

This report is public	
Response to Motion: Primary Care Facilities in North Oxfordshire	
Committee	Executive
Date of Committee	7 October 2025
Portfolio Holder presenting the report	Portfolio Holder for Healthy Communities, Councillor Rob Pattenden Portfolio Holder for Planning and Development Management, Councillor Jean Conway
Date Portfolio Holder agreed report	25 September 2025
Report of	Corporate Director Communities, Ian Boll

## Purpose of report

To agree the response to the motion raised at the Council meeting on 21 July 2025 with regard to supporting the Integrated Care Board (ICB) in making provision for Primary Care Facilities.

## 1. Recommendations

The Executive resolves:

- 1.1 To affirm its clear commitment to supporting the ICB in meeting its responsibilities for the planning, commissioning and management of NHS services for the population of Cherwell.
- 1.2 To request that officers offer regular, structured meetings with the ICB to support this commitment.
- 1.3 To note the important role the Council has in holding the ICB to account for the appropriate and timely provision of Primary Care and its supporting infrastructure.

## 2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 At the Council meeting on 21 July 2025, the following motion was referred to the Executive:

*“This Council considers that more needs to be done to expand and improve Primary Care facilities across North Oxfordshire.*

*Following a productive cross-party meeting between members and representatives the Integrated Care Board (ICB), together with a careful review of representations from local stakeholders in recent weeks, this Council resolves to request that the*

*Executive facilitates the expansion of Primary Care provision via any reasonable means, which may include, where appropriate and reasonable, the following:*

- i. issuing standing advice on planning matters to the ICB to assist it in its place and facilities planning.*
- ii. producing evidence to the ICB to support the well understood assertion that Primary Care is now at capacity across this district;*
- iii. supporting the ICB to create a plan for the delivery of new and expanded primary care facilities across North Oxfordshire;*
- iv. requesting that the ICB estates team better supports its 'drive to digital' by encouraging developer contributions into, inter alia, Information and Communications Technology (ICT), and Artificial Intelligence (AI) projects; and*
- v. review, in conjunction with the ICB, why the proposed facilities at Longford Park, Hanwell Fields and Graven Hill have proven unsuccessful in recent years to avoid failures in new developments elsewhere.*
- vi. consider Primary Care needs as widely as reasonably possible in future supplementary planning documents to encourage a greater number of capital projects coming forward and encouraging the ICB to request developer contributions on all applications of 10+ homes without limiting such bids to bricks-and-mortar projects alone."*

2.2 This report explains the current opportunities for engagement with the ICB in its planning of primary care facilities and the opportunities for the ICB's input into the planning of new development. It proposes more regular, mutually beneficial engagement.

## **Implications & Impact Assessments**

<b>Implications</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
<b>Finance</b>	There are no financial implications arising from this report. Costs associated with stakeholder engagement is within existing operational service budgets. Kelly Wheeler, Finance Business Partner, 25 September 2025
<b>Legal</b>	This is Executive's response to a motion to full council and there are no legal implications or actions are identified resulting from this. Denzil Turbervill, Head of Legal Services, 25 September 2025
<b>Risk Management</b>	There are no risk implications as a direct consequence of this report. Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance & Insight Team Leader, 25 September 2025

<b>Impact Assessments</b>	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
<b>Equality Impact</b>				
<b>A</b> Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		X		The additional engagement proposed is in the interest of the whole Cherwell community.
<b>B</b> Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		X		The additional engagement proposed is in the interest of the whole Cherwell community.
<b>Climate &amp; Environmental Impact</b>		X		None
<b>ICT &amp; Digital Impact</b>		X		None
<b>Data Impact</b>		X		None
<b>Procurement &amp; subsidy</b>		X		None
<b>Council Priorities</b>	A Vision for Lasting Change 2025-2030: Priority 2: Community Leadership Priority 4: Quality Housing and Place Making			
<b>Human Resources</b>	None			
<b>Property</b>	None			
<b>Consultation &amp; Engagement</b>	Additional engagement with the ICB is proposed.			

## Supporting Information

### 3. Background

- 3.1 The Council is a member of the Oxfordshire Health and Well-Being Board. The Board is the principal structure in the county with responsibility for promoting the health and well-being of its people.

- 3.2 The Board is a partnership between local government, the NHS and Oxfordshire's residents. Representation includes the Integrated Care Board's (ICB's) Place Director, local General Practitioners (GPs), the Chief Executives of the NHS Foundation Trusts, NHS England, the Director of Public Health, councillors, officers and Healthwatch Oxfordshire - an independent charity which works to ensure decision makers hear feedback on the County's health services.
- 3.3 The ICB and the Council are signatories to Health and Well-Being strategy 2024-2030. The ICB produced a Primary Care Strategy in May 2024. The Council hosts the Cherwell Local Strategic Partnership, the priorities of which are aligned to those of the ICB.
- 3.4 The Council's Wellbeing team engages with the ICB through the County Council's public health structure and directly through the Health and Wellbeing Board. As Local Planning Authority, the Council seeks to engage with the ICB on the facilities required to support new development. There are clear governance structures and formal processes for engagement and the discussion of primary care needs.

#### **4. Details**

- 4.1 The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee of Oxfordshire County Council provides an opportunity for questions to be asked of the Integrated Care Board in relation to their obligations to assess the level of primary care provision available to residents.
- 4.3 As Local Planning Authority, the Council seeks the input of the ICB in its plan-making. The ICB has opportunities to seek the allocation of land for new development to meet evidenced primary care need, to advise what new facilities are likely to be required to support planned development and what developer contributions are necessary where needs directly arise from new development.
- 4.4 The Local Plan and its supplementary planning documents are the statutory means by which policy is provided to deliver on those requirements. A proposed new Local Plan is presently being independently examined and will inform a future review of planning guidance.
- 4.5 The motion's proposal to issue standing advice would be addressed through the review of developer contribution guidance in due course. The ICB will have the opportunity to engage in the preparation of that guidance. It is important that all stakeholders and local communities also have the opportunity to input. Officers have reached out to the ICB in the past to improve the quality and timeliness of responses and there has been an improvement in the ICB's response to planning requests.
- 4.6 Every major planning application received by Cherwell District Council (10 or more houses or residential institutions such as care homes and hotels) is sent to the ICB to comment on.
- 4.7 The length of the patient list and capacity available at each surgery is not data held by the district council and the ICB is aware of the pinch points in provision locally.

- 4.8 The Assistant Director for Planning and Development, the Head of Development Management, the Assistant Director for Wellbeing and Housing, and the Wellbeing Manager propose to meet with appropriate officers at the ICB to review the responses provided by ICB to planning applications.
- 4.9 Supporting the ICB to undertake their responsibilities is possible and improved locality working is desirable. A regular meeting with the ICB is proposed to consider how primary care facilities will be promoted and secured across Cherwell.

## **5. Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

- 5.1 It is proposed to seek engagement with the ICB on a more regular basis. However, it is an option not to deploy officer resource in this way. A more structured approach to meeting with the ICB should be mutually informative and support the common aims with regard to the provision of primary care. It is therefore recommended.

## **6 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations**

- 6.1 The motion referred to Executive seeks the expansion and improvement of Primary Care facilities across north Oxfordshire.
- 6.2 It is recommended that the Executive affirms its clear commitment to supporting the ICB in meeting its responsibilities for the planning commissioning and management of NHS services for the population of Cherwell. Officers proposed that regular, structured meetings with the ICB are offered to support this commitment. The Executive is also invited to note the important role the Council has in holding the ICB to account for the appropriate and timely provision of Primary Care and its supporting infrastructure.

## **Decision Information**

<b>Key Decision</b>	No
<b>Subject to Call in</b>	Yes
<b>If not, why not subject to call in</b>	N/A
<b>Ward(s) Affected</b>	All

## **Document Information**

<b>Appendices</b>	
<b>Appendix 1</b>	None

<b>Background Papers</b>	None
<b>Reference Papers</b>	<a href="https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/social-and-health-care/public-health-and-wellbeing/health-and-wellbeing-board/about-board">https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/social-and-health-care/public-health-and-wellbeing/health-and-wellbeing-board/about-board</a>
<b>Report Author</b>	Assistant Director - Wellbeing and Housing Services, Nicola Riley Assistant Director Planning & Development, David Peckford
<b>Report Author contact details</b>	Nicola.Riley@cherwell-dc.gov.uk David.Peckford@cherwell-dc.gov.uk
<b>Corporate Director Approval (unless Corporate Director or Statutory Officer report)</b>	Corporate Director Communities, Ian Boll 25 September 2025