



Summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of Council held on 20 July 2026

Agenda Item No.	Agenda Item	Decision
9	District By-Election: Review of Proportionality and Committee Membership Report of Monitoring Officer Recommendations Council resolves: 1.1 To note the result of the District by-election held on 16 July 2026. 1.2 To note the constitution of Political Groups following the by-election (paragraphs 4.2 and 4.4). 1.3 To note the allocation of seats on committees that are subject to the political balance requirements (Appendix 1) following the by-election. 1.4 To note the allocation of seats on committees that are not subject to the political balance requirements (Appendix 1) following the by-election. 1.5 To note the amendments to committee membership, as advised by the Leader Liberal Democratic Group (paragraph 4.7).	Resolved (1) That the result of the District by-election held on 16 July 2026 be noted. (2) That the constitution of Political Groups following the by-election (paragraphs 4.2 and 4.4 of the report) be noted. (3) That the allocation of seats on committees that are subject to the political balance requirements (Appendix 1 to the report) following the by-election be noted. (4) That the allocation of seats on committees that are not subject to the political balance requirements (Appendix 1 to the report) following the by-election be noted. (5) That the following amendments to committee membership, as advised by the Leader Liberal Democratic Group be noted: Planning Committee ADD Councillor Rob Packard to Liberal Democrat vacancy Overview and Scrutiny Committee REMOVE Councillor Bryonie Wells and ADD Councillor Rob Packard One Liberal Democrat vacancy remains

Agenda Item No.	Agenda Item	Decision
10	Treasury Management Report - Outturn 2025/2026 Report of Assistant Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) Recommendations The Audit and Governance Committee recommended this report to Council at its meeting on the 17 June 2026. Council resolves: 1.1 To note the contents of this Treasury Management Annual Performance Report and the Capital Prudential indicators (Appendix 1).	Resolved (1) That the Treasury Management Annual Performance Report 2025/2026 and the Capital Prudential indicators be noted.
11	Motions To consider the following motions which have been submitted with advance notice, in accordance with the Constitution: Topic: Thames Valley Devolution Withdrawal Proposer: Cllr Kieron Mallon Topic: The Implications of Designation Proposer: Cllr Ian Harwood Topic: Pavement Blocking Proposer: Cllr Rebecca Biegel Topic: Councillor Transparency with Public over AI Use Proposer: Cllr Dr Kerrie Thornhill Topic: Community Wardens Proposer: Cllr Paul Jeffreys The Monitoring Officer confirmed the first two listed motions would be debated by Council due to the district wide significance of the motion topic.	Resolved (1) That the following motion be agreed: “Council notes that: 1. The decision by Oxfordshire County Council's Liberal Democrat administration to withdraw support for the proposed Thames Valley Foundation Strategic Authority has effectively halted the current devolution process for Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Swindon. 2. Government ministers had described a Thames Valley devolution deal as a significant opportunity to secure additional powers, investment and strategic influence over transport, infrastructure, housing and economic growth. 3. The withdrawal raises serious questions regarding

Agenda Item No.	Agenda Item	Decision
	In accordance with Procedure Rule 4.18, as the detail of remaining motions fell within the remit of Executive, there would be no Council debate on these motions. The proposer of the motion will propose the motion, the seconder will confirm, the Leader of the Council will respond and the motions will stand referred to Executive for consideration.	the impact on residents, businesses and communities across Cherwell, including the potential loss of future investment opportunities, reduced influence over regional decision-making and reputational damage to Oxfordshire as a strategic partner. 4. The Government has made clear its intention that all areas should ultimately be covered by devolved strategic authorities, creating a risk that future arrangements could be imposed with less local influence if consensus cannot be achieved locally. AND asks the Leader of the Council to provide a member briefing setting out: (a) the financial and officer costs incurred by Cherwell District Council in pursuing the devolution process to date; (b) the implications of the withdrawal for Cherwell residents and businesses; (c) the process by which the withdrawal decision was reached; (d) the risks of future Government intervention or imposed arrangements; and (e) the options available to restore progress towards a locally agreed devolution settlement.” (2) That the following motion be agreed: “This Council notes with

Agenda Item No.	Agenda Item	Decision
		concern that: 1. Cherwell District Council has recently been designated by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government for its performance in determining planning applications. 2. This is the first time that Cherwell District Council has been subject to designation. 3. Designation means that certain planning applications may be submitted directly to the Secretary of State, reducing the Council's role in determining development within the district. 4. The represents a significant reputational setback for the Council and may undermine public confidence in the integrity, effectiveness and timeliness of the local planning system. 5. The loss of planning application fee income and associated revenues may have financial implications for the Council at a time of continuing budgetary pressures. 6. This designation raises concerns regarding the effectiveness of the Council's planning performance management and the adequacy of measures taken to address known issues. This Council therefore resolves to: (a) Reaffirm its commitment to a planning service that is efficient, transparent, accountable and capable of

Agenda Item No.	Agenda Item	Decision
		maintaining the confidence of residents, applicants and local communities and committed to continuous improvement. (b) Request that Full Council asks Overview and Scrutiny to include this matter on its work programme and to examine the factors leading to designation, the financial and operational implications, lessons to improve planning performance and the actions being taken to secure removal of the designation.” FOR INFORMATION: Having been proposed, seconded and responded to by the Leader, the following motions referred to Executive without debate: “Pavement Blocking”; “Councillor Transparency with Public over AI”; and, “Community Wardens”. The following motion was withdrawn by the proposer prior to Council: “Two Hours Free Parking at Claremont Car Park, Bicester”.