

PARISH REPORT JUNE 2016

COUNCILLOR MICHAEL WAINE ELECTED NEW OCC CHAIRMAN

OCC elected a new Chairman for the 2016/17 council year at its Annual General Meeting in May. Cllr Michael Waine is OCC's elected representative for the Bicester Town Division. He taught in Oxfordshire for 37 years, 27 of which were as Headteacher of Glory Farm School in Bicester. He previously served on OCC's cabinet and is chairman of the Bicester Learning Academy.

DECISION TAKEN ON LONG-TERM STRATEGY FOR A40

A landmark decision to take decisive action to solve transport problems on the A40 between Witney and Oxford has been made by Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet.

Councillors discussed and agreed to pursue a long-term strategy which will focus on new dual carriageway from Witney to the a new Park and Ride at Eynsham as well as further bus priority lanes connecting the Eynsham Park and Ride toward Oxford.

Oxfordshire County Council transport planners will draw up more detailed plans which, it is hoped, will help to secure more than £50m in government funding to make the proposals a reality.

The decision represents the next big step towards a long-term solution to the situation which has been described by the Prime Minister as "a foot on the windpipe of West Oxfordshire's economy".

Oxfordshire County Council is already currently designing and delivering a project costing approximately £40m which will see a new Park and Ride built at Eynsham and a new eastbound bus lane from this park and ride toward Oxford funded through the Local Growth Fund.

OXFORDSHIRE CARE HOME WINS RARE 'OUTSTANDING' RATING

Vale House, a 40 bed specialist dementia home in Sandford, has recently been inspected by CQC and as a result was given the most positive grading available to the inspectorate. It is the first in the county to be rated 'outstanding' by the CQC – a feat achieved by only one per cent of homes in the South East. The home is privately run and the organisation is 'not for profit'. The original Vale House was located in Botley, and began operating in 1990. It relocated to Sandford in 2012, after the organisation bought the land from Oxfordshire County Council. Vale House had won a competitive tender process to build their new home, fulfilling the ambition of OCC to use the land for a specialist Dementia Care Home for the people of Oxfordshire. OCC buys 25 of the 40 beds in the home and has ambitions for similar projects elsewhere in the county.

OXFORDSHIRE'S ADULT SOCIAL CARE SERVICES SCORES IN TOP 5%

Recently announced results show that last year, Oxfordshire's Adults Social Care services ranked as the 6th best of 152 upper tier authorities in achieving outcomes judged against the 'Adult Social Care Outcome Framework'. This framework measures how well services achieve outcomes that are most important to people and informs the development of reporting local priorities and progress to citizens. Last year Oxfordshire performed above the national average on 20 of the 27 measures included in the framework.

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PROPOSALS FOR UNITARY COUNCIL

As previously reported, Oxfordshire's District Councils have appointed consultants PwC to prepare a report on the future of local government in Oxfordshire, and OCC has appointed consultants Grant Thornton to do the same. The districts' previously preferred option that comprised four unitary councils, including parts of Gloucestershire and Nottinghamshire has collapsed because of legislative issues relating to cross-border authorities. It is unclear whether the reduced size of four unitaries that don't include the neighbours could be viable. The outcome has to be based on the most efficient services for residents rather than trying to retain structures.

PwC will report in June, followed by Grant Thornton in July. All councils will then submit proposals to central government in the autumn, following a period of public consultation. In advance of this, stakeholders can participate in a 'call for evidence' here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/oxfordshire-evidence>

Additionally, town and parish councils are invited to attend workshops to discuss the issues on the following dates, 19:00 to 20:30:

Date	Locality
Mon 6 June	Thame
Tues 7 June	Henley
Thurs 9 June	Witney
Tues 14 June	Chipping Norton
Wed 15 June	Banbury
Thurs 16 June	Faringdon
Tues 21 June	Bicester
Wed 22 June	Abingdon
Tues 28 June	Didcot
Wed 29 June	Wantage

Names of delegates and the preferred meeting should be emailed to: ask@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

EIGHTEEN LOCATIONS FOR NEW CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE

A £2m boost to the future provision of children's services in Oxfordshire has been agreed by OCC's Cabinet with a further £1m of one-off funding set to help communities keep yet more of the current children's centres network open. The plans build on the brand new service for 0-19 year olds agreed by the Cabinet in February and deliver services from 18 locations with strengthened outreach services – as opposed to the eight originally proposed. The new £14m service includes £2m of additional money agreed by county councillors in February and would provide a safe, effective and co-ordinated system that targets resources on protecting the most vulnerable families - and works hand-in-hand with schools, health services, voluntary and community groups. By combining children's social care and early intervention in one seamless service, it represents a completely fresh approach to delivering services for children, young people and their families at a time of rising demand and reduced Government funding.

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POSITIVE RESULTS FROM INITIATIVE TO TACKLE DELAYED TRANSFERS OF CARE

A new initiative by OCC and NHS has seen the number of delayed transfers of care reduced by 30% since December 2015, despite higher demands over the winter and a reduction in hospital beds. The Oxfordshire health and social care system has long struggled with the timely discharge of patients from acute and community hospitals to the next stage of their care. This is often referred to as 'bed-blocking' or 'delayed transfers of care', which are costly to the system as a whole and can increase people's dependence rather than promoting their independence. The initiative involved the block purchase of 150 care beds and the development of an integrated hub to manage assessments and bed allocations.

SUBSIDISED BUSES UPDATE

Bus subsidies will end on 20 July. A full update on the work that has taken place to minimise the impact of the withdrawal of the subsidises (including using public buses for home to school transport, allocating S106 funding where available and the launch of a new pilot scheme using the downtime of our fleet vehicles) can be obtained from the OCC website here: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/subsidisedbuses.

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