

Supplement to Special Executive Report – 13 November 2025

Special Council noted the report of 13 November 2025 and made comments for Executive consideration.

It was noted that:

- Having given due consideration, Members expressed support for Option 2 as the preferred way forward.
- Members noted their thanks to the Executive and officers for the significant amount of work undertaken in developing this proposal.
- Members commented that it is vital that the new structure, when in place, empowers parish councils, whose role will become increasingly important as the council grows. Members must also be supported to better serve parish councils and residents, ensuring local voices remain central to decision-making.
- Members commented that local communities expect a council that operates within and prioritises their area; therefore, the two-unitary authority model is regarded as the most suitable approach.
- Members commented that a two-unitary authority model would help keep services more local, supports the most deprived communities, and enables a more holistic approach to housing.
- Members commented that partnership working remains a key priority, and consideration must be given to the existing Oxford City Housing Revenue Account.
- Members raised concerns about whether the proposed governance model would ensure fair distribution of resources, protect rural communities, and prevent further overdevelopment resulting from Oxford's unmet housing needs.
- Members noted that the Secretary of State may implement the proposal with or without modification. What are the implications if the Secretary of State decides to take no action, and how would this affect the future of the proposal?
- Members raised concerns regarding ribbon development, the influence of developer-led plans versus councillor-led local plans, and the potential for central government control over planning and council operations, especially in relation to the future of the green belt.
- Members raised concerns that market towns will be disadvantaged through inclusion of Oxford City and concerns over housing growth from inclusion of Oxford City and therefore raising further concerns that council will be dominated by the City.

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