

**REPORT TO THE FARINGDON DIVISION (Buckland, Buscot, Coleshill, Eaton Hastings, Faringdon, Gainfield, Gt Coxwell, Littleworth and Lt Coxwell.  
JUNE 2018 - FROM CLLR Judith Heathcoat**

**GENERAL OCC REPORT**

**SHARED SERVICE ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN OCC AND CDC**

As reported previously, OCC and Cherwell District Council (CDC) are considering a proposal for shared service arrangements under a joint chief executive, while retaining separate councillor bodies, budgets and decision-making processes. The exact arrangements for sharing services and joining up functions still need to be worked out in detail and then agreed separately by each council. They will be implemented incrementally. Approval to move to the next stage was given by OCC's Cabinet on Monday 4 June. OCC's Remuneration Committee subsequently agreed to recommend the appointment of Yvonne Rees, the current Chief Executive of CDC, as joint Chief Executive of the County Council and Cherwell District Council. The appointment process now moves on to both Full Councils of OCC (10 July) and CDC (16 July). The final decision therefore remains a decision for Members.

**DELAYED TRANSFERS OF CARE – OXFORDSHIRE FIGURES ARE IMPROVING**

Delayed transfer of care (DToC) cases are now at the lowest level for many years in Oxfordshire. The latest national figures published by the Department of Health showed that the average number of people delayed has fallen from 168 in April 2017 to 117 this April. Since April 2018, the number of delays has fallen further and is currently only 78 – more than halving in just over a year. Effective and sustained joint working by OCC and the NHS across Oxfordshire has seen consistent and on-going reductions in the number of people delayed in hospital. Department of Health figures showed a 44% decrease in the number of social care delays, and a drop in the overall number of days delayed in a hospital. Only 13% of delays were attributable to social care, which is down from 15% in March 2017.

**COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET OUTTURN HITS THE MARK**

The council's Cabinet received final budget figures for the 2017/18 financial year at its meeting on Tuesday, June 19. OCC managed its net budget with 99.8 per cent accuracy for 2017/18, with an underspend of just £1m (0.2 per cent) on an overall service budget of £422m.

**SITE ALLOCATIONS CONSULTATION ON MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN**

The council reached a new milestone in the ongoing planning process to decide where minerals can be extracted and waste management facilities can be located and this was agreed at the June Cabinet meeting, where it was also approved a site consultation exercise take place in July-September - it will be open to all interested organisations and individuals to respond. All parish councils, environmental and community groups, organisations and individuals who have previously asked to be informed about the plan will be notified when the consultation starts, where the consultation documents can be seen and how to respond. A core strategy was adopted by the council in September 2017 and it was always planned that work on specific site allocations would follow this.

The report can be viewed here:

[http://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/documents/s42394/CA\\_JUN1918R15%20MWLP-SitesPlan\\_Report\\_final.pdf](http://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/documents/s42394/CA_JUN1918R15%20MWLP-SitesPlan_Report_final.pdf)

**HIGHWAYS UPDATE**

The bad winter has taken its toll on road conditions across the county, so OCC welcomed the additional £2.7m the Government has provided for this year; additional gangs have been employed to ensure we utilise the funds during the summer months. Last month 6,236 defects were repaired showing progress is being made on the defects reported during the bad weather.

A fact sheet has been produced giving details about the condition of the county's highways and the actions being taken to maintain them. This will be issued to all councillors and parish clerks during the month of July.

**OXFORDSHIRE'S NEW DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE LAUNCHED**

A new domestic abuse service for Oxfordshire was launched in June. The new service was set up by OCC in partnership with District Councils and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley. The service is designed to be highly inclusive to address emotional and practical support needs for any victim suffering or fleeing domestic abuse in Oxfordshire. It incorporates a single access point for victims and professionals, community-based Outreach Workers and Independent Domestic

Violence Advisors (IDVA) and includes specialist workers to support young people and Black Asian Minority Ethnic and Refugee (BAMER) communities. There is also a program to support victims with complex needs.

Victims fleeing abuse will be able to access refuge in Banbury and in one other location, located in either Didcot or Oxford. In addition, the service launches a new model of refuge, delivered from dispersed locations across Oxfordshire, benefiting those unable to access conventional refuge services including male victims, victims with live in carers and families with older male sons. To report concerns, please use the A2Dominion ODAS helpline (0800 731 0055) or [oxfordshiredomestic@a2dominion.org.uk](mailto:oxfordshiredomestic@a2dominion.org.uk)

### **NHS HEALTH CHECKS**

OCC-funded NHS Health Checks are designed to spot early warnings of stroke, kidney and heart disease, Type 2 diabetes and dementia. They are available to anyone aged between the ages of 40 and 74 who has not already been diagnosed with an existing cardiovascular condition. They are free and applicants will be invited to have one once every five years. GP surgeries will automatically send out invitations, but if one is not received, residents should contact their surgery and make an appointment. The check will take around 20 to 30 minutes. For further information about free NHS Health Checks visit: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/nhshealthcheck](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/nhshealthcheck)

### **FIGHTING BACK AGAINST THE SCAMMERS**

OCC is an enthusiastic backer of Friends Against Scams, a national scheme run by the country's trading standards services, which aims to:

- Highlight the scale of the problem by getting communities and the nation talking about scams.
- Change the perceptions of why people become scam victims.
- Prevent people from becoming or continuing to be a scam victim by providing more adequate support.
- Recruit people to join the fight against scams to make this a scam-free nation

Friends Against Scams works on several levels. It has a website which gives detailed information on the huge variety of scams as well as encouraging visitors to take a more active role. Residents can become a 'friend' by completing an online course or build up to become a SCAMBassador – giving talks to local groups and organisations – after receiving further face-to-face training by OCC's own Trading Standards Service. For further information visit the Friends Against Scams [website](#). Advice is available on 03454 04 05 06.

### **SPECIFIC REPORT FOR MY DIVISION**

I have attended a huge variety of meetings this last month – many of course with outcomes for the whole county which of course includes Faringdon.

The first paragraph of this report, the "Shared Service Arrangement with OCC and CDC" I have been actively involved as a Cabinet Member and also as a member of the Remuneration Committee which makes a formal recommendation to Council for the joint appointment of Yvonne Rees. The Remuneration Committee has met three times this month.

On 20<sup>th</sup> June I was invited to attend both as the Deputy Leader of OCC and the C/Cllr for the Faringdon Division, the RAF Brize Norton Annual Formal Reception some 400 people representing their local communities from local civic leaders, voluntary services, and of course representatives from the tri-services were present.

On 25<sup>th</sup> June I was present as the County Council hosted the annual Flag Raising Ceremony to Commemorate Armed Forces Day in the Oxford Castle quad attended by the Lord Lieutenant, the High Sheriff and other dignitaries – including the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Faringdon. In the afternoon the Oxfordshire's Armed Forces Covenant between Oxfordshire County Council, representatives of business, Charity and Voluntary Sectors, the civilian community of the county and the Armed Forces in Oxfordshire was re-affirmed. It was good to see, once again, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Faringdon attending this, with Cllr Barron being a signatory to the Covenant. Oxfordshire County Council was the first local authority to sign such a covenant in 2011 and this is an example of joint working for the county with 11 Brigade.

I chair a cross party working group for a review of Governance – the group is examining the present format of Governance as to whether the Cabinet system should be replaced by a Committee system. We

have visited other authorities to see their governance structures –  
Cambridgeshire/Nottinghamshire/Barnet and Buckinghamshire and we are also working with the LGA.

I have formed and chair an **A420 Safety Group**. The **A420** is a road that is hugely complex – flowing through both countryside and the city centre of Oxford a road with both sections of dualling and two way traffic flows. I have over the 31 years that I have represented this area been active in getting monies from Central Government prior to the road being “de-trunked” for the A417/A420 Stanford Road traffic island/roundabout, the A420 Park Road Roundabout, the Buckland junction improvement and all of these schemes had at their root safety.

The “top dressing” recently done from Faringdon to the Gt. Coxwell turn is for safety. The white road markings, were faded, and the Lt Coxwell turn in particular was highly dangerous with traffic travelling both east and west using the “slip road area that leads to Lt Coxwell” as an overtaking lane. The white road markings cannot be updated to an existing surface – they need to be burnt off and there would still be the shadows of the old markings visible, and as the road surface was good there has been a “top dressing” only applied which allows for the old white markings to be hidden and new markings to be applied. There are now “double white” lines at Lt Coxwell in the hope of keeping all drivers safer (both the good and the bad drivers). The painting is not quite completed, there is the “cross hatching” to be done.

A top dressing is of course not only quicker, but cheaper and allows for other remedial works to be done, such as the white lining changes. There will be in months to come, a safe haven near the Lt Coxwell turn for pedestrians, and of course once the building sites at Gt. Coxwell are completed there will be a slip road and traffic lights for the Gt. Coxwell traffic. You’ll have noticed that the Gt. Coxwell turn hasn’t currently been included in the above as this would be a waste of money with the impending improvements due.

My next surgery will be on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July at 1000hrs at the Faringdon Library. (There will be no surgery in the month of August – surgeries will resume on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September as usual). If you wish to contact me and cannot manage a surgery my contact points are at the foot of this report.

Judith Heathcoat  
Deputy Leader to the Council  
Oxfordshire County Council  
Cllr. Faringdon Division  
01865 815284  
01367 241468