our area that is genuinely affordable to young families, key workers, and the under-40s in general is social rent housing.</p> <p>Council asks officers to prepare a report for Cabinet on ways to use council powers and resources to deliver more high-quality, environmentally sustainable, and genuinely affordable housing, at social rent or similar cost. This should include ways to keep such properties genuinely affordable in the long term and ways to release and access low-cost suitable land for projects such as – but not limited to - self-build and community land trusts, as well as projects owned, let or operated by the council itself.</p> | A report for Cabinet on ways to use council powers and resources to deliver more high-quality, environmentally sustainable, and genuinely affordable housing, at social rent or similar cost | Report to Cabinet 25th October 2019 | Head of Development & Corporate Landlord | Closed |
| South M3 | 18th July 2019 | <p>Council notes that the UK Government, in tandem with the National Infrastructure Commission, has proposed the construction of a motorway-style expressway between Oxford and Cambridge. This new road will have significant adverse impacts on Oxfordshire: it will create a major source of air and noise pollution, destroy farmland and habitats, increase CO2 emissions - incompatible with the recent Climate Emergency declared by this council in April 2019- and bring more traffic onto the county's existing roads.</p> <p>Actual and proposed consultation on the Expressway, and indeed on the Ox-Cam Arc proposal and associated major housing growth across the region, has been wholly inadequate and a proper Strategic Environmental Assessment should have taken place before this project left the drawing board. Instead, it has become the basis for regional planning with little democratic legitimacy.</p> <p>Whilst this council supports partnership working and strategic planning and practical links with authorities across the region, it does not support the addition of a major road such as the Expressway in a time of climate emergency – as declared by this council on 11 April 2019.</p> <p>Highways England's own analysis of the Expressway shows a benefit: cost ratio (BCR) in the range of 1.1 – 1.3, far lower than most other road schemes analysed by the Department for Transport in 2015, (2:1).</p> <p>The Oxford 2050 plan process has thus far welcomed the perceived benefits of the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway. It is</p> | All Council documents refer to the new position on the Expressway | Letters sent and relevant officers advised and updated via team meetings and one to ones, to ensure that engagement with partners reflects this position. | Deputy Chief Executive - Partnerships | Closed |

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| | | <p>also mentioned as a factor in a wide range of council documents and plans, including LP2034. This council asks that its new position on the Expressway is taken into account in all council documents that refer to it.</p> <p>The Expressway would cause major harm to the quality of life of residents if it passes through the district; this council wishes to withdraw any assumed consent, including any possibility that roads such as the HIF-funded Thames crossing, or the Stadhampton or Watlington bypasses, could later be used or expanded to form part of the Expressway or act as feeder roads for it.</p> <p>This council fully supports an upgrade in the East-West rail route, with full electrification, as part of the Ox-Cam arc discussions. Such an upgrade must include inter-modal centres, along it and at both ends, to enable maximum use of rail for freight. Any road upgrades necessary to support the East-West rail route should connect to that route and be proportionate to the primacy of rail freight.</p> <p>Council therefore resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Oppose the Expressway project in all forms, including expansion of existing or new roads in the district to form part of it. · Support fully-electrified East-West Rail, including freight capacity and connections, and better public transport and active travel connections. · Update all council documents to reflect this new position on the Expressway and related Arc development proposals. · Continue to support partnership working, especially with regard to landscape-scale conservation and nature recovery networks. <p>Communicate its opposition to Government, MPs and Highways England</p> | | | | |
| South M4 Page 3 | 18th July 2019 | <p>Council notes that the Oxfordshire Pension Fund, of which it is an employer, has more than £132m of workers' money – around 6% of its portfolio funds - invested in fossil fuel companies. These companies – which the London Stock Exchange now terms “non-renewables,” are the primary drivers of the climate crisis threatening our planet.</p> <p>The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change last year warned that to avoid the most catastrophic consequences of warming, carbon emissions must fall to zero by 2050. Last month, the UK Parliament imposed a binding target of net zero by 2050 and in April, this Council declared a Climate Emergency.</p> <p>Lloyds of London and Bank of England Governor Mark Carney have both warned that legislation necessary to limit warming combined with the development of renewables would likely result in the rapid “stranding” of fossil fuel assets, requiring large-scale asset write-downs. Fossil fuel companies face the additional peril of a potential wave of third-party liability claims brought by the victims of climate change including sovereign states.</p> | Letter from the Leader of the Council to the Oxfordshire Pension Fund | Letter sent and relevant officers who engage with the Pension Fund briefed. | Head of Finance | Closed |

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| | | <p>A growing number of pension and investment funds have already announced plans to fully or partially divest from fossil fuels. Southwark Council, Islington Council, SOAS, the United Reform Church, The Church of England and the National Trust have already made significant divestment moves. Globally, the divestment movement has seen more than £6.3trillion leave the fossil fuel industry.</p> <p>As a result, the fossil fuel industry is facing unprecedented financial, legal and regulatory headwinds.</p> <p>The Oxfordshire Pension Fund has defended its continued investment in fossil fuels, arguing that to divest would mean losing its influence. This position is untenable. The very raison d'être of fossil fuel companies is the extraction and sale of carbon intensive energy. To the extent these companies are being stewarded towards renewable energy, this transition is happening too slowly. Research by Transition Pathway Initiative, an industry body, found that none of the ten largest publicly listed oil and gas producers are on track to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. None are on track to be aligned with 2 degrees or less of warming by 2050.</p> <p>The message of divestment is not that fossil fuel companies are evil. But their business threatens our planet and its most vulnerable inhabitants through droughts, heat waves, crop failures, floods, and rising sea levels.</p> <p>As one of the Oxfordshire LGPS employers, South Oxfordshire District Council calls on the Oxfordshire Pension Fund Committee to act in line with South Oxfordshire and the UK's declaration of Climate Emergency and in prudent exercise of its fiduciary duties by divesting its investment in an industry whose long-term risk profile in the current political and environmental climate is unacceptably high.</p> <p>Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) calls on the Oxfordshire Pension Fund to follow the lead of Councils, sovereign wealth funds and other pension and investment funds around the world to divest from non-renewable energy companies whose main purpose is the exploration and/or extraction of fossil fuels; 2) calls on the Oxfordshire Pension Fund to explore reinvestment of its funds into appropriate renewable energy companies at the earliest opportunity; 3) asks the Oxfordshire Pension Fund to acknowledge that shareholder engagement has failed to bring about the pace of change required to limit catastrophic global warming. | | | | |
| <p>Page 4 Path M5</p> | <p>10th October 2019</p> | <p>Council notes that EU nationals are part of our shared communities. They are our husbands, wives, parents, friends and colleagues. They are an integral part of a vibrant and thriving South Oxfordshire.</p> <p>Since 2016 EU nationals were promised again and again that "there will be no change for EU citizens already lawfully resident in the UK and [...] will be treated no less favourably as they are at present".</p> <p>After three years of living in limbo, their homes and livelihoods are in danger of being threatened by the further uncertainty</p> | <p>Letter to the Secretary of State</p> <p>Report to the Leader of the Council</p> <p>Leader of the Council writes to EU citizens resident in the district</p> | <p>An open letter from the Leader of the Council to EU residents was published on the South Oxfordshire website and sent to all EU citizens in the district giving them advice on how to apply for settled status. There were 2676 letters sent.</p> <p>An officer group is in place to monitor Brexit activity and discuss any</p> | <p>Head of Policy & Programmes</p> | <p>Closed</p> |

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| | | <p>brought about by the prospect of an even more chaotic no-deal Brexit.</p> <p>According to the Home Office's July statistics, only a third of EU nationals have applied for the Settled Status and 42% of them have been granted the inferior Pre-Settled status leading them to reapply for the Settled status later on. There is no possibility of knowing how many EU nationals need to apply, leaving vulnerable and unaware EU nationals left at risk of becoming unlawful residents the mercy of the Home Office's "Hostile Environment". Lack of clarity regarding differentiating between EU citizens arriving before and after the UK's exit from the EU could lead to discrimination in the labour market and may prevent many from accessing the services that they are entitled to.</p> <p>Another Windrush-like scandal could be unfolding right before the eyes of this Council and we mustn't be passive observers to it.</p> <p>Therefore, the Council asks that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Officers report on how the Council can mitigate adverse impacts on the rights of EU nationals (including but not limited to advising on what the Council can do to help landlords and employers to be better informed about immigration status and therefore avoid potential discrimination against EU nationals) 2. The Leader of the Council writes to EU citizens resident in the district giving advice on applying for Settled Status (within the constraints of GDPR). This notice shall direct EU citizens to resources, including the Council's website, providing up-to-date information on the application process and the potential risks of not applying to the EU Settlement Scheme. 3. The Leader of the Council writes to the Home Secretary seeking clarification and suggesting improvements for the European Settlement scheme, which include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing physical proof of Settled status that can be used to access services • Confirming that there will be no changes to the rights of settled EU citizens that they currently have by ratifying the Immigration Bill as primary legislation before the exit day • Replacing the current European Settlement scheme with a registration scheme without a deadline where EU citizens are considered lawful by default and can request a proof of immigration status only when they are asked to demonstrate it. | | <p>additional mitigating actions that may arise from service area risk registers.</p> <p>There is a dedicated website page for the EU Settlement Scheme - http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/servicesand-advice/community-advice-and-support/brexit/brexit-advice-eunationals</p> <p>Promotional materials were displayed within reception area, signposting to local ID verification services and national guidance for EU citizens.</p> <p>A briefing note was circulated to members in January 2020 to provide an overview of both national, Oxfordshire and council Brexit activity.</p> | | |
| South M6 Page 5 | 10th October 2019 | <p>Reading Borough Council is proposing to build a vast new bridge over the Thames at Caversham to alleviate Reading's traffic problems. It is included in their Draft Local Plan as a top transport priority. The bridge would take off at the Thames Valley business park near Reading and land near the Playhatch roundabout in Oxfordshire. The only onwards option for traffic would be through the congested streets of Henley or along the narrow B481 country road through Oxfordshire villages.</p> <p>To date, Reading and other Berkshire councils that are supporting the scheme have focused almost entirely on the costs of building the bridge and the benefits it will bring to Reading. While they recognise that the bridge would have a substantial impact on the Oxfordshire road network, the Berkshire councils blithely state these will be dealt with by</p> | <p>Letters to the Leaders of Reading, Wokingham and Bracknell Forest</p> <p>Letters to John Howell, John Redwood, Matt Rodda, Theresa May</p> | Letters sent | Head of Planning | Closed |

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| | | <p>unspecified and uncosted 'mitigation measures'.</p> <p>This council calls on the Leader to write to the leaders of Reading Borough Council, Wokingham Borough Council and Bracknell Forest Council, together with MPs John Howell, John Redwood, Matt Rodda and Theresa May, stating that:</p> <p>a) In the context of the Climate Emergency a car-based solution to a car-based problem that would pour thousands of cars and HGVs into Oxfordshire is totally inappropriate and should a new bridge be built it should be restricted to public transport, cyclists and pedestrians;</p> <p>b) Notwithstanding the above, if a car-based solution is pursued, the proposed bridge and necessary mitigation measures (i.e. improvements to the Oxfordshire road network) are not considered as two separate projects, but as one single project in order that the benefits, disadvantages and costs of the complete scheme can be holistically assessed.</p> | | | | |
| South M7 | 10th October 2019 | <p>On 11 April 2019, South Oxfordshire District Council declared a Climate Emergency, noting that the 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report states that we had just 12 years to act. Council resolved that it needs to commit to aggressive reduction targets and carbon neutrality as quickly as possible.</p> <p>Since then, there has been a continual onslaught of extreme weather events that further highlight the climate emergency. In July, the European heat wave killed 868 in France, and set a new temperature high for the UK of 38.5°C. There were unprecedented wildfires in the Arctic. In September, Hurricane Dorian killed 50 in the Bahamas and left 70,000 homeless. More generally, we have severe ice melting at the poles, and sea level rise at the upper end of forecasts.</p> <p>In September, Professor Sir David King, former Chief Scientist for the UK, said the world had changed faster than predicted by the IPCC. Whereas mean global temperature rises have matched predictions, individual extreme weather events have accelerated in intensity and frequency. In this grave situation, he says, the UK should aim to cut greenhouse gas emissions to almost zero, by 2040 rather than 2050.</p> <p>South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) has set up a Climate Emergency Advisory Committee (CEAC). At its first official meeting on the 19th September, it recommended the very challenging targets proposed here. It should be noted that other councils have set targets for their districts and cities to reach net zero-carbon by 2030, some even earlier. The Labour Party at its recent conference has also set a 2030 net zero-carbon target for the country.</p> <p>Officers prepared options for CEAC to consider, including a focus only on Council operations; extending this to taking action on net zero-carbon over district-actives where Council has responsibilities, whilst responding reactively wherever possible to new initiatives for the district; and finally, for full net zero-carbon for the whole district. The cross-party committee</p> | | <p>CEAC in progress and Climate Change Programme will be developed and launched in 2020.</p> <p>Progress continues on the councils journey towards it's carbon reduction targets the Climate Action Plan is currently being developed.</p> | Head of Policy & Programmes | Open |

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| | | <p>unanimously agreed to a fully net zero-carbon district by 2030, with Council, in its own operations, to be net zero-carbon by 2025.</p> <p>These targets are premised on the fact that SODC should be in a new building by 2025, and that it can influence outsourced contractors to provide us with a net zero-carbon supply chain. The aim for a net-zero carbon total district is to ensure that Council has a true target in the sense that it knows what it is that it is aiming to get to zero-carbon, and to ensure that its actions are more than purely reactive; rather, Council shall set up an ambitious new programme working with other actors to achieve its target.</p> <p>Council resolves to:</p> <p>Agree the unanimous recommendations of its cross-party Climate Emergency Advisory Committee to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim to reach net-zero carbon emissions across all of the operations of South Oxfordshire District Council by the target year of 2025 • Aim to reach net-zero carbon emissions for the whole District of South Oxfordshire by 2030 | | | | |
| South M8 | 19th December 2019 | <p>Council notes that South Oxfordshire District Council's current position is support for an Oxfordshire County Unitary; in March 2017 this council voted to support 'Better Oxfordshire', a proposal to create a unitary authority.</p> <p>The approach of 'Better Oxfordshire' was for a single unitary authority based on the current County Council boundary. Oxfordshire County Council and Vale of the White Horse District Council also took formal decisions to support the proposal.</p> <p>The proposal was submitted to the Secretary of State for approval under legislative provisions containing a sunset clause, which expired in March of 2019, meaning that at this time the proposal is not under active consideration.</p> <p>Government's current stated intention, according to recent statements by Robert Jenrick, in his role as Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, is to move away from smaller district councils and towards Unitary and/or Combined Authority models of Governance.</p> <p>Council recognises that:</p> <p>Democratic institutions should be responsive and accountable to their electorate as well as being efficient and achieving value for money for their services. South Oxfordshire District Council's status enables a close connection to residents and communities, especially with regard to planning, and it is a democratically accountable body with the powers and resources to work with other organisations and deliver services in ways that more distant organisations cannot.</p> <p>Therefore, any future move towards Unitary status should be on</p> | <p>Officers explore alternative governance approaches that protect, and enhance, the democratic link to local communities</p> <p>Officers should make contact with the MHCLG to explore the approach the new Secretary of State will take to any proposals for unitary based re-organisation</p> <p>A report on this matter is brought to full Council, by the Chief Executive and Leader, outlining their understanding of the new Government's intentions and possible approaches available to this council, by Summer 2020.</p> <p>A cross party 'governance model' working group is formed to support the Council's review of this area</p> | <p>An SMT briefing paper was reviewed on 5 December 2019. It outlined the process and considerations for a merger proposal and provided some case studies from other Councils. MHCLG officials indicate that these criteria may change in the forthcoming White Paper.</p> <p>Visits to East Suffolk and Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils were also made by the Acting Deputy Chief Executive – Partnerships, in January 2020 to discuss experiences of merging and attempting to merge.</p> <p>MHCLG officials have been contacted and a meeting between all Oxfordshire Leaders, CEs and officials held.</p> <p>A joint letter is to be sent by all Oxfordshire Leaders and OxLEP Chair to the SoSs MHCLG and BEIS requesting a meeting regarding options that may be possible within the forthcoming Local Recovery and Devolution White Paper.</p> <p>Outside of this process, MHCLG officials advise that individual requests or suggestions for structural change will not be considered at this time.</p> <p>A paper and report will be brought forward as soon as possible following any meeting</p> | Chief Executive | Open |

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| | | <p>the basis of the smallest viable geography that enables a similarly close link to communities and should not prevent independent candidates and smaller political parties competing for seats alongside the major political parties.</p> <p>Should such structural change occur in the future, in addition to securing increased value for money in service delivery, it must also aim to increase, not reduce, localised accountability for service provision and resource allocation, and should support the devolution of power to the lowest sustainable level.</p> <p>Council therefore confirms that:</p> <p>A. It recognises that much of the financial and economic data and analysis that underpinned the 'Better Oxfordshire' submission is now out of date; and</p> <p>B. Due to an absence of up to date analysis, South Oxfordshire District Council can no longer support a view that a County-wide single Unitary currently represents the best governance model for Oxfordshire: and proposes that:</p> <p>i. Officers explore alternative governance approaches that protect, and enhance, the democratic link to local communities, to assist council in taking a new, updated view;</p> <p>ii. As part of this, officers should make contact with the MHCLG to explore the approach the new Secretary of State will take to any proposals for unitary based re-organisation; and asks that</p> <p>iii. A report on this matter is brought to full Council, by the Chief Executive and Leader, outlining their understanding of the new Government's intentions and possible approaches available to this council, by Summer 2020.</p> <p>iv. A cross party 'governance model' working group is formed to support the Council's review of this area; and notes that</p> <p>v. Should any revised unitary proposal be developed in future, the Constitutional Review Group will be asked to recommend appropriate constitutional models for consideration by Council.</p> | | <p>that is held with the SoS or MoS and/or once the Local Recovery and Devolution White Paper is published, whichever is the sooner.</p> <p>Relevant officers are briefed on the Councils position and are engaging with partners and Government to make them aware of South's views regarding some of the outcomes any Unitary proposal should achieve</p> | | |
| <p>South M9</p> <p>Page 8</p> | <p>19th December 2019</p> | <p>Council notes the continuing development of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 – a joint statutory spatial plan based on the boundary of the County.</p> <p>Council sees merit in regional - and county - scale planning for biodiversity and environmental sustainability matters, such as "nature recovery networks", as well as for public transport infrastructure, but considers that all housing and employment allocations (including strategic sites), planning policies and other related matters continue to be best dealt with at the local district planning authority level, and should not form part of the Oxfordshire 2050 plan.</p> <p>Council therefore asks:</p> <p>That officers and any councillor representing the council ensure this position is reflected in all engagement with, and</p> | <p>That officers and any councillor representing the council ensure this position is reflected in all engagement with, and contributions to, the Oxfordshire 2050 plan making process</p> <p>That the Council's position is made known, and emphasised, to key partners and Government.</p> | <p>Relevant officers advised and updated via team meetings and one to ones, to ensure that engagement with partners reflects this position.</p> <p>Recent Oxfordshire Plan 2050 consultation response?</p> <p>The evidence base for the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 was also included in the council's consultation response on the Oxford-Cambridge Arc Spatial Framework as a relevant signpost to other significant evidence bases and strategic programmes taking place in the area.</p> | <p>Head of Planning/Head of Policy & Programmes</p> | <p>Open</p> |

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| | | contributions to, the Oxfordshire 2050 plan making process, and that the Council's position is made known, and emphasised, to key partners and Government. | | | | |
| South M10 | 19th December 2019 | <p>Recognising the financial position of the Council, and the need to ensure that residents are represented by a robust and sustainable council, officers are asked to bring forward proposals for South Oxfordshire District Council to consider whether or not a formal merger with the Vale of White Horse District Council, with the same total number of district councillors, creating a single district council based on their combined geography with increased financial resilience would be beneficial. This work should also consider the options for the development of area committees within this model, to ensure that decision making is devolved to the lowest appropriate level.</p> <p>Should any formal merger proposal be developed in future, the Constitutional Review Group will be asked to recommend appropriate constitutional models for consideration by Council.</p> | Officers are asked to bring forward proposals for South Oxfordshire District Council to consider whether or not a formal merger with the Vale of White Horse District Council would be beneficial | An SMT briefing paper was reviewed on 5 December 2019. It outlined the process and considerations for a merger proposal and provided some case studies from other Councils. | Chief Executive | Open |
| South M11 | 19th December 2019 | <p>Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Believes that young people should be allowed a say over their future. 2. Recognises that 16- and 17-year-olds are knowledgeable and passionate about the world in which they live and are as capable of engaging in the democratic system as any other citizen. 3. Notes that there is currently an unequal situation across the United Kingdom, with 16- and 17-year-olds having voting rights in Scotland and Wales that are not available to them in England and Northern Ireland. 4. Supports the need for greater engagement with young people, leading to greater involvement of young people in the decisions that affect their community. 5. Believes that lowering the voting age to 16, combined with strong citizenship education, would empower young people to better engage in society and influence decisions that will define their future. 6. Believes that people aged 16 and 17, who can consent to medical treatment, work full-time, pay taxes, get married or enter a civil partnership and join the armed forces, should also have the right to vote. 7. Recognises and supports the ongoing 'Votes at 16' campaign by the British Youth Council, the UK Youth Parliament and other youth organisations, supported by thousands of young people across the UK. 8. Calls for 16- and 17-year-olds to have the right in all elections and referendums across the UK. <p>Council therefore:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Requests that the Leader write to relevant Ministers and local MPs: expressing this Council's support for the Votes at 16 campaign; calling for the extension of the franchise to 16- and 17-year-olds in all elections and referendums across the UK 2. Requests that the Leader write to the local MYPs and the British Youth Council expressing this Council's support for the Votes at 16 campaign 3. Asks the ERO/ RO to consider participating in any pilot scheme. | <p>The Leader write to relevant Ministers and local MPs: expressing this Council's support for the Votes at 16 campaign; calling for the extension of the franchise to 16- and 17-year-olds in all elections and referendums across the UK</p> <p>The Leader write to the local MYPs and the British Youth Council expressing this Council's support for the Votes at 16 campaign</p> <p>Asks the ERO/ RO to consider participating in any pilot scheme</p> | Letters sent and relevant officers advised and updated via team meetings and one to ones, to ensure that engagement with partners reflects this position. | Head of Legal & Democratic Services | Open |

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| <p>South M12</p> | <p>19th December 2019</p> | <p>Council notes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) will be undertaking a constitutional review beginning in January 2020. A working group, with representation from all political groups, has been set up to conduct this review. • Other motions tonight relate to consideration of whether the council should consider a merger with Vale of White Horse with whom SODC shares an officer-core, and wider unitary related decisions. • It should be ensured that the Constitutional Review Working Group gets sufficient training to enable it to make informed decisions. Training might be required from external experts, and information may be required through visits to or from other councils. <p>This Council agrees that the Constitutional Review Working Group will include the following topics in its considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether there would be a benefit to residents in terms of decision-making, representation, and transparency were South Oxfordshire District Council to move to a committee-based structure: • Whether the Climate Change Advisory Committee should become a Committee of Council and what, if any, amendments should be made to its terms of reference; and that • Training should be made available to the Constitutional Review Working Group and to all members on the matters referred to herein. Council asks Cabinet to reflect the cost of this in any budget proposals they bring forward. | <p>The Constitutional Review Working Group will include the following topics in its considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether there would be a benefit to residents in terms of decision-making, representation, and transparency were South Oxfordshire District Council to move to a committee-based structure • Whether the Climate Change Advisory Committee should become a Committee of Council and what, if any, amendments should be made to its terms of reference • Training should be made available to the Constitutional Review Working Group and to all members on the matters referred to herein | <p>The Constitution Review Group met on 4 March 2020 prior to the Covid-19 Lockdown. Officers will arrange further meetings during the summer and report to Council in October 2020.</p> <p>The final report of the Constitution Review Group was presented to Council on 8th October 2020. Their recommendations were agreed.</p> | <p>Head of Legal & Democratic Services</p> | <p>Closed</p> |
| <p>South M13</p> <p>Page 10</p> | <p>19th December 2019</p> | <p>The Council notes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycling and walking are healthy, climate-friendly modes of transport • In 2018, of fatalities on the road caused by vehicles crashes, 31% were people walking or on pedal cycles • Many people are put off cycling because of perceived and actual dangers • Electric bicycles could be a revolution in bringing more people to cycling and cycling further • In a rural District many roads are narrow, winding and without pavements for walking • A number of the towns in the District suffer from poor air quality that have major health impacts, particularly for children • Physical inactivity is a contributor to diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, osteoporosis, depression and dementia • The Council has a goal to achieve a carbon-neutral District by 2030 • Infrastructure needs to be developed rapidly to support more active travel, including for electric bicycles, to achieve national and local climate and health goals • travel habits need changing urgently and that cycling and active travel need be easy and safe to be chosen over alternatives • the Council already has a walking and cycling policy: T7 | <p>Develop a prioritised plan of where new and improved cycle and walking infrastructure is needed in the District to contribute to a SATN (Strategic Active Travel Network)</p> <p>Update planning policy to better achieve active travel outcomes across the district</p> <p>Work to prioritise active travel in planning policy</p> <p>Engage in active travel promotion with relevant partners to encourage travel behaviour change</p> <p>Urge the County Council to prioritise quality control of all active travel infrastructure in accordance with the</p> | <p>Working in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council to upgrade Oxfordshire cycling infrastructure, including new cycle parking in market towns, improved signage and enhanced maintenance for footpaths and cycleways.</p> <p>Active travel outcomes are also incorporated through the joint design guide project.</p> | <p>Head of Planning/Head of Policy & Programmes</p> | <p>Open</p> |

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| | | <p>This Council therefore calls upon the relevant Cabinet members to:</p> <p>i) develop a prioritised plan of where new and improved cycle and walking infrastructure is needed in the District to contribute to a SATN (Strategic Active Travel Network) and actively seek, and support the County to actively seek, capital and revenue funding for delivery of it through local and national sources</p> <p>ii) update planning policy to better achieve active travel outcomes across the district and with greater urgency, noting such further policy development is currently unfunded (and is subject to Council having planning powers to do this).</p> <p>iii) work to prioritise active travel in planning policy and use walking and cycling as an improvement to urban and rural communities in terms of community cohesion, wellbeing, and tackling inequalities</p> <p>iv) engage in active travel promotion with relevant partners to encourage travel behaviour change</p> <p>v) urge the County Council to prioritise quality control of all active travel infrastructure in accordance with the Oxfordshire Cycling Design Standards, ensuring all proposals are audited for safety and encouragement of active travel</p> | Oxfordshire Cycling Design Standards | | | |
| South M14 | 20th February 2020 | <p>That Council notes the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of Antisemitism is the most widely accepted and recognized definition of anti-Jewish racism. It states that: Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of Antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.</p> <p>Council notes the All Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims (APPG) definition of Islamophobia: Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness.</p> <p>Council notes that, by using these definitions, it helps to understand, identify, and tackle Antisemitism and Islamophobia.</p> <p>Council holds the right to freedom of speech and freedom of religion as fundamentals but freedom of speech is not an unlimited right, and should not be used to advocate racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence.</p> <p>Council resolves to:</p> <p>1. condemn all hate crimes and deplore the rise in hate crimes against members of the Jewish and Muslim communities in Britain;</p> | <p>Adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism in full and without amendment</p> <p>Adopt the APPG definition of Islamophobia in full and without amendment.</p> <p>Ask officers to update this council's equality policies to this effect</p> | <p>Motion forwarded to the Council's Equality Officer.</p> <p>Council policies updated</p> | Head of Corporate Services | Closed |

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| | | <p>2. condemn inflammatory rhetoric in political discourse that is antisemitic or islamophobic;</p> <p>3. adopt the IHRA definition of Antisemitism in full and without amendment;</p> <p>4. adopt the APPG definition of Islamophobia in full and without amendment;</p> <p>5. ask officers to update this council's equality policies to this effect.</p> | | | | |
| South M15 | 20th February 2020 | <p>Council notes the risks associated with modern life are significantly different from those of 1847 when the Town Police Clauses Act was passed, and even from those of the 1970s when the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 came into force. Clearly, the legislation has not kept pace with developments, in particular with the way we use technology, apps, and mobile phones. It is difficult to facilitate a regulatory system when the legislation is based on the use of horse-drawn carriages and landline phones.</p> <p>There is also a lack of consistency across the legislation. For example, the law requires a person who takes bookings for private hire vehicles to be licensed but there is no similar requirement for someone who does the same for hackney carriages. This lack, apart from the potential for sensitive personal information to fall into the wrong hands, can make it very difficult to investigate allegations of improper conduct by drivers of hackney carriages. This could undermine public confidence in the licensing regime. In addition, it provides a mechanism for private hire operators who have lost their licence to continue in business. They simply move to only "operating" hackney carriages, and no controls can be placed on them at all.</p> <p>Examples of recent local issues include hackney carriage 'operators' who have pressured drivers to work excessively long hours with no proper breaks, and those who do not maintain their vehicles properly and continually present vehicles to testing stations which fail the test. The overriding aim of any licensing authority when carrying out its functions relating to the licensing of hackney or private hire drivers, vehicle proprietors, and operators is the protection of the public.</p> <p>The Oxfordshire district councils and the county council share information under a Joint Operating Framework, and there is a national register of revoked and refused licences operated by the National Anti-Fraud Network. However, this does not address situations where drivers have allowed their licence to lapse pending enforcement action at one local authority and apply to another authority without declaring that enforcement action or the previous licences held. Local authority prosecutions are not currently detailed on enhanced DBS disclosures and there are recent local examples of the councils only finding out about such prosecutions by chance and after the licence has been granted.</p> <p>Council therefore requests that the Leader of the council write to the district's two Members of Parliament and to the Minister for</p> | <p>Letters from the Leader of the Council to the Minister and the two local MPs</p> <p>The revised licensing policy for hackney carriage and private hire was adopted on 26 June 2021 and includes a requirement for hackney carriage proprietors to keep a record of pre-booked work.</p> | <p>Letters sent and relevant officers advised and updated via team meetings and one to ones, to ensure that engagement with partners reflects this position.</p> | Head of Housing & Environment | Closed |

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| | | <p>Transport to request that the following action be taken:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Government should move forward without delay on the three key measures recommended to achieve a safe service for passengers in the Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing Task and Finish Group report, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The introduction of a national taxi licensing database; - Some form of cross border enforcement for local authorities; - National minimum standards for licenses. 2. The Government should provide an update in respect of how they propose to deal with cross-border working; 3. The Government should legislate to require any person taking bookings for more than one vehicle to be licensed as an operator, with national standards for the information recorded by licensed operators in respect of bookings". | | | | |
| South M16 | 20th February 2020 | <p>That Council notes the views of the Local Government Association and the Royal Town Planning Institute, who recognise that problems have been caused by the 2013 deregulation of the Planning System which allows offices to be converted into homes without planning permission. Currently, developers do not have to contribute towards affordable Social Housing or local infrastructure and there is no ability to consider whether the development provides suitable levels of internal or external amenity space, privacy, sunlight, daylight or outlook.</p> <p>Council asks the leader of the council to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to call for a review of the wide-ranging impacts of permitted development rights which allow change of use into residential homes.</p> | Letter from the Leader of the Council to the Secretary of State | Letter drafted and sent by planning policy | Head of Policy & Programmes | Closed |
| South M17 | 20th February 2020 | <p>That Council notes that paragraph 73 of the NPPF, on 'maintaining supply and delivery' requires planning authorities 'to identify and update annually a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide a minimum of five years' worth of housing against their housing requirement'. This deliverability rule is commonly known as the '5-year housing land supply'.</p> <p>Unfortunately, this phrase leads to the misconception that councils that cannot demonstrate a 5-year housing land supply cannot do so because they have failed to allocate or approve sufficient sites. This is not the case for councils with adopted local plans consulted upon and found sound at examination, who are keeping up with changes to methodology which might require increased housing numbers. Such councils, provided they have gone on to approve sufficient applications, by definition would indeed have allocated sufficient land for housing.</p> <p>But lost 5-year housing land supply can result if developers fail to build out at the required rate on the sites allocated in the local</p> | Letter from the Leader of the Council to the Secretary of State | Letter drafted and sent by planning policy | Head of Policy & Programmes | Open |

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| | | <p>plan. They then, themselves, have created strong planning grounds for granting of planning permissions on new sites that they apply for; sites that were specifically not in the local plan. This often results in appeals, which are time-consuming, extremely costly, and distressing for the council and residents alike.</p> <p>George Freeman (Cons MP Mid Norfolk) summed this up in a House of Commons debate (Hansard, 4th July 2018): “developers are banking...permissions for later, because they know that they will get them, and using the five-year land supply to force the wrong development in the wrong places”. “Through the Localism Act 2011, we set out to [give] local communities the chance to shape their future. We are now in danger of looking like we are in favour of speculators, profiteers and out-of-town developers, who dump housing estates that we legislate for, with no responsibility being taken locally.”</p> <p>Council therefore requests that the Leader write to the Minister for Housing Communities and Local Government requesting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - That the Minister notes the severe problems that exist with the ‘5-year housing land supply’ rules in the National Planning Policy Framework as outlined above - That the Minister considers revising the housing land supply rules (5-year or other durations) such that, provided the planning authority has allocated sufficient land to housing, and has not unreasonably withheld planning permissions, the authority shall have been deemed to have met its obligations and there would be no grounds for third parties to demand the release of further land for development - That any other measures introduced to ensure appropriate delivery of homes should be actionable by the local authorities themselves on behalf of local people and not subject to external factors beyond their control, thus re-instating the primacy of residents and their elected representatives in ensuring that the right homes are built for the right people, in the right places, in a planned and organised manner”. | | | | |
| Page 14 outh M18 | 16th July 2020 | <p>That Council notes that since early March the Covid-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on our communities. Loved ones have lost their lives and many have been seriously ill; some are still fighting the virus as patients or as clinical staff.</p> <p>Council recognises the huge effort of our officers during the period. Adjusting to working remotely, volunteering to go beyond the day job to help support shielded people and those isolating and working long hours to keep vital council services running. Council also recognises that the Towns and Parishes and the</p> | | Thanks passed on to all officers | Chief Executive | Closed |

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| | | <p>community groups and their members and members of the public responded enthusiastically and rapidly to the challenges that we all faced and continue to face.</p> <p>Council thanks everyone for the heroic part they have played, and will continue to play, helping residents in need of support through this uncertain time.</p> | | | | |
| South M19 | 8th October 2020 | <p>Council notes the growing popularity of wild swimming, paddling, kayaking and paddle boarding in the River Thames and its tributaries and, more importantly, the intrinsic value of clean water and healthy, biodiverse rivers. The UK's water companies are permitted to release raw sewage into waterways in specific circumstances, under licence from the Environment Agency.</p> <p>Regulators rely on self-reporting on the part of the water companies and there is no way for river users to know in real time when sewage spills happen. Hundreds of beaches around the UK have Bathing Quality Water status – this ensures the Environment Agency monitors and reports on water quality throughout the bathing season.</p> <p>Only a handful of inland lakes in the UK – and no rivers – have Bathing Quality Water status.</p> <p>A recent report by the Environment Agency found that every river in England is polluted beyond legal limits. Only 14% of English rivers can be considered ecologically healthy.</p> <p>Recognising the intrinsic importance of the River Thames as a natural asset of national significance and its value to our communities, this Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Asks officers to work with appropriate partners such as the Environment Agency, DEFRA, The Rivers Trust and Surfers Against Sewage to explore Bathing Quality Water status for the River Thames in South Oxfordshire; 2. Calls on Thames Water to draft and implement an action plan for the elimination of Controlled Sewage Overflows (CSOs) across its sewage treatment network; 3. Calls on Thames Water to provide accurate, real-time and publicly available information about Controlled Sewage Overflows into the Thames and its tributaries; 4. Asks officers to work alongside the Thames Champion, Thames Water, the Environment Agency, neighbouring Councils and others to achieve an end to sewage discharges, and the introduction of world-leading water quality legislation, a rigorous, enhanced water-testing regime and accurate up to date information on water quality and sewage spills to make the River Thames and its tributaries "Safe for All." | <p>This Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Asks officers to work with appropriate partners such as the Environment Agency, DEFRA, The Rivers Trust and Surfers Against Sewage to explore Bathing Quality Water status for the River Thames in South Oxfordshire; 2. Calls on Thames Water to draft and implement an action plan for the elimination of Controlled Sewage Overflows (CSOs) across its sewage treatment network; 3. Calls on Thames Water to provide accurate, real-time and publicly available information about Controlled Sewage Overflows into the Thames and its tributaries; 4. Asks officers to work alongside the Thames Champion, Thames Water, the Environment Agency, neighbouring Councils and others to achieve an end to sewage discharges, and the introduction of world-leading water quality legislation, a rigorous, enhanced water-testing regime and accurate up to date information on water quality and sewage spills to make the River Thames and its tributaries "Safe for All." | <p>The Council hosts a quarterly Thames Valley Rivers Network meeting bringing together partners on water management and water quality issues. The next meeting will cover the change to the new Environment Act and a review of the councils river clean up communications campaign.</p> | Head of Policy & Programmes | Open |
| Page 15 South M20 | 8th October 2020 | <p>South Oxfordshire District Council has made Neighbourhood Plans central to the planning process, in securing 40% affordable housing, employment land, green environment etc', this to stop developers running roughshod over our District.</p> <p>Council requests the Planning Committee to support Neighbourhood Plans in its decision-making as far as it possibly can within planning law.</p> | <p>Council requests: the Planning Committee to support Neighbourhood Plans in its decision-making as far as it possibly can within planning law.</p> | <p>Legally, the Planning Committee is obliged to support Neighbourhood Plans in as far a planning law will allow. How progress/action on this motion is to be measured is, therefore, subjective.</p> | Head of Policy & Programmes | Closed |

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| <p>South M21</p> <p>Page 16</p> | <p>8th October 2020</p> | <p>The Council recognises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The term BaME is not one that every person from an ethnic minority background identifies with but it is a term that everyone understands. • The brutal, and unlawful, death of George Floyd in the United States of America has justifiably triggered global protests against institutional racism faced by Black people right across the world, including here in the United Kingdom. This support has been revived following the recent aggression of Jacob Blake leaving him paralyzed. • These protests have come, alongside all the inequalities faced by Black people, in the wake of the devastatingly disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on BaME communities in Britain and other parts of the world. • It is clear that this impact has been made far worse by the structural inequalities Black people face when it comes to health, education and housing amongst the numerous obstacles that Black people encounter daily in the UK. • BaME people are 54% more likely than white people to be fined under the new coronavirus lockdown laws. • In the UK, 26% of instances of police using firearms are against Black people, despite Black people making up only 3.3% of the population. • 51% of young men in custody in the UK are from BaME backgrounds, despite these groups making up only 14% of the UK population. • Around two thirds of healthcare staff who have died as a result of COVID-19 are from a BaME background whereas they make up 20% of the overall workforce. <p>The Council notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That Black lives matter as much as all others. • That George Floyd’s brutal murder must be a catalyst for change across the world. • That no country, city, police service or institution can absolve itself of the responsibility to do better. • When the BaME communities will experience economic justice and opportunity, we all benefit. When our democracy works for Black Britain, it is a better democracy for all of us. • That there is no place for racism or any form of xenophobia or bigotry anywhere in our society. • That language is a powerful tool for inspiration and change, as well as oppression and ignorance and must be used wisely and | <p>Council resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show leadership in the campaign to rid our district of bigotry and racism by creating a Diversity and Inclusion Strategy which will ensure that council is inclusive to BaME and other diverse and hard to reach communities: in its staff recruitment, in its representation and in its service provision | <p>A diversity and inclusion strategy is being developed in discussion with the portfolio holder and lead for equalities.</p> | <p>Head of Corporate Services</p> | <p>Open</p> |
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| | | <p>respectfully.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That it is necessary for our national and civic leaders to start an open and respectful conversation about who we are and what we stand for as a community. • That the national conversation on institutional racism and immigration should be conducted with care for the dignity of people who are vulnerable, who do not have a voice in the public domain, and have to suffer the consequences of inaccurate, insulting and inflammatory language. • That it is vital all efforts are taken to understand the impact of Covid-19 on BaME communities in South Oxfordshire and that we should work with all relevant stakeholders to mitigate the impact now and into the future. • That whilst 3.9% of South Oxfordshire population is from a BaME background, that is not matched from the data available by the proportion of staff working at Grade 11 and above. The same is true for elected members of the Council. • That we must stand together as one. <p>Council resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show leadership in the campaign to rid our district of bigotry and racism by creating a Diversity and Inclusion Strategy which will ensure that council is inclusive to BaME and other diverse and hard to reach communities: in its staff recruitment, in its representation and in its service provision | | | | |
| South M22 | 8th October 2020 | <p>Due to Covid 19 and other pressures, the council is under significant economic pressure to reduce its costs and hence the council will be assessing its asset portfolio to see where cost savings can be made.</p> <p>One of the council's assets is the Cornerstone in Didcot. This is the jewel in the council's crown providing a much needed and appreciated social and cultural centre.</p> <p>The council should strive to ensure that the Cornerstone continues to be provided with suitable funding to safeguard its future. Didcot is undergoing significant growth and requires facilities like the Cornerstone to enable the town to offer residents in the town and district cultural opportunities that may not exist anywhere else close by.</p> | The council should strive to ensure that the Cornerstone continues to be provided with suitable funding to safeguard its future. | Relevant officers advised of this motion. | Head of Corporate Services | Open |
| South M23 Page 17 | 22nd December 2020 | <p>Council notes that Trans people face significant disadvantage in society.</p> <p>Council respects that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Trans men are men, Trans women are women, and that non-binary genders are just as valid. Trans people deserve respect and autonomy. Transphobia has a hugely detrimental impact on the mental health and well-being of trans individuals. It is our duty as community leaders who seek to create an open and tolerant society to speak out against transphobia and make clear it will not be tolerated. | <p>Council therefore resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that all Council services, both directly provided and through partners, are fully accessible to all, regardless of their sexuality or gender identity. Work to provide at least one gender neutral toilet where possible in every public building owned or operated by the Council, and encourage partners to do likewise. | <p>Relevant officers were advised of this motion. As part of the council's regular review of policies and actions, it will ensure that services are accessible to all (including LGBTQ) where possible in the districts.</p> <p>South Oxfordshire also work alongside our equalities officers across the County to ensure all services are accessible to all residents (including LGBTQ) and as such this is BAU whilst learning about new national initiatives that we can put into practice in the districts.</p> | Head of Corporate Services | Open |

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| | | <p>Council therefore resolves to:</p> <p>a. Ensure that all Council services, both directly provided and through partners, are fully accessible to all, regardless of their sexuality or gender identity.</p> <p>b. Work to provide at least one gender neutral toilet where possible in every public building owned or operated by the Council, and encourage partners to do likewise.</p> <p>c. Ensure that the Council's constitution, policies, forms, and all internal and external communications are gender neutral.</p> <p>d. Encourage and support a network of informal LGBTQ+ allies across officers and councillors to support all members of the LGBTQ+ communities.</p> | <p>c. Ensure that the Council's constitution, policies, forms, and all internal and external communications are gender neutral.</p> <p>d. Encourage and support a network of informal LGBTQ+ allies across officers and councillors to support all members of the LGBTQ+ communities.</p> | <p>The diversity inclusion strategy is being developed in discussion with the portfolio holder and lead for equalities.</p> | | |
| South M24 | 22nd December 2020 | <p>Council supports the application for a 7.5T Environmental weight limit for Henley-on-Thames and a five-mile radius to include villages along the B481. This Environmental Traffic Regulation Order aims to protect historic buildings, enhance safety for people on narrow pavements, improve air quality in Henley and reduce pollution. It will also protect the surrounding villages by ensuring HGVs stay on the strategic road network.</p> | <p>Council supports the application for a 7.5T Environmental weight limit for Henley-on-Thames and a five-mile radius to include villages along the B481.</p> | <p>Relevant officers advised</p> | <p>Head of Planning</p> | <p>Closed</p> |
| South M25 | 11th February 2021 | <p>Council notes that it has appointed a cycling champion to promote the benefits of cycling and a River Thames champion to promote the river and all it brings to our district. As much as the River Thames is a wonderful asset enjoyed by many for which the council has an obligation to protect and enhance, Council notes that our beautiful (mostly green) district is that way because of our amazing countryside and wildlife which should also be protected and enhanced.</p> <p>Council therefore agrees to appoint a Tree Champion to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Promote the value of trees and woodlands in tackling the climate and ecological emergencies · Encourage people to re-connect with nature and appreciate the importance of trees and woodlands for both environmental and human health and well-being · Promote woodland protection/conservation and tree growing initiatives in the district · Work with officers and members to develop and promote a Tree Policy and Strategy · Raise awareness of the statutory protections for trees and woodland within local communities, town and parish councils. | <p>Council appoints a tree champion. Among other things they will work with officers to develop a tree policy and strategy.</p> | <p>Tree Champions appointed</p> <p>Relevant officers advised</p> <p>Tree planting on council land policy now live.</p> | <p>Head of Policy & Programmes</p> | <p>Closed</p> |
| South M26 | 11th February 2021 | <p>Council has adopted a new Corporate Plan that has as one of its main priorities: 'Protect and Restore the Natural World'. In the consultation exercise on this Plan, this theme was ranked the most important by a high number of respondents. This Council has already, rightly, declared a climate emergency (April 2019). Council acknowledges that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our societies and economies are intimately linked with and depend on biodiversity and nature. The natural world is essential for the provision of nutritious food (with soil and pollinators having a vital role), clean water, clean air, medicines, and protection from extreme weather, as well as being our source of energy and raw materials • The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the relationship between people and nature. When we destroy and degrade habitats, we increase the risk of disease spill-over from wildlife to people • The State of Nature 2019 report highlighted the critical decline | <p>Council resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Declare an ecological emergency 2. Rename CEAC the Climate and Ecological Emergencies Advisory Committee, to help Cabinet and council officers address these twin emergencies 3. Add ecological impact implications alongside those for climate and sustainability in committee and council reports. 4. Ensure that addressing the climate and ecological emergencies and nature | <p>The Council has declared an ecological emergency.</p> <p>CEAC has been renamed CEEAC to reflect the Climate and Ecological Emergencies.</p> <p>A biodiversity working group was established and met in July 2021 to discuss a TOR and meeting cycle.</p> <p>Progress has also been made in developing the Local Nature Partnership (LNP) including; the development of the Terms of Reference for the Board, recruitment of Board Members, development of a provisional budget and</p> | <p>Head of Policy & Programmes</p> | <p>Open</p> |

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| | | <p>in biodiversity in the UK. Changes in farming practices have had the biggest effect in recent decades and the impact of climate change is now increasing. 15% of UK species are classified as threatened with extinction and 2% are already extinct</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State of the World's Plants and Fungi 2020 report from Royal Botanic Gardens Kew estimated that 39.4% of plants are now threatened with extinction. This is a jump from one in five plants thought to be at risk in Kew's 2016 report • The Environment Bill will require the introduction of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Nature Recovery Networks • Actions to restore nature and biodiversity, as well as being vital for their own sake, often have an important co-benefit of storing carbon, so help address climate change • People's access to 'green spaces' to understand and appreciate biodiversity and a rich, natural world, private or public, is unequal <p>Council resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Declare an ecological emergency 2. Rename CEAC the Climate and Ecological Emergencies Advisory Committee, to help Cabinet and council officers address these twin emergencies 3. Add ecological impact implications alongside those for climate and sustainability in committee and council reports. 4. Ensure that addressing the climate and ecological emergencies and nature recovery are considered as strategic priorities for planning policies and design guides for new development, including master-planning of sites, by identifying appropriate areas for habitat restoration and biodiversity net gain and ensuring that development limits impact on existing habitats in its process, whilst also working on the principle of increasing equality of access for people to natural, green spaces 5. Establish a Biodiversity Steering Group involving both key officers and members to oversee and develop the Councils approach to nature protection and recovery 6. Set measurable targets and standards for biodiversity increase, in both species and quantities, seeking also to increase community engagement 7. Work with our partners to establish a Local Nature Partnership for Oxfordshire as soon as possible, in keeping with the urgency of this declaration 8. Work with our partners to develop Nature Recovery Networks and Nature Recovery Strategy for Oxfordshire, again in keeping with the urgency of this declaration 9. Look for opportunities to work in partnership with local charities and environmental organisations to deliver nature recovery in South Oxfordshire 10. Develop a district wide Tree Planting Policy and Strategy, including having Member Tree Champions, to support nature protection and recovery and carbon sequestration 11. Build on the work of the Thames Champion to improve the ecology of the Thames and its banks and flood plains, a hugely important habitat in our District 12. Ensure the Strategic Property Review considers opportunities for biodiversity enhancements and tree planting on Council landholdings 13. Investigate new approaches to nature recovery such as | <p>recovery are considered as strategic priorities for planning policies and design guides for new development, including master-planning of sites, by identifying appropriate areas for habitat restoration and biodiversity net gain and ensuring that development limits impact on existing habitats in its process, whilst also working on the principle of increasing equality of access for people to natural, green spaces</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Establish a Biodiversity Steering Group involving both key officers and members to oversee and develop the Councils approach to nature protection and recovery 6. Set measurable targets and standards for biodiversity increase, in both species and quantities, seeking also to increase community engagement 7. Work with our partners to establish a Local Nature Partnership for Oxfordshire as soon as possible, in keeping with the urgency of this declaration 8. Work with our partners to develop Nature Recovery Networks and Nature Recovery Strategy for Oxfordshire, again in keeping with the urgency of this declaration 9. Look for opportunities to work in partnership with local charities and environmental organisations to deliver nature recovery in South Oxfordshire 10. Develop a district wide Tree Planting Policy and Strategy, including having Member Tree Champions, to support nature protection and recovery and carbon sequestration 11. Build on the work of the Thames Champion to improve the ecology of the Thames and its banks and flood plains, a hugely important habitat in our District | <p>staffing structure and the agreement that the LNP will be hosted by a Local Authority. The first Board meeting is being planned for January 2022 and the recruitment of staff will be subject to the identification of funding.</p> <p>Letters drafted and sent.</p> | | |
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| | | <p>habitat banking that deliver biodiversity objectives and provide new investment opportunities</p> <p>14. Embed climate action and ecological initiatives within all council work areas, including COVID-19 recovery projects and programmes</p> <p>15. Write to all South Oxfordshire's MPs urging them to support the Climate and Ecological Bill, a private member's bill, in keeping with the declarations of this Council.</p> | <p>12. Ensure the Strategic Property Review considers opportunities for biodiversity enhancements and tree planting on Council landholdings</p> <p>13. Investigate new approaches to nature recovery such as habitat banking that deliver biodiversity objectives and provide new investment opportunities</p> <p>14. Embed climate action and ecological initiatives within all council work areas, including COVID-19 recovery projects and programmes</p> <p>15. Write to all South Oxfordshire's MPs urging them to support the Climate and Ecological Bill, a private member's bill, in keeping with the declarations of this Council.</p> | | | |
| South M27 | 11th February 2021 | <p>Council has adopted a corporate plan which commits it to 'Protect and Restore the Natural World' and 'Recognise and support the vital role of farming' in our community.</p> <p>Sky lanterns are small hot air balloons made of paper, with an opening at the bottom where a candle is suspended, they can float for miles before they fall to the ground. The NFU has launched a campaign to highlight the dangers posed by sky lanterns such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire - Once a sky lantern is lit, nobody knows exactly where it will land. Fields of standing crops, hay and straw stacks, farm buildings housing animals, thatched roofs plus lots more are all at a significant risk of being set alight. • Animals and Livestock - Sky lanterns can cause suffering or even kill animals and livestock, not just by fire, sky lantern debris can cause immense stress and injury. For example, animals eating lantern debris which can cause tears or punctures to internal organs leading to a potentially life-threatening situation, animals getting splinters in their skin which may cause infection or, animals becoming trapped or tangled in debris. • Litter nuisance - landowners have to clear up the remnants of sky lanterns from their fields. <p>The council therefore resolves to support this campaign and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · To ban the release of sky lanterns at events held on property owned by the council. · To use its communication channels to advertise the dangers of sky lanterns to event organisers, other landowners including town and parish councils, and the general public. | <p>Ban the release of sky lanterns on property owned by the council.</p> <p>Communicate the dangers of sky lanterns</p> | Relevant officers advised | Head of Development & Corporate Landlord | Closed |
| South M28 | 25th March 2021 | <p>That Council recognises the importance of a high-quality, beautiful natural environment for current and future residents of our rural District, and the negative impact that high voltage power lines can have on visual amenity.</p> <p>Council also acknowledges the importance of landscape beauty to the setting of the historic city of Oxford.</p> | <p>This Council will:</p> <p>1. Work with partners including National Grid, electricity providers, developers, landowners, and other local authorities, to</p> | Relevant officers advised | Head of Planning/Head of Policy & Programmes | Closed |

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| | | <p>Council identifies that the economic benefit of providing beautiful environments for housing development provides a long lasting benefit that enhances the long term value of a location, attracting the workforce needed to sustain the growth of the local economy.</p> <p>Three of the strategic sites allocated in South Oxfordshire's Local Plan 2035 are overhung by high voltage power lines. Grenoble Road, Culham and Northfield.</p> <p>This Council will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with partners including National Grid, electricity providers, developers, landowners, and other local authorities, to explore all options including financing options for the undergrounding of all high voltage overhead powerlines over the strategic sites in the Local Plan 2035. <p>Require that these sites have active plans for the removal of overhead high voltage power lines before 2040</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Have, as a long-term ambition by 2050, the undergrounding of the existing 400kv line that bisects the Ladygrove Estates in Didcot. | <p>explore all options including financing options for the undergrounding of all high voltage overhead powerlines over the strategic sites in the Local Plan 2035.</p> <p>Require that these sites have active plans for the removal of overhead high voltage power lines before 2040</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Have, as a long-term ambition by 2050, the undergrounding of the existing 400kv line that bisects the Ladygrove Estates in Didcot. | | | |
| South M29 | 25th March 2021 | <p>That Council notes the growing body of evidence demonstrating the harmful impacts of light pollution on human health and sleep, biodiversity and carbon emissions. A literature review from Nature magazine in 2018 concludes that: "light at night is exerting pervasive, long term stress on ecosystems, from coasts to farmland to urban waterways, many of which are already suffering from other, more well-known forms of pollution"</p> <p>Light pollution is not only damaging our physical and mental health, it is also harming plants, insects and nocturnal animals and is eroding the most primal of connections: the deep sense of awe and wonder we experience at the sight of a starry sky. Council acknowledges the work of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Dark Skies and welcomes its recommendations. www.appgdarks skies.co.uk</p> <p>Council recognises that Oxfordshire County Council controls lighting schemes on adopted highways.</p> <p>This Council will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure that limiting light pollution and preserving dark skies are key priorities for planning policies and design guides, including master-planning of sites. 2. Work with Neighbourhood Planning groups to encourage the implementation of dark sky friendly lighting policies in Neighbourhood Plans. 3. Encourage the incorporation of dark sky friendly lighting schemes and avoid unnecessary lighting for all new development. 4. Write to MPs and government calling for the APPG's ten recommendations on dark skies to be implemented through new legislation and reform of the planning system. These recommendations include reform of the NPPF to make extensive and specific reference to control of obtrusive light and to introduce strict regulation of exterior lighting, setting standards for brightness, colour and temperature of all lighting and empowering local authorities to stop nuisance lighting. 5. Work proactively with partners, Oxfordshire County Council | <p>This Council will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure that limiting light pollution and preserving dark skies are key priorities for planning policies and design guides, including master-planning of sites. 2. Work with Neighbourhood Planning groups to encourage the implementation of dark sky friendly lighting policies in Neighbourhood Plans. 3. Encourage the incorporation of dark sky friendly lighting schemes and avoid unnecessary lighting for all new development. 4. Write to MPs and government calling for the APPG's ten recommendations on dark skies to be implemented through new legislation and reform of the planning system. These recommendations include reform of the NPPF to make extensive and specific reference to control of obtrusive light and to introduce strict regulation of exterior lighting, setting standards for brightness, colour and temperature of all lighting and empowering local authorities to stop nuisance lighting. 5. Work proactively with partners, Oxfordshire County Council as Highway Authority | Relevant officers advised and letters sent. | Head of Policy & Programmes | Closed |

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| | | as Highway Authority and others, to highlight the importance of dark skies, the need to limit the impact of lighting and to encourage policies to reflect best practice in lighting design. 6. Use our communications channels to increase understanding among residents and businesses of the importance of dark skies and limiting light pollution. | and others, to highlight the importance of dark skies, the need to limit the impact of lighting and to encourage policies to reflect best practice in lighting design. 6. Use our communications channels to increase understanding among residents and businesses of the importance of dark skies and limiting light pollution. | | | |
| South M30 | 25th March 2021 | That this council supports the local network of pubs in the district, and will use its powers to ensure that pubs continue to be able to provide for the local community, in accordance with Local Plan Policy CF1, which notes that the council will support communities in protecting, enhancing and delivering community and recreation facilities in their towns and villages. With pubs under continual threat of closure and conversion, where there is strong community support evidenced by submission of a nomination as an Asset of Community Value or opposition to a planning application for change of use, the council will use all its available powers, where appropriate, to support communities in their efforts to retain pubs for the benefit of both local community and the whole district. | The council will use all its available powers, where appropriate, to support communities in their efforts to retain pubs for the benefit of both local community and the whole district. | Relevant officers advised. | Head of Development & Corporate Landlord | Open |
| South M31 | 25th March 2021 | That Council notes that: The pandemic has had profound effects on our district's economic, social and physical wellbeing. Building on the themes in the adopted Corporate Plan, there is an opportunity for Council to support a green recovery and benefit our residents and businesses in a holistic way. 'Community wealth-building' is an approach being used in the public sector across the UK, with 'the Preston model' perhaps being the most well-known example. The five core principles of community wealth-building are considered to be: • Plural ownership of the economy. • Making financial power work for local places. • Fair employment practices and just labour markets. • Progressive procurement of goods and services. • Socially productive use of land and property. Council asks officers to explore how the concepts of 'community wealth-building' can be applied to the South Oxfordshire context, with particular reference to: - The role procurement by anchor institutions could play in local economic recovery - The council's land, investment and property policies - Place-specific actions to enhance community resilience | Council asks officers to explore how the concepts of 'community wealth-building' can be applied to the South Oxfordshire context, with particular reference to: - The role procurement by anchor institutions could play in local economic recovery - The council's land, investment and property policies - Place-specific actions to enhance community resilience | Relevant officers advised. | Head of Development & Corporate Landlord | Open |
| South M32 | 25th March 2021 | That Council notes: • As specified in the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2035 the | Officers continue to work with Clinical Commissioning | Relevant officers informed. Letters will be sent after the relevant meetings between | Deputy Chief Executive Place | Closed |

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| | | <p>district council has planned for 30,056 new homes in the period 2011-2035, of which 16,360 have already been built.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical Commissioning Groups are responsible for ensuring health provision for our growing population is provided. • If section 106 contributions from developers agreed by the District Council are not used by the CCGs within a set time, the money can be paid back to the developer, which would result in an under-provision of health care in our communities. • Despite significant effort by council officers and local health professionals, the current system is preventing us from providing the health services that local people need and deserve. • Our planning service and planning committee are therefore under pressure to approve new housing without plans for healthcare in place. <p>Council believes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This council has an important role in improving the health and wellbeing of our residents. • Primary health provision should be planned based on population growth and vision for health care provision in the district. • That sufficient infrastructure such as transport, health and education should be provided alongside, and preferably ahead of new housing development. • The current national system for ensuring health infrastructure is provided, through Clinical Commissioning Groups, is not working. <p>Council requests:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Officers continue to work with Clinical Commissioning Groups to ensure sufficient provision is made for primary care services for growth areas such as Didcot, Wallingford, Thame and Chinnor and other locations under pressure. 2. The council leader, recognising that there are a number of CCGs involved in the provision of health care services, write to the CCGs to arrange meetings to discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing better working relationship between the CCGs and the District Council. • Ensuring CCGs take a more pro-active approach to our planning process and respond to planning application consultations in a timely and ongoing basis to support the work of our planning department and our Infrastructure and development team. • How the CCGs can engage more proactively with the planning authority to better plan healthcare for strategic sites housing sites in South Oxfordshire linked to the council's corporate plan theme of "Improved economic and community well-being". • To understand how CCGs use population forecasts to plan primary healthcare. • To discuss the particular cases of Wallingford, Didcot, Thame and Chinnor and other locations under pressure. 3. The Council Leader write to the Ministers for Health and MHCLG to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explain the difficulties local planning authorities have to obtain information and commitment to deliver health services | <p>Groups to ensure sufficient provision is made for primary care services for growth areas such as Didcot, Wallingford, Thame and Chinnor and other locations under pressure.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The council leader, recognising that there are a number of CCGs involved in the provision of health care services, write to the CCGs to arrange meetings to discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing better working relationship between the CCGs and the District Council. • Ensuring CCGs take a more pro-active approach to our planning process and respond to planning application consultations in a timely and ongoing basis to support the work of our planning department and our Infrastructure and development team. • How the CCGs can engage more proactively with the planning authority to better plan healthcare for strategic sites housing sites in South Oxfordshire linked to the council's corporate plan theme of "Improved economic and community well-being". • To understand how CCGs use population forecasts to plan primary healthcare. • To discuss the particular cases of Wallingford, Didcot, Thame and Chinnor and other locations under pressure. 3. The Council Leader write to the Ministers for Health and MHCLG to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explain the difficulties local planning authorities have to obtain information and commitment to deliver health services from CCGs. • press the need for whatever structure replaces Clinical Commissioning groups as part of the health reform has working with local planning authorities and its heart | <p>the CCGs and the Council leaders.</p> <p>The Leader, supported by officers, met with Directors for the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) on 24 May 2021 which has led to a useful ongoing officer liaison. We were also seeking additional meetings with other bordering CCGs, Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group and Buckinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group to better support and facilitate collaboration in delivering local health services and infrastructure.</p> <p>The discussion with OCCG included information on how population forecasts are used to plan healthcare requirements in the district and how the council can improve working with the CCG to ensure healthcare needs are included in S106 agreements and ensuring the associated monies are spent in a timely manner.</p> <p>Officers are also in the process of arranging a presentation for all councillors by the OCCG to explain how they operate and discuss future reforms. An all-Cllr briefing was held in September 2021.</p> | | |
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| | | <p>from CCGs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> press the need for whatever structure replaces Clinical Commissioning groups as part of the health reform has working with local planning authorities and its heart (recognising that this may be difficult if they are being reorganised). ask what government are doing to increase the number of GPs and other health staff and funding to keep up with number of homes. | <p>(recognising that this may be difficult if they are being reorganised).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ask what government are doing to increase the number of GPs and other health staff and funding to keep up with number of homes. | | | |
| South M33 | 25th March 2021 | <p>That this Council recognises that financial security is critical to a stable and thriving society. Yet, too many people are without enough money to meet their basic needs. Universal Basic Income (UBI) is an opportunity to revolutionise a welfare system that is no longer fit for purpose.</p> <p>UBI would provide every adult (regardless of employment status, wealth, or marital status) with a fixed, regular and unconditional income to relieve some of the financial pressures facing households. It is a monthly grant sufficient to contribute to the basic needs of food, shelter and education. It is a fair way of eliminating poverty, guaranteeing a minimum standard of living, and improving well-being. It helps the local economy by providing stability and security; allowing people to thrive rather than just survive.</p> <p>There have been several trials of basic income internationally and most recently in Finland. Results have been encouraging. Spain is rolling it out as part of their COVID-19 response measures.</p> <p>Council requests:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The leader of the council writes to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, South Oxfordshire Members of Parliament and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions requesting the UK Government undertakes pilot studies for the Universal Basic Income, and that South Oxfordshire be included in any pilot. That such pilot studies gather evidence of the effectiveness of a Universal Basic Income on reducing inequality, disadvantage and poverty. That the Leader sends a copy of any responses from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, South Oxfordshire Members of Parliament and the Secretary of State for Work and Pension to all councillors as and when replies are received. | <p>Council requests:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The leader of the council writes to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, South Oxfordshire Members of Parliament and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions requesting the UK Government undertakes pilot studies for the Universal Basic Income, and that South Oxfordshire be included in any pilot. That such pilot studies gather evidence of the effectiveness of a Universal Basic Income on reducing inequality, disadvantage and poverty. That the Leader sends a copy of any responses from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, South Oxfordshire Members of Parliament and the Secretary of State for Work and Pension to all councillors as and when replies are received. | Letters drafted | Head of Finance | Closed |
| South M34 Page 24 | 25th March 2021 | <p>That Council agrees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That Council is committed, through its Equality and Diversity policies and procedures, and its Corporate Plan to delivering in a fair and inclusive way. This Council notes that it is already certificated as a Disability Confident Employer, and is further committed to continuing its positive work in this area To explore developing an Action Plan on Neurodiversity which sits within the Inclusion and Diversity Strategy and includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using best practice from Autism charities and Neurodiversity partnerships, recruitment and HR practices for supporting neurodivergent candidates and employees Developing a needs assessment process specific to neurodivergence so reasonable adjustments can be made | <p>To explore developing an Action Plan on Neurodiversity which sits within the Inclusion and Diversity Strategy and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using best practice from Autism charities and Neurodiversity partnerships, recruitment and HR practices for supporting neurodivergent candidates and employees Developing a needs assessment process specific to neurodivergence so reasonable adjustments can | <p>Relevant officers informed.</p> <p>The diversity inclusion strategy is being developed in discussion with the portfolio holder and lead for equalities.</p> | Head of Corporate Services | Open |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Putting in place coaching/mentoring/a buddy system for staff who are neurodivergent Undertaking a review of our services to ensure they are accessible to neurodivergent individuals and making adaptations where necessary Making the action plan (toolkit) publicly available as a resource for other local employers (via South and Vale business support newsletter) Continuing to work with partners across Oxfordshire to share best practice on issues pertaining to neurodiversity Setting up learning and awareness events and using communication channels including social media consultation on a draft action plan with people with lived experience | <p>be made</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Putting in place coaching/mentoring/a buddy system for staff who are neurodivergent Undertaking a review of our services to ensure they are accessible to neurodivergent individuals and making adaptations where necessary Making the action plan (toolkit) publicly available as a resource for other local employers (via South and Vale business support newsletter) Continuing to work with partners across Oxfordshire to share best practice on issues pertaining to neurodiversity Setting up learning and awareness events and using communication channels including social media consultation on a draft action plan with people with lived experience | | | |
| South M35 | 25th March 2021 | That this council should seek to encourage developers to work closely with the local council (parish/town) to develop appropriate leisure facilities for that area. | That this council should seek to encourage developers to work closely with the local council (parish/town) to develop appropriate leisure facilities for that area. | Relevant officers informed. | Head of Development & Corporate Landlord | Open |
| South M36 | 15th July 2021 | <p>Council recognises that after four years of delays to the long-awaited environment bill we are still without crucial laws to restore nature and tackle climate change.</p> <p>We are alarmed by the 68% decline in global wildlife populations since 1970 and feel we must take measures to act in the face of Conservative high population growth aspirations for the Oxford/Cambridge Arc.</p> <p>We welcome plans to extend the Chilterns AONB but recognise that all our residents deserve access to nature.</p> <p>With this in mind this Council agrees to support, in principle, the creation of new protected areas in Oxfordshire.</p> <p>Some outline plans have already been devised by local groups, like plans for a 36 sq mile park comprising Otmoor and the Royal Forests of Bernwood and Stowood, which have the widespread support of local people and parish councils.</p> <p>These kinds of plans fit with the government's stated 25 Year Environment Plan commitments and its pledge to protect 30% of the UK's land by 2030.</p> <p>To ensure we are 'spade ready' for any expressions of interest, Council asks the Leader to bring a paper to Cabinet on:</p> | <p>Council asks the Leader to bring a paper to Cabinet on:</p> <p>How the Council can take a lead in developing and promoting regional parks including at the landscape-scale as part of Oxfordshire's nature recovery network through its partnerships, and with government agencies, investigating the most appropriate protections and designations to seek which are likely to attract funding.</p> | Relevant officers informed. | Head of Policy & Programmes | Open |

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| | | How the Council can take a lead in developing and promoting regional parks including at the landscape-scale as part of Oxfordshire's nature recovery network through its partnerships, and with government agencies, investigating the most appropriate protections and designations to seek which are likely to attract funding. | | | | |
| South M37 | 15th July 2021 | <p>That Council notes:</p> <p>Councils are responsible for organising all elections in England. The recent Queen's Speech contained government proposals to require people to show identification including a photograph in order to vote in a General Election. Allegations of electoral registration or voter fraud are very rare in South Oxfordshire.</p> <p>Council believes:</p> <p>Voting at elections is the cornerstone of democracy at both local and national level.</p> <p>Participation in elections should be encouraged in all those who are qualified regardless of age, ethnicity or income.</p> <p>Unnecessary barriers to voting are likely to reduce voter participation in elections, proper representation of all parts of the community and so legitimacy of those elected to office.</p> <p>Voter ID is a solution without a problem and as such insinuates barriers to voting which should be of great concern to anyone who supports an open and effective democratic system of government.</p> <p>Council Resolves:</p> <p>To oppose the introduction of photo ID as a requirement to vote at polling stations.</p> <p>To request the Leader to write to the relevant minister indicating this opposition and the reasons why and requesting this measure is not included in any forthcoming Bill.</p> <p>That should mandatory photo ID be passed into law, this council will investigate low-cost options for residents, bearing in mind the barriers outlined and focus efforts to promote the ID to those who are most likely to need it.</p> | <p>Council Resolves:</p> <p>To oppose the introduction of photo ID as a requirement to vote at polling stations.</p> <p>To request the Leader to write to the relevant minister indicating this opposition and the reasons why and requesting this measure is not included in any forthcoming Bill.</p> <p>That should mandatory photo ID be passed into law, this council will investigate low-cost options for residents, bearing in mind the barriers outlined and focus efforts to promote the ID to those who are most likely to need it.</p> | Relevant officers informed and letter drafted | Head of Legal & Democratic Services | Closed |
| South M38 Page 26 | 15th July 2021 | <p>That Council notes our CEO is an LGA Peer and has previously asked group leaders to support our Council being peer challenged. Council supports him in this and recognizes the contribution that our officers have made to national best practice.</p> | Council supports the proposal of being peer-challenged by the LGA | Relevant officers informed, and discussions with the LGA are ongoing over timing, as this needs to be after the current work with CIPFA is completed and the planned review of the development management service, which will help inform the evidence base and base line information for the Peer Review. Late summer/early autumn 2023 has been provisionally identified for the peer challenge. | Chief Executive | Open |

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| South M39 | 7th October 2021 | <p>Council notes that the Government is currently running its public consultation on the Vision for “the Oxford to Cambridge Arc”.</p> <p>It appears that Government has made economic growth its priority for the Arc, without asking residents whether that is the right priority, considering natural limits and resource constraints, or even whether the Arc project is necessary.</p> <p>The Dasgupta review, published earlier this year¹, found that the UK’s traditional approach to growth is unsustainable.</p> <p>Local authority leaders, including from this council, have tried to prioritise nature and climate action by proposing Arc Environmental Principles, but the Government’s current consultation ignores them, as noted by BBOWT², RSPB³ and others.</p> <p>Council notes these concerns and asks the Leader to write to the new Minister for Levelling up, Housing and Communities, asking him to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pause the Arc project to reflect on whether the creation of an arbitrary geographic construct driving excessive growth in the South East will make a positive contribution to the government’s stated aim of ‘levelling up’ the UK. - If the project is to continue, set out clearly what the Government’s aims for it are, including expected costs, projected housing and growth expectations, and how it will fit into a wider regional structure within the UK. - Give local authorities within the Arc area the powers and funding needed to enable landscape-scale nature restoration and world-leading environmental standards. - Ensure proper local democratic control, with constituent local planning authorities able to set their own housing requirements based on local need. <p>¹ https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/the-economics-of-biodiversity-the-dasgupta-review ² https://www.bbowl.org.uk/blog/estelle-bailey/government-must-rethink-arc-avoid-environmental-catastrophe ³ https://community.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/b/rspb-england/posts/time-to-rethink-the-arc</p> | <p>Council notes these concerns and asks the Leader to write to the new Minister for Levelling up, Housing and Communities, asking him to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pause the Arc project to reflect on whether the creation of an arbitrary geographic construct driving excessive growth in the South East will make a positive contribution to the government’s stated aim of ‘levelling up’ the UK. - If the project is to continue, set out clearly what the Government’s aims for it are, including expected costs, projected housing and growth expectations, and how it will fit into a wider regional structure within the UK. - Give local authorities within the Arc area the powers and funding needed to enable landscape-scale nature restoration and world-leading environmental standards. - Ensure proper local democratic control, with constituent local planning authorities able to set their own housing requirements based on local need. | <p>Letter sent and relevant officers informed.</p> <p>This position was incorporated into the Council’s response to the Oxford-Cambridge Arc Spatial Framework consultation in October 2021.</p> | Deputy Chief Executive Partnerships | Open |
| South M40 Page 27 | 7th October 2021 | <p>Council acknowledges the appointment of a new Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. It welcomes the fact that he is reconsidering HM Government’s proposed planning reforms and hopes he makes use of this opportunity to prioritise ambitions to address the climate emergency, protect and enhance the natural environment and increase biodiversity – all of which will help to improve the health and well-being of the nation. It is only by putting sustainability at the heart of these matters that the UK will be able to deliver on its environmental ambitions.</p> <p>The Council notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · the appointment of Michael Gove as Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. · the upcoming United Nations COP26 climate summit gives government at all levels the opportunity to galvanise action on reducing emissions. · HM Government’s stated ambitions to Build Back Better, | <p>Council asks the Leader to write to the Secretary of State calling upon HM Government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scrap the current proposals for planning reform and maintain the right of local residents to engage and comment on individual planning applications • transform the local planning process into one that assesses the climate fitness of a district and plans for growth within the environmental capacity of the area, looking at carbon | <p>Letters sent and relevant officers informed.</p> | Head of Policy & Programmes | Closed |

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| | | <p>achieve Net Zero and to leave the natural environment in a better state than it found it.</p> <p>Council calls for HM Government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scrap the current proposals for planning reform and maintain the right of local residents to engage and comment on individual planning applications • transform the local planning process into one that assesses the climate fitness of a district and plans for growth within the environmental capacity of the area, looking at carbon emissions, water availability and the pressing need for nature recovery at scale • maintain the right of local people, through robust Neighbourhood and Local Plan processes, to decide how their communities develop sustainably • reverse the recently introduced permitted development rights which bypass local decision-making • support councils in adopting strong local and strategic planning policies (including through plans like the Oxfordshire Plan 2050) to maximise protection for the environment, decarbonise, recycle urban land, revitalise existing places and plan for new development within the limits of climate and environmental capacity, to create strong, healthy, sustainable communities where people want, and can afford, to live • in the process of decarbonising and protecting the environment, perform a thorough review of both Building Regulations and NPPF, require property developments to be built to net carbon zero standards in manufacture and in use, or justify any shortfall. <p>and asks the Leader to write to the Secretary of State and our local Members of Parliament to this effect and to reiterate this Council's belief that the 5 Year Housing Land Supply measure is flawed and inappropriate, as Councils should not be held to account for the actions – or indeed lack of action - of developers, with regard to the delivery of housing on allocated or approved development sites.</p> | <p>emissions, water availability and the pressing need for nature recovery at scale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintain the right of local people, through robust Neighbourhood and Local Plan processes, to decide how their communities develop sustainably • reverse the recently introduced permitted development rights which bypass local decision-making • support councils in adopting strong local and strategic planning policies (including through plans like the Oxfordshire Plan 2050) to maximise protection for the environment, decarbonise, recycle urban land, revitalise existing places and plan for new development within the limits of climate and environmental capacity, to create strong, healthy, sustainable communities where people want, and can afford, to live • in the process of decarbonising and protecting the environment, perform a thorough review of both Building Regulations and NPPF, require property developments to be built to net carbon zero standards in manufacture and in use, or justify any shortfall. <p>The leader should also reiterate the Council's opposition to the 5-Year land supply measure</p> | | | |
| South M41 Page 28 | 7th October 2021 | <p>In March 2020, as we were faced with the economic fallout from the pandemic, the Government did the right thing and increased Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit by £20 a week.</p> <p>Council notes that this £20 a week is now to be cut, coming into effect for families on Universal Credit from 6 October. This cut will mean the biggest overnight cut to the basic rate of social security since the modern welfare state began, more than 70 years ago.</p> <p>According to analysis by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 21% of all working-age families will experience a £1,040-a-year cut to their incomes from this week.</p> | <p>The Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (copied to our local MPs) expressing our grave concern about the impact on families within the district and to request that the decision to cut the Universal Credit uplift reversed, and that the uplift be incorporated permanently into Universal Credit.</p> | Letters sent and response received. | Head of Finance | Closed |

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| | | <p>Many of the same families will be seeing an increase in National Insurance costs. Lower income households spend more of their income on basic essentials such as food and utilities, and the cost of these is currently rising fast.</p> <p>The Government says it wants to support people back into work as we emerge from the crisis. But working families make up around 60% of families who will be affected.</p> <p>Council reiterates our corporate plan commitment to support vulnerable members of our community through improved economic and community wellbeing.</p> <p>Council acknowledges the concerns raised by local and national charities (including as Elmore, Citizens Advice Bureau and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation) about the significantly negative impact this cut will have on the financial security and wellbeing of those effected in our district.</p> <p>Council deplores the decision of the Government to remove the 'temporary' uplift in Universal Credit which will directly impact at least 5,024* families in the South Oxfordshire district.</p> <p>Council therefore resolves to ask the Leader to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (copied to our local MPs) expressing our grave concern about the impact on families within the district and to request that the decision to cut the Universal Credit uplift reversed, and that the uplift be incorporated permanently into Universal Credit.</p> <p>*The total number of households on Universal Credit as of May 2021 is 6,060; of which 5,024 are in payment. (Gov.uk)</p> | | | | |
| South M42 | 7th October 2021 | <p>Council notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The recent report by Swim England which warns that almost 2,000 pools could be lost in England by the end of the decade. - The Council's annual greenhouse gas emission report (https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/04/Greenhouse-gas-emissions-report-South-2019-20.docx) in respect to our aging leisure centres, coupled with the need to decarbonise wet side facilities to achieve the council's carbon reduction targets, rightly requires a focus on heat decarbonisation and whole building approach. - That phase one and two of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund were oversubscribed within weeks of opening, highlighting the need to move away from stop-start initiatives of ringfenced pots of money with competitive bidding processes – and, instead, resource local areas to deliver their own decarbonisation strategies. - That competitive bidding for funds can put significant resource pressure on lean councils without guarantee of award. - That the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund's eligibility criteria make the fund particularly inaccessible to councils whose leisure centres are operated by third party providers. - Long-term funding, delivered through local authorities would deliver positive outcomes in terms of enhancing the future of public swimming pools, potentially decrease the long-term cost of operating pools, and contribute to the reduction of carbon | <p>Council resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue work on evaluation of the best ways to decarbonise our leisure centres at a pace, so that applications for phase 3 or any subsequent rounds of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund can be utilised, noting the constraints above and that the criteria for these funding routes are set nationally. - Agree that the leader writes to BEIS highlighting both the barriers in the existing schemes, as well as the urgent need for the Government to set out a long-term funding for safeguarding and decarbonising leisure centres and move away from competitive bidding in order to support local authorities to lead the way in the delivery of a net zero future for leisure. | <p>Letters sent and relevant officers informed.</p> <p>Site assessments are being conducted at our leisure centres and a "model" bid being drafted with external support, so we know what good looks like to improve opportunities of future success in the scheme.</p> | Head of Development & Corporate Landlord | Open |

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| | | <p>emissions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Long-term funding, invested through local authorities and other public sector organisations, will also provide local suppliers with the confidence to invest in staff, skills and the technology. <p>Council resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue work on evaluation of the best ways to decarbonise our leisure centres at a pace, so that applications for phase 3 or any subsequent rounds of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund can be utilised, noting the constraints above and that the criteria for these funding routes are set nationally. - Agree that the leader writes to BEIS highlighting both the barriers in the existing schemes, as well as the urgent need for the Government to set out a long-term funding for safeguarding and decarbonising leisure centres and move away from competitive bidding in order to support local authorities to lead the way in the delivery of a net zero future for leisure. | | | | |
| South M43 | 7th October 2021 | <p>Council notes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two years ago, Sue Ryder at Nettlebed closed. Therefore, in South Oxfordshire there is no End-of-Life palliative hospice care provision. South Oxfordshire has a population of 140,000 and from Thame to Didcot and Caversham, from Oxford to Henley on Thames there are no end-of-life residential care facilities. • The Duchess of Kent (Tilehurst) and Sobell House (Oxford) are not admitting any new patients. Thames Hospice in Maidenhead has 26 Beds, and all are full. <p>Council questions why does Berkshire have great End of Life Palliative hospice care and yet the Clinical Commissioning Groups covering South Oxfordshire provide absolutely none within its boundaries?</p> <p>Council resolves that South Oxfordshire residents deserve better and asks the Leader of the council to write to the Clinical Commissioning Groups covering South Oxfordshire calling on them to properly analyse the need and provide suitable residential hospice care with appropriate specialist care from nurses, doctors and consultants.</p> | <p>Leader of the council to write to the Clinical Commissioning Groups covering South Oxfordshire calling on them to properly analyse the need and provide suitable residential hospice care with appropriate specialist care from nurses, doctors and consultants.</p> | <p>Letters sent and relevant officers informed.</p> | <p>Head of Policy & Programmes</p> | <p>Closed</p> |
| South M44 | 7th October 2021 | <p>Council notes that:</p> <p>Joint Scrutiny have approved their Task and Finish group's report on Retrofitting Homes in the Districts and this report will go for consideration to the Climate & Ecological Emergencies Advisory Committee and Cabinet.</p> <p>Retrofitting homes for energy efficiency is essential to achieve our carbon emission reduction target.</p> <p>Energy efficient measures in homes also addresses health inequalities and fuel poverty.</p> <p>Local Authorities are well placed to be a leading partner in co-ordinating this complex but urgent issue, alongside LEPs.</p> <p>The government's Green Homes Grant was a failure on its own terms and could have set back retrofitting in this country.</p> <p>The National Construction Leadership Council (CLC) has already developed a national Retrofit Strategy and says a 'retrofit army' is needed.</p> | <p>Council resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Write to the Minister of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP, the Minister of State for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities, Rt Hon Michael Gove MP and the president of COP26, Rt Hon Alok Sharma, enclosing the Joint Scrutiny Report, urging them to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • address this issue as a priority, recognising its importance in achieving our national and international carbon emission targets; • suggest that Ministers use the Construction Leadership Council's Retrofit Strategy as a basis for a government policy and plan; | <p>Letters sent and relevant officers informed.</p> <p>Work is progressing in partnership through the Future Oxfordshire Partnership Environment Advisory Group on a co-ordinated Oxfordshire approach to retrofit.</p> | <p>Head of Policy & Programmes</p> | <p>Open</p> |

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| | | <p>The UK is hosting the UN COP26 conference in November and our government should have evidence-based concrete strategies in place to achieve massive carbon savings, essential if we are to work with the global community to limit catastrophic climate breakdown.</p> <p>Council resolves to:</p> <p>1. Write to the Minister of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP, the Minister of State for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities, Rt Hon Michael Gove MP and the president of COP26, Rt Hon Alok Sharma, enclosing the Joint Scrutiny Report, urging them to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • address this issue as a priority, recognising its importance in achieving our national and international carbon emission targets; • suggest that Ministers use the Construction Leadership Council's Retrofit Strategy as a basis for a government policy and plan; • include adequate funding for all Local Authorities in any retrofit strategy as they are perfectly placed to lead local Retrofit partnerships and strategies alongside LEPs; • develop long term support for householders including changes in relevant laws, guidance and tax regulations and to encourage businesses and skills development in this area; • recognise the benefits to society in better health and wellbeing from energy efficient homes; • recognise the industrial and employment opportunities that a countrywide retrofit plan could present to the British economy <p>2. Work collaboratively with local and national government partners, the Oxfordshire LEP, the FOP Environment Advisory Board, businesses and NGOs to seek to develop the capacity for such a 'retrofit army', identify external funding sources and to offer advice and support to individuals, households and businesses wishing to retrofit their buildings where possible.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • include adequate funding for all Local Authorities in any retrofit strategy as they are perfectly placed to lead local Retrofit partnerships and strategies alongside LEPs; • develop long term support for householders including changes in relevant laws, guidance and tax regulations and to encourage businesses and skills development in this area; • recognise the benefits to society in better health and wellbeing from energy efficient homes; • recognise the industrial and employment opportunities that a countrywide retrofit plan could present to the British economy <p>2. Work collaboratively with local and national government partners, the Oxfordshire LEP, the FOP Environment Advisory Board, businesses and NGOs to seek to develop the capacity for such a 'retrofit army', identify external funding sources and to offer advice and support to individuals, households and businesses wishing to retrofit their buildings where possible.</p> | | | |
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