

# Council



Listening Learning Leading

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Date: 6 March 2023

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## Summons to attend a meeting of Council

to be held on

**TUESDAY 14 MARCH 2023 AT 6.00 PM**

at

**DIDCOT CIVIC HALL, BRITWELL ROAD, DIDCOT, OX11 7JN**

Alternative formats of this publication are available on request. These include large print, Braille, audio cassette or CD, and email. For this or any other special requirements (such as access facilities) please contact the officer named on this agenda. Please give as much notice as possible before the meeting.

Patrick Arran

Head of Legal and Democratic

Note: Please remember to sign the attendance register.

# Agenda

## 1 Apologies for absence

To record apologies for absence.

## 2 Minutes (Pages 6 - 22)

To adopt and sign as a correct record the Council minutes of the meetings held on 8 December 2022 and 16 February 2023.

## 3 Declarations of interest

To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests, other registrable interests and non-registrable interests or any conflicts of interest in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

## 4 Urgent business and chair's announcements

To receive notification of any matters which the chair determines should be considered as urgent business and the special circumstances which have made the matters urgent, and to receive any announcements from the chair.

## 5 Public participation

To receive any questions or statements from members of the public that have registered to speak.

## 6 Petitions

To receive any petitions from the public.

## 7 Making the Sonning Common Development Plan (Pages 23 - 29)

To consider the recommendations of the Cabinet member for planning, made on 2 March 2023, regarding the neighbourhood plan for Sonning Common following the referendum held on 23 February 2023.

The Individual Cabinet Member Decision is attached.

### RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: to

1. make the Sonning Common Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan, Review, so that it continues to be part of the council's development plan; and
2. authorise the head of policy and programmes, in consultation with the Cabinet member for planning, and in agreement with the Qualifying Body, Sonning Common Parish Council, to correct any spelling, grammatical, typographical or factual errors together with any improvements from a presentational perspective.

## **8 Progress on approved Council motions (Pages 30 - 36)**

To note progress on the approved Council motions – paper attached.

## **9 Report of the leader of the council**

To receive the report of the Leader of the council.

## **10 Questions on notice**

To receive questions from councillors in accordance with Council procedure rule 33.

- A. Question from Councillor Snowdon to Councillor Rouane, Leader of the council.

Can the leader explain how South Oxfordshire District Council's own planning application P22/V2705/FUL, which proposes to tarmac over open green spaces earmarked as a wildflower meadow next to a proposed allotment, which will destroy a huge amount of biodiversity, whilst also being overshadowed by brownfield industrial land, meets with the alleged priorities of this council to tackle the climate emergency?

- B. Question from Councillor Snowdon to Councillor Bennett, Cabinet member for economic development and regeneration

Will the Cabinet member responsible for delivering infrastructure on housing developments explain in his almost four years in that role, what he has delivered for the residents of Great Western Park, Didcot now that the final houses have been completed? In particular, the GP surgery, allotments, youth shelter, orchard, playparks and so on, which are all part of the masterplan.

- C. Question from Councillor Bartholomew to Councillor Rouane, Leader of the council

The bulky waste collection service was suspended at the beginning of the year, so when residents tried to book collection, they were advised they should take bulky items to HWRCs themselves. This suggestion was not helpful, as residents that use the collection service are generally ones that are unable to take bulky items to HWRCs themselves! Furthermore, any suspension is likely result in an increase in fly-tipping.

Why was so little advance publicity given to this matter and why was proper advance planning not in place to avoid any suspension of the service in the first place?

## 11 Motions on notice

To consider motions from councillors in accordance with Council procedure rule 38.

(1) Motion to be proposed by Councillor Newton, seconded by Councillor Murphy:

This Council acknowledges the need for renewable energy to be generated here in this district to help meet demand for power and accepts that solar power will be a part of this mix until other technologies come forward.

However, this Council is concerned that some villages and valued landscapes in the district could be disproportionately affected by the cumulative impact of solar farms; and that valuable agricultural land is at risk of being taken out of production.

In this regard, this Council welcomes the emphasis in the draft National Planning Policy Framework to considering the availability of agricultural land for food production when deciding which sites are most appropriate for solar farm development.

This Council therefore resolves to ask officers to fully consider the cumulative impact of solar farm development during the planning process now; and urgently to progress work on policies relating to solar energy generation, to include:

- Developing planning policies that balance the benefits of local power generation with the loss of productive agricultural land and valuable landscape;
- Ensuring that the cumulative impacts of large solar arrays in open countryside and in the vicinity of settlements are fully assessed in the development management process;
- Limiting excessive massing of solar farms in any area of the district; and
- Encouraging the deployment of rooftop solar and exploring approaches for heritage assets.

(2) Motion to be proposed by Councillor Khan, seconded by Councillor Wilson:

**South Oxfordshire District Council** believe there is a clear need for:

- a health centre and GP hub for Great Western Park in Didcot
- a well-resourced Minor Injuries Unit or similar (which could be based at Didcot Community Hospital)
- more NHS dental facilities for Didcot and the villages
- increased resources to support mental health

Council resolves:

1. As a first step, to share its concerns with the following bodies by writing to and engaging with:

- a) Didcot Primary Care Network
- b) Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board
- c) Healthwatch Oxfordshire
- d) Oxfordshire Joint Health Oversight and Scrutiny Committee

- e) The Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire West (BOB) Integrated Care Board
- f) The BOB Integrated Care Partnership

2.To call on all those responsible for health decisions that affect the wellbeing of SODC residents, to work together to ensure these needs are urgently addressed. We look particularly to the newly established Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire & West Berkshire Integrated Care Board for a response to these serious concerns.

Patrick Arran  
Head of Legal and Democratic



# Minutes

## OF A MEETING OF THE

## Council



Listening Learning Leading

**Held on Thursday 8 December 2022 at 6.00 pm  
Didcot Civic Hall, Britwell Road, Didcot, OX11 7JN**

### **Present in the meeting room:**

Councillors: David Turner (Chair), Anna Badcock, Pieter-Paul Barker, David Bartholomew, Tim Bearder, Robin Bennett, David Bretherton, Sam Casey-Rerhaye, Sue Cooper, Peter Dragonetti, Maggie Filipova-Rivers, Stefan Gawrysiak, Elizabeth Gillespie, Kate Gregory, Victoria Haval, Lorraine Hillier, Kellie Hinton, Alexandrine Kantor, Mocky Khan, Lynn Lloyd, Axel Macdonald, Jane Murphy, Andrea Powell, Leigh Rawlins, Jo Robb, Sue Roberts, David Rouane, Anne-Marie Simpson, Alan Thompson, Andrea Warren, Ian White and Celia Wilson

Officers: Steven Corrigan, Democratic Services Manager

### **Remote attendance:**

Officers: Patrick Arran, Head of Legal and Democratic

### **Apologies for absence:**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Ken Arlett, Caroline Newton and Ian Snowdon

Council observed a minute's silence in memory of former Councillor John Stimson who had recently died.

Councillor David Turner, Chair of council, presented Councillor Jo Robb with the past chairs badge in recognition of her service as Chair of council in 2021/22.

## **48 Minutes**

**RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 13 October 2022 as a correct record and agree that the Chair sign them as such.

## **49 Declarations of interest**

Patrick Arran and Steven Corrigan, both deputy returning officers, declared interests in agenda item 11 – Elections – scale of fees and charges, as likely recipients of fees agreed by Council.

## 50 Urgent business and chair's announcements

The Chair provided general housekeeping advice. The Chair provided details of the events he had attended since the last meeting of Council.

## 51 Public participation

- A. The following question was submitted by Need Not Greed Oxfordshire (NNGO) and circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. No representative was in attendance to ask the question.

Following the demise of the Oxfordshire Plan, each Council is now assessing its own housing numbers but, as we know, decisions taken by Oxford City are likely to have significant ramifications for the surrounding Districts. A high level of due diligence over the process is therefore required.

Our understanding is that Oxford City Council is proposing to use an alternative method to calculate (and thereby increase) its housing "need". The City's housing figures are being prepared by the same consultants who prepared the original Oxfordshire Growth Needs Assessment. We believe they will almost certainly be inflated by overly optimistic economic growth projections and substantial affordable housing uplifts and will not align with what most of us understand to be actual housing need. And this is being proposed by the City in the full knowledge that it will be looking to the District Councils to provide the housing for this unmet "need".

Need not Greed Oxfordshire would therefore like to ask the South Oxfordshire District Council whether:

1. It is supportive of Oxford City's proposal to use an alternative method to calculate (and to thereby increase) its housing "need"?
2. It intends to cooperate with Oxford City Council by agreeing to meet its unmet housing, even when this does not represent need as assessed by the Standard Method?
3. It agrees it would be beneficial for the City to use different consultants from those used to prepare the Oxfordshire Growth Needs Assessment which was widely regarded as not fit for purpose?
4. It agrees that, in order to avoid conflicts of interest, it would be wise for each of the Oxfordshire Local Authorities to avoid the use of housing market assessment consultants who receive substantial amounts of their income from developers?

Councillor David Rouane, Leader of the council, provided the following response.

### **Q1. It is supportive of Oxford City's proposal to use an alternative method to calculate (and to thereby increase) its housing "need"?**

The Government's Planning Practice Guidance sets out "there is an expectation that the standard method will be used, and that any other method will be used only in exceptional circumstances". To use an alternative method, the City Council must demonstrate that such exceptional circumstances exist. As we set out in our recent response to Oxford's Local Plan consultation, the situation has changed significantly since the last round of local plans meaning that the original exceptional circumstances would not continue to justify a departure from the standard method. In our view Oxford City has not yet demonstrated that the exceptional circumstances threshold is met to justify a departure from the standard method, so we would expect need to be calculated using the Standard Method.

South Oxfordshire District Council's response to the Oxford City Local Plan consultation, November 2022, is available on our website at <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/11/South-response-letter-to-Oxford-Local-Plan-FINAL.pdf>

**Q2. It intends to cooperate with Oxford City Council by agreeing to meet its unmet housing, even when this does not represent need as assessed by the Standard Method?**

It is too early in the plan-making processes to make this determination. Oxford City Council has not completed its new housing need evidence nor made a formal request to this Council around taking further unmet housing need. South Oxfordshire has already made a significant contribution to Oxford's unmet needs, taking 4,950 homes for Oxford in our local plan which was adopted in 2020. We responded to Oxford's statement in their recent preferred options consultation that "Oxford can never meet its full housing need" by pointing out that we consider this premature and unambitious, an unhelpful predetermination prior to collection of necessary evidence.

We have pointed out that the City Council has had the opportunity to provide significant numbers of homes on a number of sites that have become available for redevelopment in recent years but have chosen to not build homes on those sites.

**Q3. It agrees it would be beneficial for the City to use different consultants from those used to prepare the Oxfordshire Growth Needs Assessment which was widely regarded as not fit for purpose?**

We have no influence over the City's choice of consultants and make no comment on this.

**Q4. It agrees that, in order to avoid conflicts of interest, it would be wise for each of the Oxfordshire Local Authorities to avoid the use of housing market assessment consultants who receive substantial amounts of their income from developers?**

Avoiding conflicts of interest when appointing consultants is a matter for individual local authorities to determine via their procurement process.

- B. Councillor John Gilbert addressed Council on behalf of Tetsworth Parish Council and neighbouring parish councils (Aston Rowant, Great Milton, Great Haseley and Lewknor) seeking policy changes as part of the development of the Joint Local Plan in respect of large-scale solar farms. Mr Gilbert stated that, whilst there was support for the national and local climate mitigation initiatives including the development of solar farms, the current approval of developments demonstrated a policy deficit. Permissions were being granted irrespective of the cumulative environmental impact on rural communities and the loss of productive agricultural land. He stressed the need for a spatial strategy to direct solar power generation to new build commercial and domestic developments and to brownfield sites.

The Chair of Council thanked Mr Gilbert for his statement and confirmed that his supporting documents would be passed to the relevant councillors and officers.

## **52 Petitions**

None.



## 53 Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule Adoption

Council considered Cabinet's recommendations, made at its meeting on 10 November, on a review of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule.

In introducing the item and moving Cabinet's recommendations, Councillor Anne-Marie Simpson responded to Scrutiny Committee's concern in respect of developments that were originally not liable for CIL but could change use to become CIL liable as expressed in the committee's recommendation set out on the agenda for the Council meeting on 8 December 2022.

Councillor Simpson advised that officers had explored this issue and recommended a way forward. It was not possible to make additions to the CIL Charging Schedule because it had been through examination and Government guidance advises that generally, the charging schedule should not be amended after an examination until an authority chooses to undertake a full review and consult on a new schedule. In addition, changing the CIL Charging Schedule would not necessarily resolve the issue because the role of the Charging Schedule is to set CIL rates and not how CIL is applied which is set out in Regulations and Government guidance.

Whilst the CIL Charging Schedule could not be used to restrict permitted changes of use, where there are good planning reasons, measures to restrict the use of land can be captured in Section 106 agreements. Officers had therefore made a minor amendment to paragraph 1.11 of the revised Developer Contributions Supplementary Development Document to reflect this and require a developer to notify the council of a change of use to ascertain whether the development would be CIL liable or require infrastructure to be provided in the event of a change of use. Officers had also updated the CIL Frequently Asked Questions to reflect to provide further detail on how change of use applications would be handled in respect of CIL liability and clarify that, in some circumstances, such developments could become CIL liable.

A number of councillors expressed concern that the Scrutiny Committee had not reviewed the CIL Charging Schedule prior to Cabinet making recommendations to Council or as part of the consultation process and reiterated the concerns raised by the Scrutiny Committee in respect of change of use. The majority of councillors supported the recommendations welcoming the zoning proposals and the collection of higher rates.

### **RESOLVED:** to

1. adopt the Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule (as set out at Appendix 1 to the head of policy and programmes' report to Cabinet on 10 November 2022) and the Community Infrastructure Levy Instalments Policy (as set out at Appendix 2 to the same report), with implementation anticipated in early January 2023; and
2. authorise the head of policy and programmes, in consultation with the Cabinet member for planning, to make any necessary further minor changes to the documents or a change to the implementation date for the new Community Infrastructure Levy rates.

## 54 Housing Delivery Strategy and Action Plan

Council considered Cabinet's recommendations, made at its meeting on 10 November 2022, to use capital funding to invest in property to become social housing.

Cabinet had supported the housing delivery strategy and action plan as it would allow the council to pursue a range of options to provide housing, from exemplar schemes to retro-fitting existing homes, and bringing empty properties back into use.

Whilst the majority of councillors supported the recommendation, a number expressed concern regarding the lack of detail on timing, location and delivery of the schemes.

**RESOLVED:** to use of up to £2m of capital funding to invest in the purchase of property with the aim of them becoming social housing, as outlined in section 25-26 of the report of the deputy chief executive – place, to Cabinet on 10 November 2022.

## 55 Council tax base 2023/24

Council considered Cabinet's recommendations, made at its meeting on 2 December 2022, on the council tax base for 2023/24.

**RESOLVED:** to

1. approve the report of the head of finance for the calculation of the council's tax base and the calculation of the tax base for each parish area for 2023/2024;
2. agree that, in accordance with The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, the amount calculated by South Oxfordshire District Council as its council tax base for the year 2023/24 be 61,349.5; and
3. agree that, in accordance with The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, the amount calculated by South Oxfordshire District Council as the council tax base for the year 2023/24 for each parish be the amount shown against the name of that parish in Appendix A of the report of the head of finance to Cabinet on 1 December 2022.

## 56 Joint Henley and Harpsden Neighbourhood Development Plan

Council considered the recommendation of Councillor Simpson, Cabinet member for planning, made on 29 November 2022, to make the Joint Henley and Harpsden Neighbourhood Development Plan part of the development plan for South Oxfordshire.

**RESOLVED:**

1. To make the Joint Henley and Harpsden Neighbourhood Development Plan Review, so that it continues to be part of the council's development plan.
2. To authorise the Head of Policy and Programmes, in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet member and in agreement with the Qualifying Body, Henley Town Council, to correct any spelling, grammatical, typographical or factual errors together with any improvements from a presentational perspective.

## **57 Appointment of an independent member to the Joint Audit and Governance committee**

Council considered the recommendations of the Joint Audit and Governance Committee, made at its meeting on 15 November 2022, on the appointment of an independent person to the committee and a proposal that the Independent Remuneration Panel consider an appropriate level of allowance for such a position and the independent persons who assist the monitoring officer with code of conduct matters.

### **RESOLVED: to**

1. co-opt one independent person on to the Joint Audit and Governance Committee on a non-voting basis;
2. approve the person specification attached at appendix 1 to the report of the head of legal and democratic and monitoring officer to the meeting of the Joint Audit and Governance Committee held on 15 November 2022;
3. authorise the head of legal and democratic and monitoring officer and the section 151 officer, in consultation with the Joint Audit and Governance Committee co-chairs, to undertake the recruitment process and appoint an independent person to the Joint Audit and Governance Committee for a period of four years until May 2027;
4. authorise the head of legal and democratic to make changes to the councils' constitution to reflect the appointment;
5. ask the Independent Remuneration Panel to consider an appropriate level of remuneration for the role of independent person to the Joint Audit and Governance Committee and the independent persons dealing with code of conduct matters.

## **58 Review of the council's constitution**

Council considered the report of the head of legal and democratic on proposed changes to the council's constitution.

### **RESOLVED: to**

1. adopt the following sections of the Constitution with immediate effect:
  - a) the Procurement Procedure Rules, set out in Appendix B of the report of the head of legal and democratic to Council on 8 December 2022, as Part 4 (8);
  - b) the Anti-Fraud, Corruption and Bribery Policy, set out in Appendix C of the report of the head of legal and democratic to Council on 8 December 2022, as Part 5 (8);
  - c) the Whistleblowing Policy, set out in Appendix D of the report of the head of legal and democratic to Council on 8 December 2022, as Part 5 (3); and
2. authorise the head of legal and democratic to make these changes and any further minor or consequential amendments to the Constitution.

## **59 Elections - scales of fees and charges**

Steven Corrigan, a deputy returning officer, left the room during the debate and vote on this item. Patrick Arran, a deputy returning officer, was unable to hear or observe the debate or vote on the item.

Council considered the report of the returning officer on the setting of fees and charges for district and parish elections.

**RESOLVED:** to

1. agree the scales of fees for district and parish council elections, parish polls and neighbourhood planning referendums as set out in the Appendix to the report of the returning officer to Council on 8 December 2022;
2. agree that the scales of fees for staffing positions are amended to reflect those adopted by Oxfordshire County Council and authorise the returning officer to make such changes;
3. agree to continue to charge parish and town councils for running elections on their behalf.

## **60 Report of the leader of the council**

Councillor Rouane, Leader of the council, provided an update on a number of matters. The text of his address is available on the council's [website](#).

## **61 Questions on notice**

### **Question from Councillor Sam Casey-Rerhaye to Councillor David Rouane, Leader of the council**

HIF2 has been paused for review because of issues with escalating costs and the impact on the Compulsory Purchase Orders. Consequently, this Council needs to be informed of any possible changes to or impacts on the delivery of HIF1 from inflation or other costs pressures from, e.g. construction supply issues. I am particularly concerned as Cycle Champion of any impact increased costs might have on the delivery of the active travel features of the project as these are vital to both SODC and OCC's travel and carbon reduction targets. Please can the Leader seek reassurance from OCC that these features will not be downgraded or dropped if costs rise further and that South Oxfordshire District Council will be the first to be informed of any proposed changes or issues to the delivery of HIF1?

### **Written Response**

I can confirm that, at my request, our officers have recently been in contact with Oxfordshire County Council seeking confirmation that HIF1 will progress as planned. I am pleased to be able to confirm that in response, the County Council has confirmed that OCC is fully committed to HIF1 and its outcomes.

They advise that they are continuing with the delivery of the project as planned, and that as well as having submitted a live planning application, they are continuing with the design and land acquisition work for the scheme. HIF1 contains some vital components of what I hope will be a wider and sustained commitment to active travel solutions and both I, and our officers, will continue to emphasise to Oxfordshire County Council that it is important that the scheme as a whole, particularly the active travel elements, are delivered in full.

I recognise that delivery and accountability for the scheme rests with OCC, but given its importance to our residents, I have asked the Leader of OCC to ensure that South Oxfordshire District Council remains informed of any developments relating to it in a timely and appropriate fashion. I will also ensure that the areas raised within the question are raised formally as part of the next bi-lateral meeting between South Oxfordshire District Council and Oxfordshire County Council, as I have done before.

### **Supplementary question**

Thank you, I appreciate that you have contacted Oxfordshire County Council already and are ensuring that the issues I raise are in turn raised formally at the next bi lateral meeting with them.

Further I ask that you as Leader ensure the District Council is made aware of the traffic calming measures that are being discussed between the Parish Councils and OCC but are yet to be proposed in any formal way, e.g. the changing of access of the two old bridges at Long Wittenham and Culham both of which are in my ward. If we are to avoid the fate of all new roads and not have more car journeys generated as the direct result of having these new roads we must work with parish councils and the County Council to explore and help them implement changes to the existing transport infrastructure - I ask as Cycling champion for the District and from my concern that we must encourage, at every opportunity, people to use their cars less and to facilitate safe infrastructure to allow people to do this; and because, as the planning authority, it is our council that has proposed the new housing which has necessitated new transport infrastructure. And as chair of the Climate and Ecological Emergencies Advisory Committee I am all too aware of our net zero carbon target of 2030 for the whole district.

### **Answer**

In response Councillor Rouane confirmed that he would ask Oxfordshire County Council to make the District Council aware of any such proposals.

## **62 Motions on notice**

No motions were submitted for consideration by Council.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm

Chair

Date

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# Minutes



Listening Learning Leading

## OF THE BUDGET MEETING OF THE Council

**Held on Thursday 16 February 2023 at 6.00 pm  
Didcot Civic Hall, Britwell Road, Didcot, OX11 7JN**

### **Present in the meeting room:**

Councillors: David Turner (Chair), Anna Badcock, Pieter-Paul Barker, David Bartholomew, Robin Bennett, Sam Casey-Rerhaye, Sue Cooper, Peter Dragonetti, Maggie Filipova-Rivers, Stefan Gawrysiak, Kate Gregory, Victoria Haval, Lorraine Hillier, Kellie Hinton, Alexandrine Kantor, Mocky Khan, Lynn Lloyd, Jane Murphy, Caroline Newton, Andrea Powell, Leigh Rawlins, Jo Robb, Sue Roberts, David Rouane, Anne-Marie Simpson, Ian Snowdon, Alan Thompson, Andrea Warren, Ian White and Celia Wilson

Officers: Patrick Arran, Head of Legal & Democratic and Monitoring Officer, Steven Corrigan, Democratic Services Manager, Simon Hewings, Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer and Mark Stone, Chief Executive

Apologies for absence:

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Ken Arlett, Tim Bearder, Elizabeth Gillespie, George Levy and Axel Macdonald

### **51 Declarations of interest**

None.

### **52 Urgent business and chair's announcements**

The Chair provided general housekeeping advice. The Chair provided details of the events he had attended since the last meeting of Council.

### **53 Public participation**

No members of the public had registered to address Council.

### **54 Treasury Management Mid-Year Monitoring Report 2022/23**

Council considered Cabinet's recommendations, made at its meeting on 2 February 2023, on the treasury management performance in the first six months of 2022/23.

Councillor Barker, Cabinet member for finance, reported that income from cash investments was likely to be above budget by the financial year end due to increases in interest rates that were unexpected when the 2022/23 budget was set. The report set out

performance against benchmarks for the first six months of the financial year. There had been no borrowing during the first half of the year and borrowing was unlikely for the remainder of the year also.

Both the Joint Audit and Governance Committee, at its meeting on 31 January, and Cabinet, at its meeting on 3 February 2023, were content that the treasury management activities had been carried out in accordance with the treasury management strategy and policy.

**RESOLVED: to**

1. note the treasury management mid-year monitoring report 2022/23; and
2. note that Cabinet is satisfied that the treasury activities are carried out in accordance with the treasury management strategy and policy.

## **55 Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2023/24**

Council considered the head of finance's report on a draft treasury management and investment strategy for 2023/24 which set out Cabinet's recommendations, made at its meeting on 2 February 2023. The Joint Audit and Governance Committee, at its meeting on 31 January, had supported the draft strategy and had recommended it to Cabinet, along with approving the prudential indicators and limits, and approving the annual investment strategy and lending criteria.

Councillor Barker, the Cabinet member for finance, introduced the report and Cabinet recommendations. He highlighted that the proposed strategy for 2023/24 included the following changes:

- amendments to individual maximum counterparty limits, increasing the limits for LVNAV & VNAV Money Market Funds to £30 million
- amendments to the minimum lending criteria - an increase in the minimum asset value criteria for non-rated building societies from assets over £1 billion to assets over £2 billion

Both Cabinet and the Joint Audit and Governance Committee had supported the strategy together with approving the prudential indicators and limits and approving the annual investment strategy and lending criteria.

Some councillors expressed concern that, in their view, the strategy did not take sufficient account of environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues with continued investments in arms, tobacco, oil and certain financial institutions. They expressed the view that more weight should be given to ESG issues which support the council's values and aims.

**RESOLVED:**

1. approve the treasury management strategy 2023/24 set out in appendix A to the head of finance's report to Council on 16 February 2023;
2. approve the prudential indicators and limits for 2023/24 to 2025/26 as set out in, appendix A to the report;
3. approve the annual investment strategy 2023/24 set out in appendix A to the report, and the lending criteria detailed in table 6.

## 56 Capital Strategy 2023/24 to 2032/33

Council considered Cabinet's recommendation, made at its meeting on 2 February 2023, on the council's capital strategy for 2023/24 to 2032/33.

Cabinet had supported the strategy, noting that it was based on the council's corporate strategy, and was linked to the council's corporate objectives, the medium-term financial strategy, and the delivery of capital projects.

Councillor Barker, Cabinet member for finance, reported that it was a requirement for the council to review its capital strategy annually and that it provided the parameters within which capital expenditure and investment decisions would be made once the supporting requirements were in place. He reported that no changes were proposed to the strategy

In response to a question regarding the potential risk of investing in renewable energy schemes (as experienced by other local authorities), the Cabinet member responded that it would be necessary to undertake due diligence and an analysis of the risks associated with such an investment.

### **RESOLVED:** to

1. approve the capital strategy 2023/24 to 2032/33, contained in appendix one of the head of finance's report to Cabinet on 2 February 2023; and
2. agree the strategy for flexible use of capital receipts which is contained as annex A of the capital strategy.

## 57 Revenue Budget 2023/24 and Capital Programme to 2027/28

The chair referred to regulations that require councils to record the names of those councillors voting in favour, against or abstaining from any vote on the budget, including amendments, and the council tax. In accordance with the regulations, he would call for a named vote on each of these matters at this meeting.

Council noted the report of the chief finance officer on the robustness of the budget estimates and the adequacy of the reserves.

Council considered Cabinet's recommendations, made at its meeting held on 2 February 2023, on the revenue budget for 2023/24 and the capital programme to 2027/28.

Councillor Barker, Cabinet member for finance, presented Cabinet's proposals for the revenue budget and capital programme. He moved and Councillor Rouane, Leader of the council, seconded a motion to approve Cabinet's recommendations as follows:

To

1. set the revenue budget for 2023/24, as set out in appendix A.1 to the head of finance's report to Cabinet on 2 February 2023;
2. authorise the head of finance, in consultation with the cabinet member for finance, to make a one-off contribution to the Oxfordshire County Council pension fund of up to £5 million, subject to confirmation of the results of the triennial pension fund valuation;



3. approve the capital programme for 2023/24 to 2027/28, as set out in appendix D.1 to the report, together with the capital programme changes as set out in appendix D.2 and Appendix D.3 to the report;
4. set the council's prudential limits as listed in appendix E to the report;
5. approve the medium-term financial plan to 2027/28, as set out in appendix F to the report;
6. allocate £500,000 to fund the Communities Capital and Revenue grant scheme; and
7. ask officers to review the Medium-Term Financial Strategy at the end of the current spending review period.

In introducing the budget, the Cabinet member noted that it included £0.5 million of discretionary spending and used only £0.7 million from reserves. In producing a balanced budget both officers and members had worked hard to review costs and achieve savings. High inflation had put pressure on the council's spending, and there was uncertainty over government funding beyond 2024/25. Another uncertainty was whether the council would be required to pay an additional £5 million to the pension fund - provision for which was included in the budget. The budget also included new capital funding for a new leisure facility at north-east Didcot, a new learner pool at The Wave in Didcot, and funding for the decarbonisation project at the Cornerstone Arts Centre. Council tax would increase by £5 for a Band D property, the maximum allowed without holding a referendum. This increase equated to less than 10 pence per week.

A number of councillors spoke against the budget proposals. They opposed the capital costs for the building of a new council headquarters at the Didcot Gateway site. Alternative council owned accommodation was available, notably Abbey House in Abingdon, which could be repurposed reducing carbon costs and allow the site in Didcot to be made available for alternative uses including social housing. The increase in council tax would impact on residents at a time of rising costs.

However, the majority of councillors supported the budget proposals. It was a balanced budget with minimal draw from reserves and proposed no cuts to services. It retained provision for community grants. Others welcomed the continued funding to support the climate action plan work and recruitment of officers to support this work. A number welcomed the investment in new leisure centre facilities, support for the provision of affordable housing via the Local Authority Housing Fund (a new project introduced by the government to provide capital funding, which was matched in the budget to provide homes to meet local need) and the continued discretionary funding of the community hub which had provided support to the residents through the Covid-19 pandemic and during the cost-of-living crisis and also supported refugees and host families in the district.

In accordance with regulations requiring councils to record the names of those councillors voting in favour, against or abstaining from any vote on the budget the chair called for a recorded vote which was carried with the voting being as follows:

For	Against	Abstain
Councillors	Councillors	Councillors
Pieter-Paul Barker	Anna Badcock	
Robin Bennett	David Bartholomew	
Sam Casey-Rerhaye	Lorraine Hillier	
Sue Cooper	Lyn Lloyd	
Peter Dragonetti	Jane Murphy	
Maggie Filipova-Rivers	Caroline Newton	
Stefan Gawrysiak	Ian Snowdon	
Kate Gregory	Alan Thompson	
Victoria Haval	Andrea Warren	
Kellie Hinton	Ian White	
Alexandrine Kantor		
Mocky Khan		
Andrea Powell		
Leigh Rawlins		
Jo Robb		
Sue Roberts		
David Rouane		
Anne-Marie Simpson		
David Turner		
Celia Wilson		
<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>

**RESOLVED:** to

1. set the revenue budget for 2023/24, as set out in appendix A.1 to the head of finance's report to Cabinet on 2 February 2023;
2. authorise the head of finance, in consultation with the cabinet member for finance, to make a one-off contribution to the Oxfordshire County Council pension fund of up to £5 million, subject to confirmation of the results of the triennial pension fund valuation;
3. approve the capital programme for 2023/24 to 2027/28, as set out in appendix D.1 to the report, together with the capital programme changes as set out in appendix D.2 and Appendix D.3 to the report;
4. set the council's prudential limits as listed in appendix E to the report;
5. approve the medium-term financial plan to 2027/28, as set out in appendix F to the report;
6. allocate £500,000 to fund the Communities Capital and Revenue grant scheme; and
7. ask officers to review the Medium-Term Financial Strategy at the end of the current spending review period.

## 58 Council Tax 2023/24

Council considered the report of the head of finance on the setting of the Council Tax for the 2023/24 financial year.

In accordance with regulations requiring councils to record the names of those councillors voting in favour, against or abstaining from any vote on the council tax the chair called for a recorded vote which was carried with the voting being as follows:

For	Against	Abstain
Councillors	Councillors	Councillors
Anna Badcock		
Pieter-Paul Barker		
David Bartholomew		
Robin Bennett		
Sam Casey-Rerhaye		
Sue Cooper		
Peter Dragonetti		
Maggie Filipova-Rivers		
Stefan Gawrysiak		

For	Against	Abstain
Kate Gregory		
Victoria Haval		
Lorraine Hillier		
Kellie Hinton		
Alexandrine Kantor		
Mocky Khan		
Lynn Lloyd		
Jane Murphy		
Caroline Newton		
Andrea Powell		
Leigh Rawlins		
Jo Robb		
Sue Roberts		
David Rouane		
Anne-Marie Simpson		
Ian Snowdon		
Alan Thompson		
David Turner		
Andrea Warren		
Ian White		
Celia Wilson		
<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**RESOLVED:**

1. To note that at its meeting on 8 December 2022 the council calculated the council tax base 2023/24:
  - (a) for the whole council area as **61,349.5** [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the “Act”)]; and
  - (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a parish precept relates as in column 1 of appendix 1.
2. That the council tax requirement for the council’s own purposes for 2023/24 (excluding parish precepts) is £8,665,003
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2023/24 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
  - (a) £87,755,386 being the aggregate of the amounts which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by parish councils.
  - (b) £72,428,526 being the aggregate of the amounts which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
  - (c) £15,326,860 being the amount by which the aggregate at (3)(a) above exceeds the aggregate at (3)(b) above, calculated by the council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its council tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
  - (d) £249.83 being the amount at (3)(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year (including parish precepts).
  - (e) £6,661,857 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act, as set out in column 2 of appendix 1.
  - (f) £141.24 being the amount at (3)(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (3)(e) above by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no parish precept relates.
4. To note that for the year 2023/24 Oxfordshire County Council has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Band A	£1,156.02
Band B	£1,348.69
Band C	£1,541.36
Band D	£1,734.03
Band E	£2,119.37
Band F	£2,504.71
Band G	£2,890.05
Band H	£3,468.06

5. To note that for the year 2023/24 the Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Band A	£170.85
Band B	£199.33
Band C	£227.80
Band D	£256.28
Band E	£313.23
Band F	£370.18
Band G	£427.13
Band H	£512.56

6. That the council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in appendix 3 as the amounts of council tax for 2023/24 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings shown in appendix 3.
7. To determine that the council's basic amount of council tax for 2023/24 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.

## 59 Pay Policy Statement 2023/24

Council considered the report of the head of corporate services on the adoption of a pay policy statement to meet the requirements of the Localism Act.

**RESOLVED:** to approve the statement of pay policy for 2023/24 attached to the report of the head of corporate services to the Council meeting on 16 February 2023.

The meeting closed at 7:45pm

Chair

Date

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## Record of individual Cabinet member decision

Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

<b>Decision made by</b>	Cllr. Anne Marie Simpson
<b>Key decision?</b>	No
<b>Date of decision</b> (same as date form signed)	2 March 2023
<b>Name and job title of officer requesting the decision</b>	Ricardo Rios Planning Policy Team Leader (Neighbourhood)
<b>Officer contact details</b>	Tel: 07801203535 Email: <a href="mailto:ricardo.rios@southandvale.gov.uk">ricardo.rios@southandvale.gov.uk</a>
<b>Decision</b>	<p><b>To recommend to Council:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To make the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan Review, so that it continues to be part of the council's development plan.</li> <li>2. To delegate to the Head of Policy and Programmes, in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member and in agreement with the Qualifying Body, Sonning Common Parish Council the correction of any spelling, grammatical, typographical or factual errors together with any improvements from a presentational perspective.</li> </ol>
<b>Reasons for decision</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The making of the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan Review (the Plan) would not breach, or otherwise be incompatible with, any EU or human rights obligations, including the following Directives: the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC); the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2011/92/EU); the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC); the Wild Birds Directive (2009/147/EC); the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC); the Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC); and the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC). In addition, no issues arise in respect of equality under general principles of EU law or any EU equality directive.</li> <li>2. In order to comply with the basic condition on the European Union legislation incorporated into UK law, South Oxfordshire District Council undertook a screening exercise (dated December 2021) on the need or otherwise for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to be prepared for the Plan. As a result of this process, it</li> </ol>

	<p>concluded that the Plan is not likely to have any significant effects on the environment and accordingly would not require SEA.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. The plan would not give rise to significant environmental effects on European sites. The Council screened the Plan potential impact on EU Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and this was completed in December 2021. The HRA screening report concluded that the Plan would not have any likely significant effects on the integrity of European sites in or around South Oxfordshire, either alone or in combination with other plans or programmes and that an Appropriate Assessment is therefore not required.</li> <li>4. The Plan is in all respects fully compatible with Convention rights contained in the Human Rights Act 1988. There has been full and adequate opportunity for all interested parties to take part in the preparation of the Plan and to make their comments known.</li> </ol> <p><b>Referendum</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. A referendum relating to the adoption of the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan was held on Thursday 23 February 2022.</li> <li>6. The question which was asked in the Referendum was: <i>‘Do you want South Oxfordshire District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Sonning Common to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?’</i></li> <li>7. The result was as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Yes = 838 (95%)</li> <li>b. No = 45 (5%)</li> <li>c. Turnout = 883 (27.7%)</li> </ol> </li> <li>8. The majority of local electors who voted, voted in favour of the Plan; therefore, the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan has become part of the council’s development plan.</li> <li>9. As the Plan was approved at the local referendum and the council is satisfied that the making of the Plan would not breach, or otherwise be incompatible with, any EU or human rights obligations, the council is required make the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan Review so that it continues to be part of the council’s development plan.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Alternative options rejected</b></p>	<p>The council’s options are limited by statute. Paragraph 38A (4)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 sets out that the council must make a neighbourhood plan if more than half of those voting at the referendum have voted in favour of the plan being used to help decide planning applications in the plan area.</p> <p>The only circumstance where the district council should not make this decision is where the making of the plan would breach, or would otherwise be incompatible with, any EU obligation or any of the</p>



	<p>Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).</p> <p>Section 3 of the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017, which came into force on 19 July 2017, amends section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to ensure that neighbourhood plans have full legal effect once they have passed their local referenda. In the very limited circumstances that the council might decide not to make the neighbourhood development plan, it will cease to be part of the development plan for the area.</p> <p>In this case, the referendum result was in favour of the plan, and so the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan has become part of the council's development plan. For the reasons set out in paragraphs 1 to 3, the council is satisfied that the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan would not breach or be incompatible with EU obligations or human rights legislation.</p>
<b>Climate and ecological implications</b>	<p>The Plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. Sustainable development can be summarised as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.</p> <p>In terms of the climate and ecological implications, the Plan seeks to have a positive impact, containing an objective concerned with the village's ecosystems and biodiversity and also an objective concerned with the delivery of high quality design which mitigates the effects of climate change as far as possible. The plan contains a suite of environment policies, covering green infrastructure (Policy RENV1), landscape (Policy RENV2), trees and hedgerows (Policy RENV3) and climate change (Policy RENV5).</p>
<b>Legal implications</b>	<p>The legal implications are set out elsewhere in the report on the basis of which it is considered that the council should now proceed to make the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan. The process undertaken and proposed accords with planning legislation.</p>
<b>Financial implications</b>	<p>The Government makes funding available to local authorities to help them meet the cost of their responsibilities around neighbourhood planning. A total of £20,000 can be claimed for each neighbourhood planning area. In the case of neighbourhood plan reviews, a local planning authority may make only one claim for substantive modifications to a specific neighbourhood plan in their area within each 5-year window from the date that plan was first made. The council becomes eligible to apply for this additional grant once the council issue a decision statement detailing the intention to send the plan to referendum.</p> <p>Any costs incurred in the formal stages in excess of Government grants is borne by the council. Staffing costs associated with supporting community groups and progressing neighbourhood plans through the formal stages are funded by the council. It is expected that costs associated with progressing this neighbourhood plan can be met from with existing neighbourhood planning budget.</p>

<b>Other implications</b>	The council is required to comply with the statutory requirements (to consider whether the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan Review should be made following successful local referendum), which this recommendation seeks to achieve. In view of the considerations referred to elsewhere in this report, as the majority of those voting have voted in favour of the plan at its local referendum, a decision not to make the plan would place the council at risk of a legal challenge.			
<b>Background papers considered</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan Review and supporting documents</li> <li>2. National Planning Policy Framework (2021)</li> <li>3. National Planning Policy Guidance (July 2014 and subsequent updates)</li> <li>4. South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2035</li> <li>5. Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement for the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan</li> <li>6. Representations submitted in response to the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan Review</li> <li>7. Relevant Ministerial Statement</li> </ol>			
<b>Declarations/conflict of interest? Declaration of other councillor/officer consulted by the Cabinet member?</b>	None			
<b>List consultees</b>		<b>Name</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Date</b>
	Ward councillors	Cllr David Bartholomew	No comment	02/03/2023
		Cllr Leigh Rawlins	Support	24/02/2023
		Cllr Lorraine Hillier	No comment	02/03/2023
		Cllr Jo Robb	No comment	02/03/2023
		Cllr Peter Dragonetti	No comment	02/03/2023
	Legal <a href="mailto:legal@southandvale.gov.uk">legal@southandvale.gov.uk</a>	Vivien Williams	No comment	28/02/2023
	Finance <a href="mailto:Finance@southandvale.gov.uk">Finance@southandvale.gov.uk</a>	Nicole Tyreman	No comment	24/02/2023
	Human resources <a href="mailto:hadminandpayroll@southandvale.gov.uk">hadminandpayroll@southandvale.gov.uk</a>		No comment	02/03/2023

	Strategic property <a href="mailto:Property@southandvale.gov.uk">Property@southandvale.gov.uk</a>	Chris Mobbs	No comment	24/02/2023
	Climate and biodiversity <a href="mailto:climateaction@southandvale.gov.uk">climateaction@southandvale.gov.uk</a>	Jessie Fieth	No comment	28/02/2023
	Diversity and equality <a href="mailto:equalities@southandvale.gov.uk">equalities@southandvale.gov.uk</a>	Lynne Mitchel	Support	24/02/2023
	Health and safety <a href="mailto:healthandsafety@southandvale.gov.uk">healthandsafety@southandvale.gov.uk</a>	Debbie Porter	No comment	28/02/2023
	Risk and insurance <a href="mailto:risk@southandvale.gov.uk">risk@southandvale.gov.uk</a>	Yvonne Cutler Greaves	No comment	27/02/2023
	Communications <a href="mailto:communications@southandvale.gov.uk">communications@southandvale.gov.uk</a>	Andrea Busiko	No comment	02/03/2023
<b>Confidential decision?</b> If so, under which exempt category?	No			
<b>Call-in waived by Scrutiny Committee chairman?</b>	N/A			
<b>Has this been discussed by Cabinet members?</b>	N/A			
<b>Cabinet portfolio holder's signature</b> To confirm the decision as set out in this notice.	Signature ____ Councillor Anne-Marie Simpson_____ Date ____ 2 March 2023 _____			

**ONCE SIGNED, THIS FORM MUST BE HANDED TO DEMOCRATIC SERVICES IMMEDIATELY.**

For Democratic Services office use only		
Form received	Date: 3 March 2023	Time: 13:25
Date published to all councillors	Date: 3 March 2023	
Call-in deadline	Not applicable as this is not a key decision.	

## Guidance notes

1. This form must be completed by the lead officer who becomes the contact officer. The lead officer is responsible for ensuring that the necessary internal consultees have signed it off, including the chief executive. The lead officer must then seek the Cabinet portfolio holder's agreement and signature.
2. Once satisfied with the decision, the Cabinet portfolio holder must hand-sign and date the form and return it to the lead officer who should send it to Democratic Services immediately to allow the call-in period to commence.  
Tel. 01235 422520 or extension 2520.  
Email: [democratic.services@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@southandvale.gov.uk)
3. Democratic Services will then publish the decision to the website (unless it is confidential) and send it to all councillors to commence the call-in period (five clear working days) if it is a 'key' decision (see the definition of a 'key' decision below). A key decision cannot be implemented until the call-in period expires. The call-in procedure can be found in the council's constitution, part 4, under the Scrutiny Committee procedure rules.
4. Before implementing a key decision, the lead officer is responsible for checking with Democratic Services that the decision has not been called in.
5. If a key decision has been called in, Democratic Services will notify the lead officer and decision-maker. This call-in puts the decision on hold.
6. Democratic Services will liaise with the Scrutiny Committee chairman over the date of the call-in debate. The Cabinet portfolio holder will be requested to attend the Scrutiny Committee meeting to answer the committee's questions.
7. The Scrutiny Committee may:
  - refer the decision back to the Cabinet portfolio holder for reconsideration or
  - refer the matter to Council with an alternative set of proposals (where the final decision rests with full Council) or
  - accept the Cabinet portfolio holder's decision, in which case it can be implemented immediately.

## Key decisions: assessing whether a decision should be classified as 'key'

The South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils' Constitutions now have the same definition of a key decision:

**A key decision is a decision of the Cabinet, an individual Cabinet member, or an officer acting under delegated powers, which is likely:**

- (a) to incur expenditure, make savings or to receive income (except government grant) of more than £75,000;**

- (b) to award a revenue or capital grant of over £25,000; or**
- (c) to agree an action that, in the view of the chief executive or relevant head of service, would be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising more than one ward in the area of the council.**

Key decisions are subject to the scrutiny call-in procedure; non-key decisions are not and can be implemented immediately.

In assessing whether a decision should be classified as 'key', you should consider:

- (a) Will the expenditure, savings or income total more than £75,000 across all financial years?
- (b) Will the grant award to one person or organisation be more than £25,000 across all financial years?
- (c) Does the decision impact on more than one district council ward? And if so, is the impact significant? If residents or property affected by the decision is in one ward but is close to the border of an adjacent ward, it may have a significant impact on that second ward, e.g. through additional traffic, noise, light pollution, odour. Examples of significant impacts on two or more wards are:
  - Decisions to spend Didcot Garden Town funds (significant impact on more than one ward)
  - Changes to the household waste collection policy (affects all households in the district)
  - Reviewing a housing strategy (could have a significant impact on residents in many wards)
  - Adopting a supplementary planning document for a redevelopment site (could significantly affect more than one ward) or a new design guide (affects all wards)
  - Decisions to build new or improve existing leisure facilities (used by residents of more than one ward)

**The overriding principle is that before 'key' decisions are made, they must be published in the Cabinet Work Programme for 28 calendar days. Classifying a decision as non-key when it should be a key decision could expose the decision to challenge and delay its implementation.**

Motion ID	Date	Motion	Substantive Action Required	Progress	Relevant Lead Officer	Actions Completed	Status
South M1	18th July 2019	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: • 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	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: • Improvements necessary to Oxford City Station • Reopening of Grove Station • Upgrading of the route between Didcot and Oxford • Reopening of the Cowley Branch line	Letter sent	Head of Planning	Yes	Closed
South M2	18th July 2019	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.  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.	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.  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.	Report to Cabinet 25th October 2019	Head of Development & Corporate Landlord	Yes	Closed
South M3	18th July 2019	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.  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.  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.  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).  The Oxford 2050 plan process has thus far welcomed the perceived benefits of the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway. It is 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.  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 HF-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.  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.  Council therefore resolves to: • 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.  Communicate its opposition to Government, MPs and Highways England	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.  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.  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 the council on 11 April 2019.  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).  The Oxford 2050 plan process has thus far welcomed the perceived benefits of the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway. It is 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.  The Expressway would cause major harm to the quality of life of residents if it passes through the district: the council wishes to withdraw any assumed consent, including any possibility that roads such as the HF-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.  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.  Council therefore resolves to: • 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.	Letters sent and relevant officers advised and updated via team meetings and one to one, to ensure that engagement with partners reflects this position.	Deputy Chief Executive - Partnerships	Yes	Closed
South M4	18th July 2019	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.  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.  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.  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 £8.3trillion leave the fossil fuel industry.  As a result, the fossil fuel industry is facing unprecedented financial, legal and regulatory headwinds.  The Oxfordshire Pension Fund has defended its continued investment in fossil fuels, arguing that it does not want mean being its influence. This position is untenable. The very reason 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.  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.  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.  Council: 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.	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.  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.  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.  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 £8.3trillion leave the fossil fuel industry.  As a result, the fossil fuel industry is facing unprecedented financial, legal and regulatory headwinds.  The Oxfordshire Pension Fund has defended its continued investment in fossil fuels, arguing that it does not want mean being its influence. This position is untenable. The very reason 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.  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.  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.  Council: 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.	Letter sent and relevant officers who engage with the Pension Fund briefed.	Head of Finance	Yes	Closed
South M5	10th October 2019	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. 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". After three years of living in limbo, their homes and livelihoods are in danger of being threatened by the threat of an even more chaotic no-deal Brexit.  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.  Another Windsor-like scandal could be unfolding right before the eyes of this Council and we mustn't be passive observers to it.  Therefore, the Council asks that: 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: • 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 reoffing the Immigration Bill as primary legislation before the end of the year • 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.	Council notes that EU nationals are part of our shared communities. They are an integral part of a vibrant and thriving South Oxfordshire. 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". After three years of living in limbo, their homes and livelihoods are in danger of being threatened by the threat of an even more chaotic no-deal Brexit.  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.  Another Windsor-like scandal could be unfolding right before the eyes of this Council and we mustn't be passive observers to it.  Therefore, the Council asks that: 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: • 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 reoffing the Immigration Bill as primary legislation before the end of the year • 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.	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.  An officer group is in place to monitor Brexit activity and discuss any additional mitigating actions that may arise from service area risk registers.  There is a dedicated website page for the EU Settlement Scheme - <a href="http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/newsroom/advice-community-advice-and-support/brexit/brexit-advice-aunational">http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/newsroom/advice-community-advice-and-support/brexit/brexit-advice-aunational</a>  Promotional materials were displayed within reception area, supporting a local ID verification services and national guidance for EU citizens.  A briefing note was circulated to members in January 2020 to provide an overview of both national, Oxfordshire and council Brexit activity.	Head of Policy & Programmes	Yes	Closed
South M6	10th October 2019	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.  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:  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;  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.	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.  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 ultimately state these will be dealt with by unspecified and uncosted 'mitigation measures'.  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:  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.  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.	Letters sent	Head of Planning	Yes	Closed
South M7	10th October 2019	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.  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 38.9°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.  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.  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.  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-activities 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 unanimously agreed to a fully net-zero-carbon district by 2030, with Council, in its own operations, to be net-zero-carbon by 2025.  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 supply chain 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.  Council resolves to:  Agree the unanimous recommendations of its cross-party Climate Emergency Advisory Committee to:  • 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	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.  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 38.9°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.  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.  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.  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-activities 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 unanimously agreed to a fully net-zero-carbon district by 2030, with Council, in its own operations, to be net-zero-carbon by 2025.	CEAC in progress.  A Climate Action Plan has been developed and approved for 2022-24. Progress against the measures within it are reported on a quarterly basis.	Head of Policy & Programmes	No	Open

		<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 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>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>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 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>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, Clls and officials held on 30th June 2020.</p> <p>A joint letter (sent on 7th July 2020) was sent by all Oxfordshire Leaders and O&amp;LEP Chair to the SoS 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 advised that individual requests or suggestions for structural change will not be considered at this time. It was, therefore, agreed that a paper and report would be brought forward as soon as possible following any meeting 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 have been briefed on the Council's position and are engaging with partners and Government to make them aware of South's view regarding some of the outcomes any Unitary proposal should achieve.</p> <p>HM Government published its Levelling Up White Paper in February 2022. This outlined their approach to a New Devolution Framework for England. HM Government's preferred model is one with a directly elected leader covering a well-defined economic geography with a clear and direct mandate, strong accountability and the converging power to make change happen – this may not, however, suit all areas and, therefore, the framework sets out a flexible approach designed to suit the needs and requirements of separate areas/communities.</p> <p>At the Autumn Statement, HM Government reaffirmed its commitment to giving more areas greater powers to drive growth and tackle local challenges. This involves delivering on their pledge to agree devolution deals with all areas in England that want one by 2030.</p>	Chief Executive	No	Some of the actions contained within this motion are open-ended and dependent on potential future reorganisation proposals.	Open
South M8	19th December 2019				Head of Planning/Head of Policy & Programmes	Yes	Closed	
South M9	19th December 2019	<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 contributions to, the Oxfordshire 2050 plan making process, and that the Council's position is made known, and emphasised, to key partners and Government.</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 contributions to, the Oxfordshire 2050 plan making process, and that the Council's position is made known, and emphasised, to key partners and Government.</p>	<p>The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 has come to an end by mutual agreement. The councils were unable to reach a collective agreement on the approach to arriving at housing need.</p>	Head of Planning/Head of Policy & Programmes	Yes	Closed	
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. The work should also consider the options for the development of area committees within this model, to ensure 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>	<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. The 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>	<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.</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>	Chief Executive	No	Some of the actions contained within this motion are open-ended and dependent on potential future reorganisation proposals.	Open
South M11	19th December 2019	<p>Council:</p> <p>1. Believes that young people should be allowed a say over their future</p> <p>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.</p> <p>3. Notes that there is currently an unequal situation across the United Kingdom, with 16- and 17-year-olds not being able to vote in national elections and that they are not available to them in England and Northern Ireland</p> <p>4. Supports the need for greater engagement with young people, leading to greater involvement of young people in the decisions that affect their community.</p> <p>5. Believes that lowering the voting age to 16, combined with strong citizenship education, would encourage young people to enter citizenship education, leading to greater involvement of young people in the decisions that affect their community.</p> <p>6. Believes that people aged 16 and 17, who can consent to medical treatment, work full-time, get married or enter a civil partnership and join the armed forces, should also have the right to vote.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>8. Calls for 16- and 17-year-olds to have the right in all elections and referendums across the UK.</p> <p>Council therefore:</p> <p>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</p> <p>2. Requests that the Leader write to the local MPs and the British Youth Council expressing this Council's support for the Votes at 16 campaign</p> <p>3. Asks the ERO/RO to consider participating in any pilot scheme.</p>	<p>Council:</p> <p>1. Believes that young people should be allowed a say over their future</p> <p>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.</p> <p>3. Notes that there is currently an unequal situation across the United Kingdom, with 16- and 17-year-olds not being able to vote in national elections and that they are not available to them in England and Northern Ireland</p> <p>4. Supports the need for greater engagement with young people, leading to greater involvement of young people in the decisions that affect their community.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>8. Calls for 16- and 17-year-olds to have the right in all elections and referendums across the UK.</p> <p>Council therefore:</p> <p>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</p> <p>2. Requests that the Leader write to the local MPs and the British Youth Council expressing this Council's support for the Votes at 16 campaign</p> <p>3. Asks the ERO/RO to consider participating in any pilot scheme.</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 Legal & Democratic Services	Yes	Closed	
South M12	19th December 2019	<p>Council notes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• South Oxfordshire District Council (SDCC) 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.</li><li>• Other motions brought relate to consideration of whether the council should consider a merger with whom SDCC shares an officer-core, and wider unitary related decisions.</li></ul> <p>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> <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"><li>• 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;</li><li>• 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</li><li>• 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.</li></ul>	<p>Council notes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• South Oxfordshire District Council (SDCC) 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.</li><li>• Other motions brought relate to consideration of whether the council should consider a merger with Vale of White Horse with whom SDCC shares an officer-core, and wider unitary related decisions.</li></ul> <p>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> <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"><li>• 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;</li><li>• 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</li><li>• 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.</li></ul>	<p>The final report of the Constitution Review Group was presented to Council on 8th October 2020. Their recommendations were agreed.</p>	Head of Legal & Democratic Services	Yes	Closed	
South M13	19th December 2019	<p>The Council notes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cycling and walking are healthy, climate-friendly modes of transport</li><li>• In 2018, of fatalities on the road caused by vehicles crashes, 31% were people walking or on pedal cycles</li><li>• Many people are put off cycling because of perceived and actual dangers</li><li>• Electric bicycles could be a revolution in bringing more people to cycling and cycling further</li><li>• A rural District means roads are narrow, winding and without pavements for walking</li><li>• A number of the towns in the District suffer from poor air quality that have major health impacts, particularly for children</li><li>• Physical inactivity is a contributor to diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, osteoporosis, depression and dementia</li><li>• The Council has a goal to achieve a carbon-neutral District by 2030</li><li>• Infrastructure needs to be developed rapidly to support more active travel, including for electric bicycles, to achieve national and local climate and health goals</li><li>• Travel habits need changing urgently and that cycling and active travel need to be easy and safe to be chosen over alternatives</li><li>• The Council already has a walking and cycling policy; it</li></ul> <p>The 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 provision 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>	<p>The Council notes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cycling and walking are healthy, climate-friendly modes of transport</li><li>• In 2018, of fatalities on the road caused by vehicles crashes, 31% were people walking or on pedal cycles</li><li>• Many people are put off cycling because of perceived and actual dangers</li><li>• Electric bicycles could be a revolution in bringing more people to cycling and cycling further</li><li>• A rural District means roads are narrow, winding and without pavements for walking</li><li>• A number of the towns in the District suffer from poor air quality that have major health impacts, particularly for children</li><li>• Physical inactivity is a contributor to diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, osteoporosis, depression and dementia</li><li>• The Council has a goal to achieve a carbon-neutral District by 2030</li><li>• Infrastructure needs to be developed rapidly to support more active travel, including for electric bicycles, to achieve national and local climate and health goals</li><li>• Travel habits need changing urgently and that cycling and active travel need to be easy and safe to be chosen over alternatives</li><li>• The Council already has a walking and cycling policy; it</li></ul> <p>The 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 provision 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>	<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>The Joint Local Plan Issues consultation specifically mentioned opportunities for reducing the number of unnecessary car journeys by ensuring that developments are within easy reach of jobs and services people need for their day-to-day lives and are supported by appropriate, low and zero-carbon transport options. It also referenced the need to provide opportunities for active travel, exercise, social interaction and recreation.</p> <p>Policies designed to enhance active travel have been included as part of the Joint Design Guide.</p> <p>The council's Active Communities Strategy (adopted in the Summer of 2022) has as one of its themes creating healthier communities through walking and cycling.</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council adopted their Local Transport and Connectivity Plan in July 2022.</p> <p>South and Vale have (after a successful procurement exercise) commissioned SYSTRIA Ltd to develop a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for Didcot and its environs.</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council are currently developing a Strategic Active Travel Network for Oxfordshire. This work will consist of four stages:</p> <p>1) baseline mapping and analysis</p> <p>2) network development</p> <p>3) network prioritisation</p> <p>4) design toolkit and recommendations</p> <p>OCC have also commissioned the development of a Didcot Area Travel Plan which will look at how to promote the active travel network.</p>	Head of Planning/Head of Policy & Programmes	No	Some of the actions contained within this motion are open-ended	Open
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 Jew, 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 Islamness or perceived Islamness.</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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. condemn all hate crimes and deplore the rise in hate crimes against members of the Jewish and Muslim communities in Britain;</li><li>2. condemn inflammatory rhetoric in political discourse that is antisemitic or islamophobic;</li><li>3. adopt the IHRA definition of Antisemitism in full and without amendment;</li><li>4. adopt the APPG definition of Islamophobia in full and without amendment;</li><li>5. ask officers to update this council's equality policies to this effect.</li></ol>	<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 Jew, 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 Islamness or perceived Islamness.</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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. condemn all hate crimes and deplore the rise in hate crimes against members of the Jewish and Muslim communities in Britain;</li><li>2. condemn inflammatory rhetoric in political discourse that is antisemitic or islamophobic;</li><li>3. adopt the IHRA definition of Antisemitism in full and without amendment;</li><li>4. adopt the APPG definition of Islamophobia in full and without amendment;</li><li>5. ask officers to update this council's equality policies to this effect.</li></ol>	<p>Motion forwarded to the Council's Equality Officer.</p> <p>Council policies updated</p>	Head of Corporate Services	Yes	Closed	
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 licence had. Local authority procedures are not currently detailed on how to deal with such operators.</p> <p>Therefore requests that the Leader of the council write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to request that the following action be taken:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>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:</li><li>The introduction of a national taxi licensing database;</li><li>Some form of cross-border enforcement for local authorities;</li><li>National minimum standards for licensees.</li></ol> <p>2. The Government should provide an update in respect of how they propose to deal with cross-border working;</p> <p>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;.</p>	<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 licence had. Local authority procedures are not currently detailed on how to deal with such operators.</p> <p>Therefore requests that the Leader of the council write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to request that the following action be taken:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. 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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>	<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>	<p>Letter drafted and sent to planning policy</p>	Head of Policy & Programmes	Yes	Closed	

		<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 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 oil-drill-down 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"><li>That the Minister rules the severe problems that exist with the '5-year housing land supply' rules in the National Planning Policy Framework as outlined above</li><li>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</li><li>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'.</li></ul>	<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 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 oil-drill-down 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"><li>That the Minister rules the severe problems that exist with the '5-year housing land supply' rules in the National Planning Policy Framework as outlined above</li><li>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</li><li>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'.</li></ul>	Letter drafted and sent by planning policy	Head of Policy & Programmes	Yes	Closed
South M17	20th February 2020						
South 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 community groups and their members and members of the public responded enthusiastically and resplendly 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 during this uncertain time.</p> <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> <p>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;</p> <p>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;</p> <p>3. Calls on Thames Water to provide accurate, real-time and publicly available information about Controlled Sewage Overflows into the Thames and its tributaries;</p> <p>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>	<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 community groups and their members and members of the public responded enthusiastically and resplendly 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 during this uncertain time.</p> <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> <p>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;</p> <p>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;</p> <p>3. Calls on Thames Water to provide accurate, real-time and publicly available information about Controlled Sewage Overflows into the Thames and its tributaries;</p> <p>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>	Thanks passed on to all officers	Chief Executive	Yes	Closed
South M19	8th October 2020						
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>The Council recognises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The term BaME is not one that every person from an ethnic minority background identifies with but it is a term that everyone understands.</li><li>• 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 reviewed following the recent aggression of Jacob Blake leaving him paralyzed.</li><li>• 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.</li><li>• 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.</li><li>• BaME people are 54% more likely than white people to be fined under the new coronavirus lockdown laws.</li><li>• 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.</li><li>• 51% of young men in custody in the UK are from BaME backgrounds, despite these groups making up only 14% of the UK population.</li><li>• 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.</li></ul> <p>The Council notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• That Black lives matter as much as all others.</li><li>• That George Floyd's brutal murder must be a catalyst for change across the world.</li><li>• That no country, city police service or institution can absolve itself of the responsibility to do better.</li><li>• 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.</li><li>• That there is no place for racism or any form of xenophobia or bigotry anywhere in our society.</li><li>• That language is a powerful tool for inspiration and change, as well as oppression and ignorance and must be used wisely and respectfully.</li><li>• 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</li><li>• 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.</li><li>• 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.</li></ul> <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. 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. 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>	<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>The Council recognises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The term BaME is not one that every person from an ethnic minority background identifies with but it is a term that everyone understands.</li><li>• 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 reviewed following the recent aggression of Jacob Blake leaving him paralyzed.</li><li>• 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.</li><li>• 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.</li><li>• BaME people are 54% more likely than white people to be fined under the new coronavirus lockdown laws.</li><li>• 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.</li><li>• 51% of young men in custody in the UK are from BaME backgrounds, despite these groups making up only 14% of the UK population.</li><li>• 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.</li></ul> <p>The Council notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• That Black lives matter as much as all others.</li><li>• That George Floyd's brutal murder must be a catalyst for change across the world.</li><li>• That no country, city police service or institution can absolve itself of the responsibility to do better.</li><li>• 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.</li><li>• That there is no place for racism or any form of xenophobia or bigotry anywhere in our society.</li><li>• That language is a powerful tool for inspiration and change, as well as oppression and ignorance and must be used wisely and respectfully.</li><li>• 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</li><li>• 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.</li><li>• 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.</li></ul> <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. 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. 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>	Legally, the Planning Committee is obliged to support Neighbourhood Plans in as far as a planning law will allow. How progression on this motion is to be measured is, therefore, subjective.	Head of Policy & Programmes	Yes	Closed
South M21	8th October 2020						
South M22	8th October 2020						
South M23	22nd December 2020	<p>Council notes that Trans people face significant disadvantage in society.</p> <p>Council respects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Trans men are men, Trans women are women, and that non-binary genders are just as valid.</li><li>b. Trans people deserve respect and people deserve respect and autonomy.</li><li>c. Transphobia has a hugely detrimental impact on the mental health and well-being of trans individuals.</li><li>d. 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.</li></ul> <p>Council therefore resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Ensure that all Council services, both directly provided and through partners, are fully accessible to all, regardless of their sexuality or gender identity.</li><li>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.</li><li>c. Ensure that the Council's constitution, policies, forms, and all internal and external communications are gender neutral.</li><li>d. Encourage and support a network of informal LGBTQ+ allies across officers and councillors to support all members of the LGBTQ+ communities.</li></ul>	<p>Council notes that Trans people face significant disadvantage in society.</p> <p>Council respects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Trans men are men, Trans women are women, and that non-binary genders are just as valid.</li><li>b. Trans people deserve respect and people deserve respect and autonomy.</li><li>c. Transphobia has a hugely detrimental impact on the mental health and well-being of trans individuals.</li><li>d. 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.</li></ul> <p>Council therefore resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Ensure that all Council services, both directly provided and through partners, are fully accessible to all, regardless of their sexuality or gender identity.</li><li>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.</li><li>c. Ensure that the Council's constitution, policies, forms, and all internal and external communications are gender neutral.</li><li>d. Encourage and support a network of informal LGBTQ+ allies across officers and councillors to support all members of the LGBTQ+ communities.</li></ul>	Relevant officers were advised of this motion. <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> <p>A Joint Diversity and Inclusion Strategy has been developed by South and Vale. It was adopted by the Cabinet in December 2022. The Strategy sets out the council's approach and vision to equality, diversity, and inclusion by proactively engaging with internal teams, community groups and residents to understand current challenges to inform decisions and work towards ensuring services are truly inclusive and meet the needs of everyone.</p>	Head of Corporate Services	No	Open
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. 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>	Relevant officers advised	Head of Planning	Yes	Closed
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"><li>Promote the value of trees and woodlands in tackling the climate and ecological emergencies</li><li>Encourage people to re-connect with nature and appreciate the importance of trees and woodlands for both environmental and human health and well-being</li><li>Promote woodland protection/conservation and tree growing initiatives in the district</li><li>Work with officers and members to develop and promote a Tree Policy and Strategy</li><li>Raise awareness of the statutory protections for trees and woodland with local communities, town and parish councils.</li></ul>	<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"><li>Promote the value of trees and woodlands in tackling the climate and ecological emergencies</li><li>Encourage people to re-connect with nature and appreciate the importance of trees and woodlands for both environmental and human health and well-being</li><li>Promote woodland protection/conservation and tree growing initiatives in the district</li><li>Work with officers and members to develop and promote a Tree Policy and Strategy</li><li>Raise awareness of the statutory protections for trees and woodland with local communities, town and parish councils.</li></ul>	Tree Champions appointed	Head of Policy & Programmes	Yes	Closed
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"><li>• 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 (both soil and pollination 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</li><li>• The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the relationship between people and nature. When we destroy and degrade habitats, we increase the risk of disease spillover from wildlife to people</li><li>• The State of Nature 2019 report highlighted the critical decline 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. 19% of UK species are classified as threatened with extinction and 2% are already extinct</li><li>• The State of the World's Plants and Fungi 2020 report from Royal Botanic Gardens Kew estimated that 38.4% 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</li><li>• The Environment Bill will require the introduction of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Nature Recovery Networks</li><li>• 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</li><li>• People's access to 'green spaces' to understand and appreciate biodiversity and a rich, natural world, private or public, is unequal</li></ul> <p>Council resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Declare an ecological emergency</li><li>2. Renew CEEAC the Climate and Ecological Emergencies Advisory Committee, to help Cabinet and council officers address these twin emergencies</li><li>3. Add ecological impact implications alongside those for climate and sustainability to committee and council reports</li><li>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 process, whilst also working on the principle of increasing equality of access for people to natural, green spaces</li><li>5. Establish a Biodiversity Steering Group involving both key officers and members to oversee and develop the Council's approach to nature protection and recovery</li><li>6. Set measurable targets and standards for biodiversity increase, in both species and quantities, seeking also to increase community engagement</li><li>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</li><li>8. Develop a district wide Tree Planting Policy and Strategy, including having Member Tree Champions, to support nature protection and recovery and carbon sequestration</li><li>9. Look for opportunities to work in partnership with local charities and environmental organisations to deliver nature recovery and biodiversity projects in South Oxfordshire</li><li>10. Build on the work of the Thames Champion to improve the ecology of the Thames and its banks and floodplains, a hugely important habitat in our District</li><li>11. Ensure the Strategic Property Review considers opportunities for biodiversity enhancements and tree planting on Council landholdings</li><li>12. Investigate new approaches to nature recovery (such as habitat banking) that deliver biodiversity objectives and provide new investment opportunities</li><li>13. Embed climate action and ecological initiatives within all council work areas, including COVID-19 recovery projects and programmes</li><li>14. 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.</li></ol>	<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"><li>• 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 (both soil and pollination 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</li><li>• The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the relationship between people and nature. When we destroy and degrade habitats, we increase the risk of disease spillover from wildlife to people</li><li>• The State of Nature 2019 report highlighted the critical decline 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. 19% of UK species are classified as threatened with extinction and 2% are already extinct</li><li>• The State of the World's Plants and Fungi 2020 report from Royal Botanic Gardens Kew estimated that 38.4% 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</li><li>• The Environment Bill will require the introduction of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Nature Recovery Networks</li><li>• 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</li><li>• People's access to 'green spaces' to understand and appreciate biodiversity and a rich, natural world, private or public, is unequal</li></ul> <p>Council resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Declare an ecological emergency</li><li>2. Renew CEEAC the Climate and Ecological Emergencies Advisory Committee, to help Cabinet and council officers address these twin emergencies</li><li>3. Add ecological impact implications alongside those for climate and sustainability in committee and council reports</li><li>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 process, whilst also working on the principle of increasing equality of access for people to natural, green spaces</li><li>5. Establish a Biodiversity Steering Group involving both key officers and members to oversee and develop the Council's approach to nature protection and recovery</li><li>6. Set measurable targets and standards for biodiversity increase, in both species and quantities, seeking also to increase community engagement</li><li>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</li><li>8. Develop a district wide Tree Planting Policy and Strategy, including having Member Tree Champions, to support nature protection and recovery and carbon sequestration</li><li>9. Look for opportunities to work in partnership with local charities and environmental organisations to deliver nature recovery and biodiversity projects in South Oxfordshire</li><li>10. Build on the work of the Thames Champion to improve the ecology of the Thames and its banks and floodplains, a hugely important habitat in our District</li><li>11. Ensure the Strategic Property Review considers opportunities for biodiversity enhancements and tree planting on Council landholdings</li><li>12. Investigate new approaches to nature recovery (such as habitat banking) that deliver biodiversity objectives and provide new investment opportunities</li><li>13. Embed climate action and ecological initiatives within all council work areas, including COVID-19 recovery projects and programmes</li><li>14. 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.</li></ol>	The Council has declared an ecological emergency	Head of Policy & Programmes	No	Open
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"><li>• 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, tethered rooks plus lots more are all at a significant risk of being set alight.</li><li>• Animals and Livestock - Sky lanterns can cause suffering or even kill animals and livestock, not just by fire, but by smoke, 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.</li><li>• Litter nuisance - Landowners have to clear up the remnants of sky lanterns from their fields.</li></ul> <p>The council therefore resolves to support this campaign and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To ban the release of sky lanterns at events held on property owned by the council.</li><li>• 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.</li></ul>	<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"><li>• 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, tethered rooks plus lots more are all at a significant risk of being set alight.</li><li>• Animals and Livestock - Sky lanterns can cause suffering or even kill animals and livestock, not just by fire, but by smoke, 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.</li><li>• Litter nuisance - Landowners have to clear up the remnants of sky lanterns from their fields.</li></ul> <p>The council therefore resolves to support this campaign and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To ban the release of sky lanterns at events held on property owned by the council.</li><li>• 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.</li></ul>	Relevant officers advised	Head of Development & Corporate Landlord	Yes	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>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"><li>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.</li><li>2. Have, as a long-term ambition by 2050, the undergrounding of the existing 400kv line that bisects the Ladygrove Estates in Didcot.</li></ol>	<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>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"><li>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.</li><li>2. Have, as a long-term ambition by 2050, the undergrounding of the existing 400kv line that bisects the Ladygrove Estates in Didcot.</li></ol>	Relevant officers advised	Head of Planning/Head of Policy & Programmes	No	Some of the actions contained within this motion are ongoing. Further, it contains one long-term target.	Open
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.</p> <p>Council acknowledges the work of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Dark Skies and welcomes its recommendations. <a href="http://www.apppdarkskies.co.uk">www.apppdarkskies.co.uk</a></p> <p>Council recognises that Oxfordshire County Council lighting schemes on adopted highways.</p> <p>This Council will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Ensure that limiting light pollution and preserving dark skies are key priorities for planning policies and design guides, including master-planning of sites.</li><li>2. Work with Neighbourhood Planning groups to encourage the implementation of dark sky friendly lighting policies in Neighbourhood Plans.</li><li>3. Encourage the incorporation of dark sky friendly lighting schemes and avoid unnecessary lighting for all new development.</li><li>4. Write to MPs and government calling for the APPO'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.</li><li>5. Work proactively with partners, Oxfordshire County Council 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.</li><li>6. Use our communications channels to increase understanding among residents and businesses of the importance of dark skies and limiting light pollution.</li></ol>	<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.</p> <p>Council acknowledges the work of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Dark Skies and welcomes its recommendations. <a href="http://www.apppdarkskies.co.uk">www.apppdarkskies.co.uk</a></p> <p>Council recognises that Oxfordshire County Council lighting schemes on adopted highways.</p> <p>This Council will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Ensure that limiting light pollution and preserving dark skies are key priorities for planning policies and design guides, including master-planning of sites.</li><li>2. Work with Neighbourhood Planning groups to encourage the implementation of dark sky friendly lighting policies in Neighbourhood Plans.</li><li>3. Encourage the incorporation of dark sky friendly lighting schemes and avoid unnecessary lighting for all new development.</li><li>4. Write to MPs and government calling for the APPO'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.</li><li>5. Work proactively with partners, Oxfordshire County Council 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.</li><li>6. Use our communications channels to increase understanding among residents and businesses of the importance of dark skies and limiting light pollution.</li></ol>	Relevant officers advised and letters sent.	Head of Policy & Programmes	No	Work to address some of the actions within this motion remain ongoing	Open
South M30	25th March 2021	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	Relevant officers advised.	Head of Development & Corporate Landlord	No	Actions within this motion remain ongoing	Open
South M31	25th March 2021	<p>That Council notes that:</p> <p>The pandemic has had profound effects on our district's economic, social and physical wellbeing.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>'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.</p> <p>The five core principles of community wealth-building are considered to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rural ownership of the economy.</li><li>• Making financial power work for local places.</li><li>• Fair employment practices and just labour markets.</li><li>• Progressive procurement of goods and services.</li><li>• Socially productive use of land and property.</li></ul> <p>Council asks officers to explore how the concepts of 'community wealth-building' can be applied to the South Oxfordshire context, with particular reference to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The role procurement by anchor institutions could play in local economic recovery</li><li>- The council's land, investment and property policies</li><li>- Place-specific actions to enhance community resilience</li></ul>	<p>That Council notes that:</p> <p>The pandemic has had profound effects on our district's economic, social and physical wellbeing.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>'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.</p> <p>The five core principles of community wealth-building are considered to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rural ownership of the economy.</li><li>• Making financial power work for local places.</li><li>• Fair employment practices and just labour markets.</li><li>• Progressive procurement of goods and services.</li><li>• Socially productive use of land and property.</li></ul> <p>Council asks officers to explore how the concepts of 'community wealth-building' can be applied to the South Oxfordshire context, with particular reference to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The role procurement by anchor institutions could play in local economic recovery</li><li>- The council's land, investment and property policies</li><li>- Place-specific actions to enhance community resilience</li></ul>	<p>Relevant officers advised.</p> <p>South Oxfordshire agreed a Procurement Strategy for 2021/22 to 2025/26 during September 2021. This set out that councils' intention is to procure goods, services and works that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) ensure sustainable procurement is embedded in the councils where the need for goods, services, works, and utilities are procured in such a way that achieves value for money on a whole life basis in terms of generating benefit not only to the councils but also to the local community and the economy, whilst minimising damage to the local environment and reducing carbon emissions</li><li>2) ensure ethical procurement is embedded in the councils by respecting fundamental international standards against criminal conduct (i.e. bribery, corruption and fraud) and human rights abuse</li><li>3) are accessible (through work with economic development colleagues) to local businesses, especially SMEs who may be suitable to bid for certain opportunities, keeping the money in the local economy and reducing the supply chain.</li><li>4) will support South Oxfordshire District Council's delivery of its Climate Action Plan and the council's commitment to becoming carbon neutral within its own operations by 2025.</li></ol> <p>The Strategy: Property Review (SPR) as part of its considerations identified surplus land which could be utilised to meet a range of climate change measures (tiny forests, wildflower meadows etc). The SPR also mentions the opportunity of working with the district's anchor employers and key stakeholders.</p> <p>The Council has supported the work of the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economic Partnership (OIEP) Steering Group. The OIEP Steering Group seeks to drive business and community engagement through educational attainment, inclusive recruitment and social value in procurement. The overall mission of the OIEP is to create a more equal and sustainable county that provided opportunities and benefits for all. Its Charter will be launched in January 2023. This will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Mobilise support for Oxfordshire inclusive economy and raise awareness of it.</li><li>- Publicly share commitments to inclusivity by individuals, businesses and organisations.</li><li>- Set and raise standards around inclusive economy.</li><li>- Encourage residents and businesses to work together to help protect Oxfordshire's economy with the aim to prevent money leaving the county.</li></ul>	Head of Development & Corporate Landlord	No	Actions within this motion remain ongoing	Open
South M32	25th March 2021	<p>That Council notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• As specified in the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2035 the district council has planned for 30,056 new homes in the period 2011-2035, of which 16,360 have already been built.</li><li>• Clinical Commissioning Groups are responsible for ensuring health provision for our growing population is provided.</li><li>• 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.</li><li>• 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.</li><li>• Our planning service and planning committee are therefore under pressure to approve new housing without plans for healthcare in place.</li></ul> <p>Council believes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This council has an important role in improving the health and wellbeing of our residents.</li><li>• Primary health provision should be planned based on population growth and vision for health care provision in the district.</li><li>• That sufficient infrastructure such as transport, health and education should be provided alongside, and preferably ahead of, new housing development.</li><li>• The current national system for ensuring health infrastructure is provided, through Clinical Commissioning Groups, is not working.</li></ul> <p>Council requests:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>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.</li><li>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:</li></ol> <p>Developing better working relationship between the CCGs and the District Council.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>How the CCGs can engage more proactively with the planning authority to better plan healthcare for strategic sites housing sites in South Oxfordshire listed in the council's corporate plan theme of 'Improved economic and community well-being'.</p> <p>To understand how CCGs use population forecasts to plan primary healthcare.</p> <p>To discuss the particular cases of Wallingford, Didcot, Thame and Chinnor and other locations under pressure.</p> <p>3. The Council Leader write to the Ministers for Health and MHCLG to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- explain the difficulties local planning authorities have to obtain information and commitment to deliver health services from CCGs</li><li>- 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)</li><li>- ask what government are doing to increase the number of GPs and other health staff and funding to keep up with number of homes.</li></ul>	<p>That Council notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• As specified in the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2035 the district council has planned for 30,056 new homes in the period 2011-2035, of which 16,360 have already been built.</li><li>• Clinical Commissioning Groups are responsible for ensuring health provision for our growing population is provided.</li><li>• 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.</li><li>• 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.</li><li>• Our planning service and planning committee are therefore under pressure to approve new housing without plans for healthcare in place.</li></ul> <p>Council believes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This council has an important role in improving the health and wellbeing of our residents.</li><li>• Primary health provision should be planned based on population growth and vision for health care provision in the district.</li><li>• That sufficient infrastructure such as transport, health and education should be provided alongside, and preferably ahead of, new housing development.</li><li>• The current national system for ensuring health infrastructure is provided, through Clinical Commissioning Groups, is not working.</li></ul> <p>Council requests:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>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.</li><li>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:</li></ol> <p>Developing better working relationship between the CCGs and the District Council.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>How the CCGs can engage more proactively with the planning authority to better plan healthcare for strategic sites housing sites in South Oxfordshire listed in the council's corporate plan theme of 'Improved economic and community well-being'.</p> <p>To understand how CCGs use population forecasts to plan primary healthcare.</p> <p>To discuss the particular cases of Wallingford, Didcot, Thame and Chinnor and other locations under pressure.</p>	<p>Relevant officers informed. Letters will be sent after the relevant meetings between 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 visiting CCGs, Swale Clinical Commissioning Group and Barkinghamshire 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 arranged a presentation for all councillors by all councillors by the OCCG to explain how they operate and discuss future reforms. An all-CM briefing was held in September 2021.</p>	Deputy Chief Executive Place	Yes		Closed
South M33	25th March 2021	<p>That the 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"><li>1. 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.</li><li>2. That such pilot studies gather evidence of the effectiveness of a Universal Basic Income on reducing inequality, disadvantage and poverty.</li><li>3. 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 Pensions to all councillors as and when replies are received.</li></ol>	<p>That the 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"><li>1. 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.</li><li>2. That such pilot studies gather evidence of the effectiveness of a Universal Basic Income on reducing inequality, disadvantage and poverty.</li><li>3. 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 Pensions to all councillors as and when replies are received.</li></ol>	Letters drafted	Head of Finance	Yes		Closed
South M34	25th March 2021	<p>That Council agrees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 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</li><li>- To explore developing an Action Plan on Neurodiversity which sits within the Inclusion and Diversity Strategy and includes:</li></ul> <p>Using best practice from Autism charities and Neurodiversity partnerships, recruitment and HR practices for supporting neurodivergent candidates and employees</p> <p>Developing a needs assessment process specific to neurodivergence so reasonable adjustments can be made</p> <p>Putting in place coaching/mentoring/buddy system for staff who are neurodivergent</p> <p>Understanding a review of our services to ensure they are accessible to neurodivergent individuals and making adaptations where necessary</p> <p>Making the action plan (booklet) publicly available as a resource for other local employers (via South and Vale business support newsletter)</p> <p>Continuing to work with partners across Oxfordshire to share best practice on issues pertaining to neurodiversity</p> <p>Setting up learning and awareness events and using communication channels including social media</p> <p>consultation on a draft action plan with people with lived experience</p>	<p>That Council agrees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 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</li><li>- To explore developing an Action Plan on Neurodiversity which sits within the Inclusion and Diversity Strategy and includes:</li></ul> <p>Using best practice from Autism charities and Neurodiversity partnerships, recruitment and HR practices for supporting neurodivergent candidates and employees</p> <p>Developing a needs assessment process specific to neurodivergence so reasonable adjustments can be made</p> <p>Putting in place coaching/mentoring/buddy system for staff who are neurodivergent</p> <p>Understanding a review of our services to ensure they are accessible to neurodivergent individuals and making adaptations where necessary</p> <p>Making the action plan (booklet) publicly available as a resource for other local employers (via South and Vale business support newsletter)</p> <p>Continuing to work with partners across Oxfordshire to share best practice on issues pertaining to neurodiversity</p> <p>Setting up learning and awareness events and using communication channels including social media</p> <p>consultation on a draft action plan with people with lived experience</p>	Relevant officers informed.	Head of Corporate Services	No	Actions within this motion remain ongoing	Open
South M35	25th March 2021	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	Relevant officers informed.	Head of Development & Corporate Landlord	No	Actions within this motion remain ongoing	Open

South M06	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 Bemwood 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>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>	<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 Bemwood 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</p>	Relevant officers informed.	Head of Policy & Programmes	No Actions within this motion remain ongoing.	Open
South M07	15th July 2021	<p>That Council notes:</p> <p>Councils are responsible for organising all elections in England.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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>That Council notes:</p> <p>Councils are responsible for organising all elections in England.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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>	Relevant officers informed and letter drafted	Head of Legal & Democratic Services	Yes	Closed
South M08	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>	<p>That Council notes our CEO is an LGA Peer and has previously asked group leaders to support our Council being peer challenged.</p> <p>Council supports him in this and recognizes the contribution that our officers have made to national best practice.</p>	Relevant officers informed	Chief Executive	No Actions within this motion remain ongoing.	Open
South M09	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 Diagsia review, published earlier this year<sup>1</sup>, 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"><li>- 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.</li><li>- 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.</li><li>- Give local authorities within the Arc area the powers and funding needed to enable landscape-scale nature restoration and world-leading environmental standards.</li><li>- Ensure proper local democratic control, with constituent local planning authorities able to set their own housing requirements based on local need.</li></ul> <p>1 <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/the-economics-of-biodiversity-the-diagsia-review">https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/the-economics-of-biodiversity-the-diagsia-review</a> 2 <a href="https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-58494444">https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-58494444</a> 3 <a href="https://community.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/rspb-england/posts/time-to-rethink-the-arc">https://community.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/rspb-england/posts/time-to-rethink-the-arc</a></p>	<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 Diagsia review, published earlier this year<sup>1</sup>, 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"><li>- 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.</li><li>- 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.</li><li>- Give local authorities within the Arc area the powers and funding needed to enable landscape-scale nature restoration and world-leading environmental standards.</li><li>- Ensure proper local democratic control, with constituent local planning authorities able to set their own housing requirements based on local need.</li></ul> <p>1 <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/the-economics-of-biodiversity-the-diagsia-review">https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/the-economics-of-biodiversity-the-diagsia-review</a> 2 <a href="https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-58494444">https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-58494444</a> 3 <a href="https://community.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/rspb-england/posts/time-to-rethink-the-arc">https://community.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/rspb-england/posts/time-to-rethink-the-arc</a></p>	Letter sent and relevant officers informed. <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	Yes	Closed
South M40	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 wellbeing 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"><li>- the appointment of Michael Gove as Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.</li><li>- the upcoming United Nations COP26 climate summit gives government at all levels the opportunity to galvanise action on reducing emissions.</li><li>- HM Government's stated ambitions to Build Back Better, achieve Net Zero and to leave the natural environment in a better state than it found it.</li></ul> <p>Council calls for HM Government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- scrap the current proposals for planning reform and maintain the right of local residents to engage and comment on individual planning applications</li><li>- 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</li><li>- maintain the right of local people, through robust Neighbourhood and Local Plan processes, to decide how their communities develop sustainably</li><li>- reverse the recently introduced permitted development rights which bypass local decision-making</li><li>- 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</li><li>- 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.</li></ul> <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>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 wellbeing 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"><li>- the appointment of Michael Gove as Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.</li><li>- the upcoming United Nations COP26 climate summit gives government at all levels the opportunity to galvanise action on reducing emissions.</li><li>- HM Government's stated ambitions to Build Back Better, achieve Net Zero and to leave the natural environment in a better state than it found it.</li></ul> <p>Council calls for HM Government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- scrap the current proposals for planning reform and maintain the right of local residents to engage and comment on individual planning applications</li><li>- 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</li><li>- maintain the right of local people, through robust Neighbourhood and Local Plan processes, to decide how their communities develop sustainably</li><li>- reverse the recently introduced permitted development rights which bypass local decision-making</li><li>- 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</li><li>- 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.</li></ul> <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>	Letters sent and relevant officers informed.	Head of Policy & Programmes	Yes	Closed
South M41	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>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 well being of those affected 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>	<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>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 well being of those affected 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>	Letters sent and response received.	Head of Finance	Yes	Closed
South M42	7th October 2021	<p>Council notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The recent report by Swim England which warns that almost 2,000 pools could be lost in England by the end of the decade.</li><li>- That the Council's annual greenhouse gas emission report (<a href="https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/04/Greenhouse-gas-emissions-report-South-2019-20.docx">https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/04/Greenhouse-gas-emissions-report-South-2019-20.docx</a>) in respect to our aging leisure centres, coupled with the need to decarbonise wet site facilities to achieve the council's carbon reduction targets, rightly requires a focus on heat decarbonisation and whole building approach.</li><li>- 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.</li><li>- 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.</li><li>- 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 emissions.</li><li>- 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.</li></ul> <p>Council resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 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.</li><li>- 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.</li></ul>	<p>Council notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The recent report by Swim England which warns that almost 2,000 pools could be lost in England by the end of the decade.</li><li>- That the Council's annual greenhouse gas emission report (<a href="https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/04/Greenhouse-gas-emissions-report-South-2019-20.docx">https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/04/Greenhouse-gas-emissions-report-South-2019-20.docx</a>) in respect to our aging leisure centres, coupled with the need to decarbonise wet site facilities to achieve the council's carbon reduction targets, rightly requires a focus on heat decarbonisation and whole building approach.</li><li>- 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.</li><li>- That competitive bidding for funds can put significant resource pressure on lean councils without guarantee of award.</li><li>- 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.</li><li>- 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 emissions.</li><li>- 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.</li></ul> <p>Council resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 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.</li><li>- 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.</li></ul>	Letters sent and relevant officers informed. <p>Site assessments continue to be conducted at our leisure centres and a "mode" bid has been drafted with external support, so we know what good looks like to improve opportunities of future success in the scheme.</p> <p>The External Funding Lead is now embedded within the organisation. They have made progress on introducing the necessary governance structures and documentation to ensure their future funding bids are deliverable and align with South Oxfordshire's goals.</p> <p>The pipeline of external funding opportunities continues to be maintained and assessed.</p>	Head of Development & Corporate Landlord	No Actions within this motion remain ongoing.	Open

South M43	7th October 2021	<p>Council notes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Two years ago, Blue Rylder at Netfield 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.</li><li>• The Duchess of Kent (The Earl and Sobell House (Oxford) are not admitting any new patients. and all are full.</li><li>• 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?</li></ul> <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>Council notes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Two years ago, Blue Rylder at Netfield 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.</li><li>• The Duchess of Kent (The Earl and Sobell House (Oxford) are not admitting any new patients. and all are full.</li><li>• 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?</li></ul> <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>Letters sent and relevant officers informed.</p> <p>On 15th December 2021, Oxfordshire CCG announced that they were commissioning two specialist palliative care beds at Wallingford Community Hospital to serve the community in South East Oxfordshire. While the current data suggests that this is the appropriate level of provision for the population, there is the option of increasing the number of beds if demand increases.</p> <p>People in South East Oxfordshire requiring specialist palliative care will also continue to be admitted to Sobell House in Oxford.</p>	Head of Policy & Programmes	Yes	Closed
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 &amp; 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>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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>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"><li>• address this issue as a priority, recognising its importance in achieving our national and international carbon emission targets;</li><li>• suggest that Ministers use the Construction Leadership Council's Retrofit Strategy as a basis for a government policy and plan;</li><li>• 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;</li><li>• develop long term support for households including changes in relevant law, guidance and tax regulations and to encourage businesses and skills development in this area;</li><li>• recognise the benefits to society in better health and wellbeing from energy efficient homes;</li><li>• recognise the industrial and employment opportunities that a countrywide retrofit plan could present to the British economy</li></ul></li><li>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.</li></ol>	<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 &amp; 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>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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>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"><li>• address this issue as a priority, recognising its importance in achieving our national and international carbon emission targets;</li><li>• suggest that Ministers use the Construction Leadership Council's Retrofit Strategy as a basis for a government policy and plan;</li><li>• 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;</li><li>• develop long term support for households including changes in relevant law, guidance and tax regulations and to encourage businesses and skills development in this area;</li><li>• recognise the benefits to society in better health and wellbeing from energy efficient homes;</li><li>• recognise the industrial and employment opportunities that a countrywide retrofit plan could present to the British economy</li></ul></li></ol>	<p>Letters sent and relevant officers informed.</p> <p>South has continued to work within the Future Oxfordshire Partnership on the development of a route map and action plan for the Pathways to Zero Carbon Oxfordshire project. Officers have also been reviewing potential ways for how district councils can best help to accelerate the uptake of retrofit within their areas. An options paper on this work is currently being progressed.</p> <p>The council has developed and launched an Energy Saving webpage which focuses on tips that will help residents with the cost-of-living crisis. It includes information on retrofitting and provides signposts to additional sources of advice and funding.</p>	Head of Policy & Programmes	No Actions within this motion remain ongoing	Open
South M45	9th December 2021	<p>Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o notes that the leader of the Liberal Democrats Party has re-stated his party's commitment to building 380,000 homes a year</li><li>o notes that 380,000 homes as in July 2020 higher figure than targets proposed by any other political party in recent years</li><li>o considers a important to understand what this building target might mean for South Oxfordshire</li><li>o requests the Leader of the council to write to the Liberal Democrats Party Leader seeking clarification of how many extra houses he envisages this would bring to South Oxfordshire.</li></ul> <p>At its meeting on 26 March 2021 council passed a motion noting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the failure of healthcare services within the district to keep pace with the growth in the population, and</li><li>• the failure of the present system putting our planning service and planning committee under pressure to approve new housing without plans for healthcare in place.</li></ul> <p>The motion went on to call for officers to continue to try to engage with the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) and for the Leader to request a meeting with the CCG to discuss these issues.</p> <p>Council notes that in April 2022 the CCG will be replaced by the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care System (ICS).</p> <p>At the previous meeting the Wards on the boundaries of Oxfordshire highlighted issues experienced during the pandemic. SDOCC Councillors with Oxfordshire residents registered with GPs linked to Buckinghamshire CCG did not receive the same level of information on local pandemic actions for those residents as they did for those registered with GPs within the Oxfordshire CCG area.</p> <p>Council therefore requests that the Leader seeks an early meeting with the Leadership of the ICS in April 2022, in order to raise the issues highlighted in the March motion to ensure that they are aware of the serious issues facing the district in term of healthcare provision and, in particular, the importance of the ICS engaging with the planning process to ensure that services keep pace with development.</p> <p>As the new ICS will cover Oxfordshire, Berkshire &amp; Buckinghamshire, can the leader seek assurances that this issue will not occur in the future and that this will no longer be an issue across county boundaries.</p>	<p>The Leader of the council to write to the Liberal Democrats Party Leader seeking clarification of how many extra houses he envisages this would bring to South Oxfordshire.</p>	<p>Letters Sent</p>	Head of Policy & Programmes	Yes	Closed
South M46	9th December 2021	<p>At its meeting on 26 March 2021 council passed a motion noting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the failure of healthcare services within the district to keep pace with the growth in the population, and</li><li>• the failure of the present system putting our planning service and planning committee under pressure to approve new housing without plans for healthcare in place.</li></ul> <p>The motion went on to call for officers to continue to try to engage with the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) and for the Leader to request a meeting with the CCG to discuss these issues.</p> <p>Council notes that in April 2022 the CCG will be replaced by the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care System (ICS).</p> <p>At the previous meeting the Wards on the boundaries of Oxfordshire highlighted issues experienced during the pandemic. SDOCC Councillors with Oxfordshire residents registered with GPs linked to Buckinghamshire CCG did not receive the same level of information on local pandemic actions for those residents as they did for those registered with GPs within the Oxfordshire CCG area.</p> <p>Council therefore requests that the Leader seeks an early meeting with the Leadership of the ICS in April 2022, in order to raise the issues highlighted in the March motion to ensure that they are aware of the serious issues facing the district in term of healthcare provision and, in particular, the importance of the ICS engaging with the planning process to ensure that services keep pace with development.</p> <p>As the new ICS will cover Oxfordshire, Berkshire &amp; Buckinghamshire, can the leader seek assurances that this issue will not occur in the future and that this will no longer be an issue across county boundaries.</p>	<p>Council therefore requests that the Leader seeks an early meeting with the Leadership of the ICS in April 2022, in order to raise the issues highlighted in the March motion to ensure that they are aware of the serious issues facing the district in term of healthcare provision and, in particular, the importance of the ICS engaging with the planning process to ensure that services keep pace with development.</p> <p>As the new ICS will cover Oxfordshire, Berkshire &amp; Buckinghamshire, can the leader seek assurances that this issue will not occur in the future and that this will no longer be an issue across county boundaries.</p>	<p>Relevant officers informed</p>	Deputy Chief Executive - Place	Yes	Closed
South M47	9th December 2021	<p>Council asks the Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities asking that he give focus to Planning Enforcement in his review of the Planning White Paper, including a review of the current powers and consideration to the introduction of additional powers available elsewhere in the UK, such as the requirement for developers to give notice of commencement and completion.</p>	<p>Council asks the Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities asking that he give focus to Planning Enforcement in his review of the Planning White Paper, including a review of the current powers and consideration to the introduction of additional powers available elsewhere in the UK, such as the requirement for developers to give notice of commencement and completion.</p>	<p>Letters sent and relevant officers informed</p>	Head of Planning	Yes	Closed
South M48	9th December 2021	<p>Council Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• That the authority has declared both a climate and an ecological emergency</li><li>• That the Glasgow Climate Pact recognises a crucial role for communities and local authorities, by "recognizing the important role of ... local communities and civil society, including youth and children, in addressing and responding to climate change, and highlighting the urgent need for multilevel and cooperative action" the Pact makes plain the need for action at every level of government and society.</li><li>• Furthermore, the Pact explicitly calls on us "to actively involve ... local communities in designing and implementing climate action".</li><li>• That shortly before the Glasgow conference the UK government published its Net Zero Strategy, which includes the intention to establish a Net Zero Forum to coordinate the strategy with local government.</li></ul> <p>Council believes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• That COP26 failed to provide the national targets that could put the world on course for limiting global average temperature rise to 1.5C; it failed to provide the carbon price mechanisms needed to shift the world economy away from fossil fuels; it failed to provide the necessary finance for developing nations to develop without fossil fuels or to deal with the loss and damage caused to them by weather events that are historically responsible; it failed to outline all localities in 'offshoring' mechanisms; it failed to commit to phasing out fossil fuels.</li><li>• That the choices for a strong recovery from COP26 were weakened by the UK government's decision to take climate action not least the reduction in tax on internal flights, the continued commitment to new fossil fuel extraction in Cumbria and the North Sea oil fields, and the cuts to overseas aid.</li><li>• That the Climate Change Committee is correct when it states that it is "crucial for the [Net Zero] Forum to promptly develop an agreed understanding of the role of local government in delivering Net Zero. Furthermore, Government must ensure that critical enabling processes, such as the planning system and appraisal methodologies, are properly aligned to these pathways."</li></ul> <p>Council resolves, in line with the Glasgow Pact and associated declarations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To provide leadership in the form of clear and regular guidance and information on the road to net zero, with transparency regarding the council's work and honesty with regard to the changes in homes, transport and diets required of us all</li><li>• To publish a Climate Action Plan as soon as possible, where we set out how we will accelerate work on waste reduction, circular economy initiatives, retrofitting our buildings, sustainable food strategies and natural carbon capture</li><li>• To strengthen partnerships with other councils, local NHS trusts, businesses and O&amp;LEP including, through the Future Oxfordshire Partnership, so all partners bring forward plans for decarbonising both their own activities and their supply chains.</li><li>• To play our part in the wider transport system transformation, including support for active travel, public and shared transport</li><li>• To investigate opportunities for local Green Investment Bonds (as promoted by LGAs) which can enable those in our communities to invest to contribute to the development of local green infrastructure projects.</li></ul>	<p>To provide leadership in the form of clear and regular guidance and information on the road to net zero, with transparency regarding the council's work and honesty with regard to the changes in homes, transport and diets required of us all</p> <p>To publish a Climate Action Plan as soon as possible, where we set out how we will accelerate work on waste reduction, circular economy initiatives, retrofitting our buildings, sustainable food strategies and natural carbon capture</p> <p>To strengthen partnerships with other councils, local NHS trusts, businesses and O&amp;LEP including, through the Future Oxfordshire Partnership, so all partners bring forward plans for decarbonising both their own activities and their supply chains.</p> <p>To play our part in the wider transport system transformation, including support for active travel, public and shared transport</p> <p>To investigate opportunities for local Green Investment Bonds (as promoted by LGAs) which can enable those in our communities to invest to contribute to the development of local green infrastructure projects.</p>	<p>Relevant officers informed</p> <p>A Climate Action Plan has been developed and approved for 2022-24. Progress against the measures within it are reported on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>South has continued to work within the Future Oxfordshire Partnership on the development of a route map and action plan for the Pathways to Zero Carbon Oxfordshire project.</p> <p>The Future Oxfordshire Partnership has also created an Environment Advisory Sub-Group. The creation of this body not only support the partners' declarations of climate and ecological emergencies but also support the environmental aims of the Strategic Vision for Oxfordshire.</p> <p>A Local Nature Partnership (LNP) has been established for Oxfordshire. The LNP has three clear priority areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Natural Capital</li><li>2) Nature Recovery, including the Local Nature Recovery Strategy</li><li>3) People and Nature</li></ol> <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>Oxfordshire County Council issues consultation specifically mentioned opportunities for reducing the number of unnecessary car journeys by ensuring that developments are within easy reach of jobs and services people need for their day-to-day lives and are supported by appropriate, low and zero-carbon transport options. It also referenced the need to provide opportunities for active travel, exercise, social interaction and recreation</p> <p>Policies designed to enhance active travel have been included as part the Joint Design Guide.</p> <p>The councils Active Communities Strategy (adopted in the Summer of 2022) has as one of its themes creating healthier communities through walking and cycling.</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council adopted their Local Transport and Connectivity Plan in July 2022.</p> <p>South and Vale have (after a successful procurement exercise) commissioned SYSTRA Ltd to develop a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for Didcot and its environs.</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council are currently developing a Strategic Active Travel Network for Oxfordshire. This work will consist of four stages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) baseline mapping and analysis</li><li>2) network development</li><li>3) network prioritisation</li><li>4) a design build and recommendations</li></ol> <p>OCC have also commissioned the development of a Didcot Area Travel Plan which will look at how to promote the active travel network.</p>	Head of Policy & Programmes	No Actions within this motion remain ongoing	Open
South M49	19th May 2022	<p>Councillors have the ability to call in a planning application within 28 days of the start of the statutory consultation period. This is an exception to the general delegation to the Head of Planning who has authority to deal with planning applications.</p> <p>Currently, there is no ability for a councillor to call in a planning application that has been amended after the 28 day period comes to an end.</p> <p>It may well be the case that the majority of councillors are unaware that amended planning applications cannot be called in after the 28 day period has elapsed, yet there is no provision in the Constitution to resolve this.</p> <p>Council resolves that:</p> <p>The Constitution Review Group is asked to consider the delegations to the Head of Planning as part of its review of the Constitution and in particular whether the call in exception should be extended to allow for a councillor to call in an amended planning application notwithstanding the 28 day period has elapsed.</p>	<p>Council resolves that:</p> <p>The Constitution Review Group is asked to consider the delegations to the Head of Planning as part of its review of the Constitution and in particular whether the call in exception should be extended to allow for a councillor to call in an amended planning application notwithstanding the 28 day period has elapsed.</p>	<p>The motion was referred to the Joint Constitution Review Group. After some debate, the task group concluded that a mechanism already existed to allow the head of planning to refer any planning application to the Planning Committee. The Group, therefore, agreed to make no change.</p> <p>Officers were, however, asked to raise members awareness of this delegation and mechanism to request a call-in at planning applications where they have been amended. Officers will be reviewing the Planning Code of Practice to make reference to this mechanism and will also include it in future member training.</p>	Head of Legal & Democratic Services	Yes	Closed
South M50	19th May 2022	<p>In October 2021, Council noted the need to retrofit, write to Government, and provided a report on the retrofit landscape. The Council is now employing staff to deliver the recommendations of that report.</p> <p>It is estimated that up to a third of the population could be plunged into poverty by October, as domestic fuel prices rise, and the country lacks fuel security. However, the Government has no plan for mass-retrofitting of homes with insulation, airtightness, mechanical ventilation, and renewable energy generation.</p> <p>In South Oxfordshire, we aim to be zero carbon by 2030, but, without Government help, we have few means to make that happen. Ahead a third of our greenhouse gas emissions are from homes. A Government mass-retrofit scheme could reduce this wastefulness.</p> <p>A secure long-term strategy with certain investment would enable mass retrofit to boost the economy and GDP, providing good, local work. Our country is rightly proud of its world-leading managerial excellence. In mass-retrofitting we could have a new export, of systems-expertise for this complex task.</p> <p>Council resolves:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To ask the Leader to write to the Chair of the Environmental Audit Committee and to relevant Government departments to request that a high-level strategy be created for mass retrofitting of homes for the reasons given above, and specifically that:</li></ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Local Authorities (LAs) be the delivery vehicles for mass-retrofit</li><li>• LA's be provided with constant and long-term funding to maintain retrofit units</li><li>• A structured strategy for mass-retrofit be mandated by Government</li><li>• Resources be committed for mass-retrofit as necessary</li><li>• Government reject calls to expand fossil fuel extraction and focus instead on energy efficiency and the rapid rollout of renewables, and demand reduction strategies such as retrofit, consistent with the Government's stated net zero goals</li></ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>2. To respond immediately to fuel-poverty, ask Cabinet to ensure that the council:</li></ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continues to provide an advice-line on what to do if you cannot afford your household bills</li><li>• make this advice-line prominent - top position - on our website</li><li>• provide guidance and signposting on retrofitting to residents, especially those most at risk of fuel poverty.</li></ul>	<p>Council resolves:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To ask the Leader to write to the Chair of the Environmental Audit Committee and to relevant Government departments to request that a high-level strategy be created for mass retrofitting of homes for the reasons given above, and specifically that:</li></ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Local Authorities (LAs) be the delivery vehicles for mass-retrofit</li><li>• LA's be provided with constant and long-term funding to maintain retrofit units</li><li>• A structured strategy for mass-retrofit be mandated by Government</li><li>• Resources be committed for mass-retrofit as necessary</li><li>• Government reject calls to expand fossil fuel extraction and focus instead on energy efficiency and the rapid rollout of renewables, and demand reduction strategies such as retrofit, consistent with the Government's stated net zero goals</li></ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>2. To respond immediately to fuel-poverty, ask Cabinet to ensure that the council:</li></ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continues to provide an advice-line on what to do if you cannot afford your household bills</li><li>• make this advice-line prominent - top position - on our website</li><li>• provide guidance and signposting on retrofitting to residents, especially those most at risk of fuel poverty.</li></ul>	<p>Letters sent and relevant officers informed.</p> <p>Cost-of-Living information continues to be provided on the Council's website - it is the first option on the home page. Details and guidance are provided for residents on retrofitting.</p>	Head of Policy & Programmes	No Actions within this motion remain ongoing	Open
South M51	14th July 2022	<p>That good food is vital to us all and food production and farming is an important economic and employment sector in our district, with agriculture at the heart of many of our communities.</p> <p>However, the rising costs of fuel and other supplies is creating increased pressure on farmers across the district, whilst government policies on international trade threaten to undermine UK food quality standards and risk putting farmers out of business - as well as exacerbating food insecurity in the UK. At the same time, significant increases in the cost of living are putting pressure on residents across South Oxfordshire, forcing them to make difficult choices regarding their household budgets, including the amount spent on food and heating.</p> <p>The district council has a number of ways and opportunities that can help influence food production, support sustainable farming and distribution, reduce food waste, and promote healthy eating for the benefit of our residents and the environment, whilst supporting action to address climate change and building on the council's corporate plan objectives.</p> <p>Council therefore resolves:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To promote local food production and distribution and a sustainable food culture in South Oxfordshire by maximising opportunities to highlight the importance of food and farming in our local economy through our website, communications the press and social media</li><li>2. To recognise that the initial cause of food poverty is not agricultural but economic/socio-economic due to high cost of living and to work with local partners such as Good Food Oxfordshire to promote and encourage food growing developments</li><li>3. To encourage farming communities and agricultural businesses to respond to any consultation on our new Joint Local Plan and Oxfordshire Plan 2026 and to engage more generally with the council</li><li>4. To encourage developers to include community gardens and allotment provision within all new housing developments</li><li>5. To encourage and promote high environmental health standards at all stages of food production, distribution and redistribution, and continue to support local businesses, local farmers' markets and 'farm-door' sales, recognising their positive impact on reducing the carbon emissions associated with food miles.</li><li>6. To continue to investigate ways we can support food redistribution organisations and food charities to address food poverty in the district, noting the work that has already been done in this regard.</li><li>7. To continue to promote ways we can reduce food waste through our waste service and the use of food recycling bins and promotion of the circular economy (reduce, re-use and recycle), highlighting the climate benefits this can bring through initiatives such as Food Waste Action Week.</li><li>8. To minimise food waste at any event that we may host that serves food, and to use food charities, and locally sourced produce wherever possible.</li></ol>	<p>Council therefore resolves:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To promote local food production and distribution and a sustainable food culture in South Oxfordshire by maximising opportunities to highlight the importance of food and farming in our local economy through our website, communications the press and social media</li><li>2. To recognise that the initial cause of food poverty is not agricultural but economic/socio-economic due to high cost of living and to work with local partners such as Good Food Oxfordshire to promote and encourage food growing developments</li><li>3. To encourage farming communities and agricultural businesses to respond to any consultation on our new Joint Local Plan and Oxfordshire Plan 2026 and to engage more generally with the council</li><li>4. To encourage developers to include community gardens and allotment provision within all new housing developments</li><li>5. To encourage and promote high environmental health standards at all stages of food production, distribution and redistribution, and continue to support local businesses, local farmers' markets and 'farm-door' sales, recognising their positive impact on reducing the carbon emissions associated with food miles.</li><li>6. To continue to investigate ways we can support food redistribution organisations and food charities to address food poverty in the district, noting the work that has already been done in this regard.</li><li>7. To continue to promote ways we can reduce food waste through our waste service and the use of food recycling bins and promotion of the circular economy (reduce, re-use and recycle), highlighting the climate benefits this can bring through initiatives such as Food Waste Action Week.</li><li>8. To minimise food waste at any event that we may host that serves food, and to use such organisations to highlight the use of waste food, low carbon options, and locally sourced produce wherever possible.</li></ol>	<p>Relevant officers informed.</p> <p>Cabinet endorsed the Oxfordshire Food Strategy (Part One) in December 2022.</p> <p>Since the motion was passed, officers have engaged with a number of stakeholders within the farming community and rural organisations, through a series of meetings both virtual and in person.</p> <p>During Q2 2022/23, the Strategic Property Unit started to review sites which would potentially be suitable for community garden projects. They also established a cross-service officer working group to discuss how to take these projects forward.</p>	Head of Policy & Programmes Head of Development and Corporate Landlord Head of Planning	No Actions within this motion remain ongoing	Open
South M52	14th July 2022	<p>That Council notes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• On 1 April 2022, Ofgem increased the energy price cap by 54%, however there is no price cap on solid fuel, bottled gas or heating oil.</li><li>• The average standard tariff energy bill will increase by £693 per year. The average pre-pay meter energy bill will increase by £708 per year (Ofgem, 2022).</li><li>• The energy price cap is expected to rise significantly again in October this year.</li><li>• The Universal Credit (UC) uplift was removed last year.</li><li>• Forecast fuel prices have rapidly increased and are close to £2 per litre, badly affecting key workers, logistics, farming and food production.</li><li>• On 6 April 2022, the Government increased National Insurance by 1.25 per cent, which is projected to cost the average family an additional £108 per year.</li><li>• In 10 (88%) adults reported their cost of living had risen over the past month, with many citing affordability of food and medicines as a major concern.</li><li>• Reliance on Food Banks has greatly increased across South Oxfordshire.</li><li>• The cost of living increases also impact council services, from housing needs to the work of the community hub. Council funds are badly affected by rising inflation.</li></ul> <p>Council declares that we have moved from a Cost of Living Crisis to a Cost of Living Emergency</p> <p>Council asks the leader to call on the Government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Urgently review the energy cap regime and provide much greater protection to consumers, as other European countries have done.</li><li>• Make an immediate reduction in VAT, which proportionally helps those most in need.</li><li>• Increase benefits in line with inflation and reinstate the Universal Credit uplift.</li><li>• Urgently provide financial support to public transport to avoid service reductions.</li><li>• Recognise that councils like South Oxfordshire will need additional funding to support services affected by high inflation.</li></ul> <p>Council further resolves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To call for a local Cost of Living Emergency Summit with stakeholders, including Oxfordshire County Council, Citizens Advice, Food Banks, and others, and to invite both local MPs to attend to work towards a community response to the emergency.</li><li>• To ensure Council continues to maximise opportunities to inform and support residents in need, directing them towards services that advise on heating bills, employment and skills and wellbeing support via our Community Hub.</li><li>• To continue to offer up to 100% council fee reduction, subject to circumstances, and to advise our residents through all channels of communication how to apply for the scheme.</li></ul>	<p>Council further resolves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To call for a local Cost of Living Emergency Summit with stakeholders, including Oxfordshire County Council, Citizens Advice, Food Banks, and others, and to invite both local MPs to attend to work towards a community response to the emergency.</li><li>• To ensure Council continues to maximise opportunities to inform and support residents in need, directing them towards services that advise on heating bills, employment and skills and wellbeing support via our Community Hub.</li><li>• To continue to offer up to 100% council fee reduction, subject to circumstances, and to advise our residents through all channels of communication how to apply for the scheme.</li></ul>	<p>Letter sent (response received from HM Treasury on 19 August) and relevant officers informed.</p> <p>A cost-of-living roundtable (organised by the County Council) was held on 6 October. This brought together all of Oxfordshire's local authorities and various other organisations to discuss the best ways of providing support.</p> <p>The Council's Community Hub continues to support residents in need by directing them towards services that advise on heating bills, employment, skills and wellbeing.</p> <p>Cost-of-Living information is provided on the Council's website - it is the first option on the home page.</p>	Head of Policy & Programmes	No Actions within this motion remain ongoing	Open

South M53	14th July 2022	<p>That Council notes:</p> <p>Residents and councillors remain deeply concerned about water quality and the impact on human health and wildlife, of sewage discharges into the River Thames and its tributaries.</p> <p>Sewage discharges are happening with increasing frequency. Thames Water dumped raw sewage into the River Thames and its tributaries 5,028 times in 2021.</p> <p>Data obtained from Thames Water and compiled by the Oxford Rivers Improvement Campaign (ORIC) shows that in 2020, treatment works in South Oxfordshire were operating significantly short of the capacity required to cope with existing populations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Didcot has 61% of the capacity required</li><li>•Oxford Sewage Treatment Works in (Banford), has 62% of the capacity required</li><li>•Chinnor has 69% of the capacity required</li><li>•Wheatley has 68% of the capacity required</li><li>•Chalgrove has 71% of the capacity required</li></ul> <p>South Oxfordshire has plans for almost 30,000 new homes to be delivered between 2011 and 2035. The district has already seen a significant increase in its population of 14,800 from 134,300 (2011) to 149,100 (2021).</p> <p>Legislation establishes the right to connect to the foul water system. Where Thames Water identifies infrastructure capacity issues and the developer indicates that it intends to connect to the public sewer, South Oxfordshire District Council makes permission conditional on Thames Water taking necessary steps to ensure the public sewer can cope with the increased load ("Grampian-style" conditions).</p> <p>But the Council is not informed of the specifics of sewage treatment capacity and is not told whether development is likely to lead to an increase in sewage discharges into the Thames or its tributaries.</p> <p>This Council resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1.Ensure that an evidence base is compiled that assesses the cumulative impact of sewage discharge so that this is factored into decisions on the new Joint Local Plan.</li><li>2.Request that Thames Water submit to Council and make public by the end of 2022, detailed and up to date information on sewage treatment work capacity at all treatment works in South Oxfordshire, make clear plans for infrastructure improvements and detail how these will work to reduce and ultimately eliminate sewage discharges.</li><li>3.Ask Thames Water, as part of its response to major planning applications, to provide detailed and up to date information on capacity at the treatment works that will be handling the waste from the new development, and information on the likely impact of additional development on sewage discharges into the River Thames and its tributaries, in order that this information can be considered in the decision-making process.</li><li>4.Request that planning officers include in all reports relating to major development, a summary response from Thames Water to our consultation and, where information/data is provided, include a specific section on the impact on the wastewater network and watercourses, including the potential for the development to affect sewage discharges.</li><li>5.Noting Thames Water's plans to make information from electronic duration monitors public by the end of 2022, ask Thames Water to measure and make public, information on the volume of sewage discharged, not just the number of hours.</li><li>6.Request that Thames Water provide detailed costings and timescales to achieve a progressive reduction and ultimately an end to sewage discharges in South Oxfordshire.</li><li>7.Ask the Leader to write to OFWAT and the Secretary of State to request that work take place to align water company investment strategies and timetables with strategic local planning so that planned infrastructure investment better relates to planned housing development.</li><li>8.Ask the Leader to write to the Secretary of State, OFWAT and the Environment Agency to request that sewerage undertakers be required to make public, up to date information on sewage treatment work capacity and volume of sewage discharges for all sewage treatment works by the end of 2023.</li></ol>	<p>This Council resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1.Ensure that an evidence base is compiled that assesses the cumulative impact of sewage discharge so that this is factored into decisions on the new Joint Local Plan.</li><li>2.Request that Thames Water submit to Council and make public by the end of 2022, detailed and up to date information on sewage treatment work capacity at all treatment works in South Oxfordshire, make clear plans for infrastructure improvements and detail how these will work to reduce and ultimately eliminate sewage discharges.</li><li>3.Ask Thames Water, as part of its response to major planning applications, to provide detailed and up to date information on capacity at the treatment works that will be handling the waste from the new development, and information on the likely impact of additional development on sewage discharges into the River Thames and its tributaries, in order that this information can be considered in the decision-making process.</li><li>4.Request that planning officers include in all reports relating to major development, a summary response from Thames Water to our consultation and, where information/data is provided, include a specific section on the impact on the wastewater network and watercourses, including the potential for the development to affect sewage discharges.</li><li>5.Noting Thames Water's plans to make information from electronic duration monitors public by the end of 2022, ask Thames Water to measure and make public, information on the volume of sewage discharged, not just the number of hours.</li><li>6.Request that Thames Water provide detailed costings and timescales to achieve a progressive reduction and ultimately an end to sewage discharges in South Oxfordshire.</li><li>7.Ask the Leader to write to OFWAT and the Secretary of State to request that work take place to align water company investment strategies and timetables with strategic local planning so that planned infrastructure investment better relates to planned housing development.</li><li>8.Ask the Leader to write to the Secretary of State, OFWAT and the Environment Agency to request that sewerage undertakers be required to make public, up to date information on sewage treatment work capacity and volume of sewage discharges for all sewage treatment works by the end of 2023.</li></ol>	<p>Letters sent - responses received from the Environment Agency (8 August) and from Defra (10 November)</p> <p>During 2023, the council will be commissioning a Water Cycle Study to inform the Joint Local Plan. This will include an assessment of sewage discharges and their cumulative impacts.</p> <p>The council has made a change to its validation requirements. The modification puts the onus on the applicant/developer to provide detailed and up-to-date information on the capacity at treatment works that will be holding the waste from new developments (and data on the likely impact of additional development on sewage discharges into the Thames and its tributaries). In order to provide these details, the applicant/developer is, therefore, obliged to liaise with Thames Water. South have also more clearly set out the level of information that they require in order to assess major planning applications when it comes to drainage.</p> <p>In addition, officers are including a summary response from Thames Water to the council's consultation on major applications. Where information/data is provided, officers are including a specific section in their reports on the wastewater network and watercourses – including the potential affects on sewage discharges. <b>(Please note that the council is dependent on Thames Water and their data if it is going to provide more information.)</b></p>	Head of Policy & Programmes Head of Planning	No Actions within this motion remain ongoing.	Open
South M54	13th October 2022	<p>That Council supports in principle that the community of Great Western Park should reside in one parish within one district council area.</p> <p>Council notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 that the community of Great Western Park is currently split between those living in Didcot parish within South Oxfordshire District Council and those living in Hanwell parish within Vale of White Horse District Council;</li><li>2 that a request to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England for a review of the boundaries of principal council areas, by means of Principal Area Boundary Review (PABR), must be made by all the principal councils concerned, in this case South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils;</li><li>3 that any final decision on such a request would require consideration of a report from the chief executive covering the benefits of the proposal, the financial implications and evidence of support from the local community.</li></ol> <p>Council resolves to request the chief executive to ask the Leader of Vale of White Horse if an item can be included on the next Council agenda for Vale of White Horse District Council to seek views on whether it would support, in principle, a request to the LGBCE for a PABR of the boundary between South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils to address the current geographical division of the community within Great Western Park.</p>	<p>Council resolves to request the chief executive to ask the Leader of Vale of White Horse if an item can be included on the next Council agenda for Vale of White Horse District Council to seek views on whether it would support, in principle, a request to the LGBCE for a PABR of the boundary between South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils to address the current geographical division of the community within Great Western Park.</p>	<p>Letter sent from the Chief Executive to the Leader of Vale of White Horse District Council - response received 5 December</p>	Chief Executive	Yes	Closed
South M55	13th October 2022	<p>That council considers that the UK government's so-called 'investment zones', proposed by the Chancellor in his recent 'mini-budget', are a disaster in the making, for the environment, local communities, democracy and public finances.</p> <p>Council notes that the similar 'enterprise zones' introduced in 2011 only generated about one quarter of the forecast jobs and that a significant part of those were from existing companies moving into the zones.</p> <p>Under the proposals, local consultations and environmental regulations have been presented as 'burdensome requirements'. Development which 'responds to the market' in these zones is required to be additional to the sites already set out in Local Plans, which are carefully planned to respond to local needs and to respect the local environment. Investment zones will be able to 'relax' well-evidenced policy requirements that have been consulted on and approved by local councillors. Those policies are there for a reason.</p> <p>It appears that EU-based environmental regulations such as Habitat Regulation Assessments will be scrapped in these zones, with no clarity as to how they will be replaced.</p> <p>Instead of treating nature protection as something that is in the way of growth, the environment should be at the heart of decision-making, given that it is the foundation of all economic prosperity.</p> <p>Oxfordshire's 6 councils have already agreed a Strategic Vision for long-term sustainable development, adopting a get-rich-quick scheme devised by Right-wing think tanks is not in keeping with that vision.</p> <p>Council asks the Leader to write to DLUHC and Oxfordshire County Council to say that South Oxfordshire is already a key contributor to the wider UK economy and that democratic local plans remain the best vehicle to continue to deliver that contribution. Responding to the market alone is not enough: South Oxfordshire's residents need to be heard, not sidelined, and our environment respected.</p>	<p>Council asks the Leader to write to DLUHC and Oxfordshire County Council to say that South Oxfordshire is already a key contributor to the wider UK economy and that democratic local plans remain the best vehicle to continue to deliver that contribution. Responding to the market alone is not enough: South Oxfordshire's residents need to be heard, not sidelined, and our environment respected.</p>	<p>Letters drafted.</p> <p>Concept of Investment Zones as originally intended abandoned by HM Government at the Autumn Statement.</p>	Head of Policy & Programmes	Yes	Closed