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Cherwell DISTRICT COUNCIL NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

Meeting of Council

Monday 20 July 2026

Members of Cherwell District Council,

A meeting of Council will be held at 39 Castle Quay, Banbury, OX16 5FD on Monday 20 July 2026 at 6.30 pm, and you are hereby summoned to attend.

Monitoring Officer
Friday 10 July 2026

AGENDA

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare any interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.

3 Communications (Pages 7 - 8)

To receive communications from the Chair and/or the Leader of the Council.

4 Petitions and Requests to Address the Meeting (Pages 9 - 24)

The Chair to report on any requests to submit petitions or to address the meeting.

Petitions

One petition has been received with more than 1500 signatures, which in accordance with the Council's Constitution, is submitted for Full Council debate.

Petition topic: Petition requesting coordinated action to improve the processes and rigour applied to assessing and mitigating the full cumulative (combined) impacts of major developments.
Petition organiser: Paul Fennemore, North Oxfordshire Resident Action (NORA)

Process for consideration of the motion as set out in the Constitution:

- The petition organiser will present their petition for up to five minutes.
- The petition will then be discussed by councillors for a maximum of 15 minutes.
- Full Council will decide how to respond to the petition at this meeting.
- Council may decide:
    - to take the action the petition requests
    - not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate
    - to commission further investigation into the matter, for example by a relevant committee
    - to make recommendations to the Executive
- Where the issue is one on which the Council Executive is required to make the final decision, Full Council will decide whether to make recommendations to inform that decision.
- The petition organiser will receive written confirmation of this decision. This confirmation will also be published on the CDC website.

Addresses

Addresses may be presented by:

- A Local Government elector for the area,
- A person who is wholly or mainly resident in the area,
- A Council Taxpayer or National Non-Domestic Ratepayer for the area

Addresses must be on an item on the agenda before the meeting (excluding the petition) and not exceed 5 minutes. No person may address more than one meeting on any particular issue.

Requests to address the meeting (including the agenda item and reason for the address) should be submitted to democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk The deadline for requests to address this meeting is noon on Friday 17 July.

Full details of public participation at meetings is available in the Constitution.

5 Urgent Business

The Chair to advise whether they have agreed to any item of urgent business being admitted to the agenda.

6 Minutes of Council

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of Council held on 20 May 2026.

7 Minutes

a) Minutes of Executive, Portfolio Holder Decisions and Executive Decisions not included in the 28 day notice

The Leader of the Council to formally propose that the minutes of the meetings of the Executive and Portfolio Holder Decisions as set out in the Minute Book (circulated separately**)** be received and to report that since the last meeting of Council at which this was reported, 16 March 2026, two key and/or exempt decisions, in respect of "Heyford Park New Town: Acceptance of MHCLG Preparatory Funding and Programme Delivery Arrangements" and "Banbury Museum Utility Charges", have been taken by the Executive which were not included in the 28 day notice.

b) Minutes of Committees

The Leader of the Council to formally propose that the minutes of committees as set out in the Minute Book (circulated separately) be received.

8 Questions (Pages 25 - 28)

a) Written Questions

Four written questions have been submitted with advance notice in accordance with the Constitution. These are attached to the agenda. The deadline for written questions has now passed.

Question from:	Question topic:
Cllr Mark Cherry	Former Garage Site, Bretch Hill
Cllr Michael Wilson	Neurodiversity Awareness Training
Cllr Eddie Reeves	Area Oversight Groups
Cllr Paul Jeffreys	Bins

A written response to the questions will be published on the working day before the meeting.

The Member who submitted the written question may ask a supplementary question provided it is relevant to the reply and does not introduce any new matter. The Member to whom the question was addressed may reply to such supplementary question or undertake to reply in writing.

b) Questions to the Leader of the Council

The Chair to invite questions to the Leader of the Council (including any matters arising from the minutes).

Following a response to their question being provided, Members will be entitled to a follow up or supplementary question.

c) Questions to Committee Chairs on the Minutes

The Chair to invite questions to Chairs of Committees on any matter arising from the minutes of their Committee (if any).

Council Business Reports

9 District By-Election: Review of Proportionality and Committee Membership

** Please note that that this report will follow as the by-election for the Kidlington West ward is taking place after agenda publication, on Thursday 16 July **

Report of Monitoring Officer

10 Treasury Management Report - Outturn 2025/2026 (Pages 29 - 44)

Report of Assistant Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer)

Purpose of report

To provide information on treasury management performance and compliance with treasury management policy for 2025-26 as required by the Treasury Management Code of Practice.

To demonstrate that all treasury management activities undertaken during the reporting period complied with the CIPFA Code of Practice and the council's approved Treasury Management Strategy.

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).

11 Motions (Pages 45 - 52)

To consider the following motions which have been submitted with advance notice, in accordance with the Constitution (to be debated in the order submitted).

	Topic	Proposer	Seconder
1	Thames Valley Devolution Withdrawal	Cllr Kieron Mallon	Cllr David Rogers

2	The Implications of Designation	Cllr Ian Harwood	Cllr Eddie Reeves
3	Pavement Blocking	Cllr Rebecca Biegel	TBC
4	Councillor Transparency with Public over AI Use	Cllr Kerrie Thornhill	TBC
5	Two Hours Free Parking at Claremont Car Park - Bicester	Cllr Les Sibley	TBC
6	Community Wardens	Cllr Paul Jeffreys	TBC

The Monitoring Officer has confirmed that motions 1 and 2 will be debated by Council due to the district wide significance of the motion topic. Amendments are permitted on these motions. The deadline for Members to submit amendments to these motions is noon on Thursday 16 July. No amendments will be permitted after this deadline.

Any amendments submitted will be published as a supplement to the agenda on the afternoon of Friday 17 July. Amendments for motions will be dealt with in the order submitted.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 4.18, as the detail of motions 3, 4, 5, and 6 falls within the remit of Executive, no amendments are permitted and there will 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.

For information

Please note:
Members are advised that written questions and motions for the next scheduled Council meeting on Monday 19 October must be submitted to the Assistant Director Law and Governance & Monitoring Officer, democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk, by noon on Wednesday 7 October.

Councillors are requested to collect any post from their pigeon hole in the Members' Lounge at the end of the meeting.

Information about this Agenda

Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence should be notified to democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk or 01295 221534 prior to the start of the meeting.

Declarations of Interest
Members are asked to declare interests at item 2 on the agenda or if arriving after the start of the meeting, at the start of the relevant agenda item.

Local Government and Finance Act 1992 – Budget Setting, Contracts & Supplementary Estimates
Members are reminded that any member who is two months in arrears with Council Tax must declare the fact and may speak but not vote on any decision which involves budget setting, extending or agreeing contracts or incurring expenditure not provided for in the agreed budget for a given year and could affect calculations on the level of Council Tax.

Evacuation Procedure
If you hear the fire alarm, please leave the building via the nearest available exit. The fire assembly point is outside the Premier Inn, adjacent to the canal.

Access to Meetings
If you have any special requirements, such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities to view a meeting online or attend a meeting in person, please contact the officer named below, giving as much notice as possible before the meeting.

Mobile Phones
Please ensure that any device is switched to silent operation or switched off.

Webcasting and Broadcasting Notice
The meeting will be recorded by the council for live and/or subsequent broadcast on the council's website. The whole of the meeting will be recorded, except when confidential or exempt items are being considered. The webcast will be retained on the website for 6 months.

If you make a representation to the meeting, you will be deemed by the council to have consented to being recorded. By entering the Council Chamber or joining virtually, you are consenting to being recorded and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes.

The council is obliged, by law, to allow members of the public to take photographs, film, audio-record, and report on proceedings. The council will only seek to prevent this should it be undertaken in a disruptive or otherwise inappropriate manner.

Queries Regarding this Agenda

Please contact Natasha Clark, Democratic and Elections democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk, 01295 221534

Chair, Councillor Nigel Simpson, Attendance Report, June – July 2026[1]

9 June, Dorchester Abbey
The Chair, Nigel Simpson attended His Majesty's Lord Lieutenants and the Bishop of Dorchester, Dinner at Dorchester Abbey. The event was held to welcome the new Mayors and Chair's of Oxfordshire.

19 June, EnrichAbility Afternoon Tea Celebration
The Chair, Cllr Nigel Simpson attended EnrichAbility's Afternoon Tean at the Quaker Meeting House in Oxford. This was held to celebrate 40 years of working across Oxfordshire supporting adults living with psychical disabilities.

24 June, The Wittenham Rose Ceremony
The Chair, Cllr Nigel Simpson attended The Chair of Oxford County Council, Ted Fenton's Wittenham Rose Ceremony at Earth Trust in Wittenham.

25 June, Soldiers of Oxfordshire Trustees Briefing
The Vice Chair, Cllr Simon Lytton attended the Soldiers of Oxfordshire's Trustee Briefing at Woodstock Museum. The event was held to discuss the future plans for the museum and to showcase the new exhibition.

27 June, Independence Day Celebrations at RAF Croughton
The Chair, Cllr Nigel Simpson attended the Independence Day Celebrations at RAF Croughton**.**

9 July, HRH The Princess Royal Visit at The Stables at Hook Norton.7
The Chair, Cllr Nigel Simpson attended the reopening of The Stables at Hook Norton Brewery in Banbury. HRH Princess Royal attended the event to formally mark the reopening of The Stables.

18 July, An evening of music by The Combined Band and Bugles of The Rifle
The Chair, Nigel Simpson attended an evening of Rifles Music, hosted by Lieutenant Colonel Michael Hrycak Commanding Officer of the 7th Battalion. The event was held at Radley College in Abingdon.

[1] Correct at time of agenda publication, Friday 10 July

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NORTH OXFORDSHIRE RESIDENT ACTION

Petition Submission Pack

Petition requesting coordinated action to improve the processes and rigour applied to assessing and mitigating the full cumulative (combined) impacts of major developments. Sean

North Oxfordshire Resident Action (NORA)

Prepared for: Cherwell District Council
Copied to: Planning Inspectorate
Matthew Pennycook MP, Minister of State (Minister for Housing and Planning), Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Date: 25th April 2026

This pack contains a summary submission letter, a compliance checklist aligned to the Cherwell District Council Petitions Scheme, a suggested five-minute speaking note, and a companion four-slide presentation deck.

Summary submission letter

To	From / copied to
Democratic and Elections Team Cherwell District Council 39 Castle Quay Banbury Oxfordshire OX16 5FD	NORA North Oxfordshire Resident Action. Chair: Adrian Langdale nora@norasays.org.uk Registered Office: 50 Princes Street, Ipswich. IP1 !RJ Copied to the Planning Inspectorate Copied to Matthew Pennycook MP, Minister of State (Minister for Housing and Planning), Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Oxfordshire County Council. Calum Miller, MP. Sean Woodcock, MP.

Submission documents

1. Petition letter
2. Maps of developments
3. Estimates of increases in traffic and people
4. List of petition signatures

Petition requesting coordinated action to improve the processes and rigour applied to assessing and mitigating the full cumulative impacts of major developments.

Please accept this pack as the formal submission of the NORA petition concerning the cumulative impacts of major development proposals affecting North Oxfordshire. The petition has exceeded the 1,500-signature threshold and is therefore being submitted for formal consideration under the Cherwell District Council Petitions Scheme, together with a request to arrange the accompanying five-minute presentation at full council.

Please acknowledge receipt of this pack, confirm the verified signature total once checked, and advise the date of the council meeting at which the petition will be debated together with the arrangements for the petitioner's five-minute presentation. The signatory schedule is in this pack and contains the full list of names and addresses used for validation.

NORA recognises that the Petitions Scheme notes that different procedures may apply where a petition relates to planning or licensing matters. Even so, the subject of this petition is not limited to one live planning application. It raises a broader issue of cumulative assessment, governance, mitigation, sequencing and formal representations on matters both within and beyond the council's direct control.

Five major developments in North Oxfordshire are in the pipeline: Heyford Park, Hawkwell Village housing estate, Oxfordshire Strategic Rail Freight Interchange, Puy du Fou theme park and four massive warehouses at Baynards Green. There are also 8 other schemes in the pipeline in the region that should be considered. For illustration purposes, please refer to the enclosed maps.

Together, these schemes will completely change our landscape and quality of life by generating over 60 million vehicle movements annually and introducing 57,000 more people to an area of just a 5-mile radius! Please to the 'Traffic and People Estimates' document.

This tsunami in population and traffic will undeniably undermine the character of our rural communities. Local country roads, already burdened, will struggle under the increased stress, leading to inevitable delays, accidents, and pollution. Our schools, healthcare facilities, utilities and emergency services are not equipped for the explosion in demand, risking the welfare of all resident and eroding our cherished views and heritage sites such as the historic Rousham House and Gardens.

The petitioners are calling for a common sense, unbiased, joined up and properly funded planning process. We ask for major multiple planning applications to be overseen by an independent Impact Board, bringing together representatives from: our resident groups, developers, district and county councils, relevant central government bodies, the Planning Inspectorate, and our local MPs.

Petition Requests

We, the undersigned, ask Cherwell District Council, and where relevant the Planning Inspectorate and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, to take the following actions in relation to the combined impacts of the major developments identified in this petition:

1. **Establish a Cumulative Impacts and Infrastructure Board**
   Convene a Cumulative Impacts and Infrastructure Board, or an equivalent formal governance arrangement, with published terms of reference and a clear mechanism for community representation. This board should bring together the district and county councils, relevant infrastructure and service providers, and, where appropriate, the developers.

2. **Commission an independent cumulative impact assessment**
   Through that Board, commission, coordinate, or require an independent cumulative impact assessment of the current five major schemes named in this petition. This assessment should examine their combined effects on transport and traffic, schools, healthcare, utility services, emergency services, the environment, community wellbeing, landscape, views, and heritage, and should publish the assumptions, scenarios, methodology, and data used.

3. **Publish a single mitigation and delivery plan**
   Publish one integrated mitigation and delivery plan showing:

   - what mitigation measures are required,
   - who is responsible for delivering them,
   - how they will be funded,
   - the triggers and timetable for delivery, and
   - how implementation, monitoring, and enforcement will operate.

4. **Make formal representations where powers sit elsewhere**
   Where decisions lie outside Cherwell District Council's direct control, make formal representations to the relevant decision-making bodies, including the Planning Inspectorate and central government, requesting that major decisions affecting the area are informed by, and timed to take proper account of, the published cumulative impact assessment and mitigation plan.

5. **Publish a coordinated construction and phasing plan**
   Produce and publish a single, enforceable staged construction and phasing plan across the five developments so that enabling works, heavy goods vehicle (HGV) movements, road closures, earthworks, and other high-disruption activities are properly sequenced rather than overlapping, thereby reducing avoidable disruption to residents, businesses, and transport networks across the wider area.

6. **Pause decision-making until this work is in place**
   Where lawful and within their powers, pause the progression or determination of the major planning applications in question until the cumulative impact assessment, mitigation plan, governance arrangements, and coordinated phasing plan have been completed and published. Where a public body does not have the power to pause a process, it should formally request that the relevant decision-maker does so.

Yours sincerely,

North Oxfordshire Resident Action (NORA)

NORA PETITION TO CDC

Joined-up assessment before decisions lock in

Residents are asking for growth not to be planned and assessed one major scheme at a time.

1,700+ signatories

Full-debate threshold met

Process and governance ask

Core message

One geography.

One infrastructure base.

One combined test.

Five minutes: focus on the decision process CDC can now put in place.

WHY THIS MATTERS

NORA
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE RESIDENT ACTION

The problem: separate applications, one lived reality

- There are different interpretations of ‘cumulative impact’
- Councilors are being told to consider each planning application “on its own merits”
- Each scheme may be presented as manageable alone. Residents experience the combined effect on the same roads, services, utilities and landscape.

Major scheme

Major scheme

Major scheme

Shared geography + infrastructure

Major scheme

Major scheme

The petition is about the gap between “project-by-project” evidence and the real-world cumulative picture.

NORTH OXFORDSHIRE RESIDENT ACTION

The combined impacts that need one published test

Residents and decision-makers need to see the aggregate pressure, not just the individual application cases.

13 developments in the pipeline within a 5-mile radius of Bicester

47–61miliion

additional annual two-way vehicle movements

Transport and access

Network pressure, HGV traffic, overlapping construction and disruption.

58,000

additional people

Services and utilities

Schools, healthcare, utilities and public services need one picture.

3 tests

transport, services and place taken together

Landscape, heritage, wellbeing

Character, views, heritage assets and day-to-day quality of life.

Without one *full* cumulative assessment, the public cannot see whether mitigation is sufficient, timely, funded and enforceable.

THE PETITION ASKS

What residents are asking CDC to put in place

Six practical requests can be expressed as one joined-up delivery model:

1

One board

Cumulative Impacts & Infrastructure Board with community representation

2

One assessment

Independent cumulative assessment across overlapping major schemes

3

One plan

Mitigation, funding, delivery dates and enforceability in one public plan

4

One voice

Formal representations to the bodies deciding matters beyond CDC control

5

One phasing timetable

Staged construction plan to reduce overlapping disruption

Where lawful: pause progression of the major applications until the cumulative approach is in place.

CLOSING REQUEST

The decision asked of CDC today

Residents want growth to be planned credibly. That requires CDC to test the combined impact before decisions become irreversible.

1 **Commit** — Agree the principle of a cumulative impacts and mitigations board.

2 **Commission** — Coordinate one independent cumulative assessment across all the major schemes.

3 **Publish** — Set out one mitigation, funding, phasing and delivery plan.

Please agree to move from separate evidence to one accountable cumulative plan.

"One board, one assessment, one plan, one voice, one phasing timetable."

Next steps

1. **Name a lead officer/owner**
2. **Confirm timetable**
3. **Publish public update**
4. **Engage statutory bodies**

The ask is a fair process that tests the combined impact properly and shows how mitigation will really be delivered.

NORA
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE RESIDENT ACTION

Traffic and People Estimates

Below is a headline, cumulative view of the larger planning applications within the North Oxfordshire region currently being assessed.

Numbers are annual two-way vehicle movements (arrivals + departures) and additional people.

Grand totals (headline) for 13 major developments within a 5-mile radius of the centre of Bicester

- **Total additional vehicle movements (annual, two-way): ~46.98–60.70 million per year**
- **Total additional people (headline, residents + direct on-site jobs): ~57,789**
  - ≈ **40,099 residents** (housing + care beds)
  - ≈ **17,690 direct jobs** (FTE/headline jobs)

Assumptions used where an application doesn't publish an annual total:

- For housing-led schemes we have used ~5–7 vehicle trips per dwelling per day (a standard Transport Assessment (TA) range. [M1]
- For "people", we have counted new residents (~2.4 people per dwelling) based on an Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) population estimate for a 600-home scheme (1,439 people ≈ 2.4/dwelling), plus direct on-site jobs (Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)) where stated. [M2]
- We do not count *indirect jobs* or *one-off/occasional visitors* in the "people" totals (but I note visitor volumes where they're clearly stated).

Headline impacts by scheme

Development (planning ref)	Annual vehicle movements (two-way)	Additional people (headline)
Heyford Park "new town" (25/02190/HYBRID)	**16.40–23.00m/yr** *Sources/calc: S1; M1-M2.*	**≈ 21,600 residents** (9,000 homes × 2.4) *Sources/calc: S1; M2.*
Hawkwell Village / NW Bicester (21/04275/OUT)	**5.66–7.92m/yr** *Sources/calc: S2; M1.*	**≈ 7,440 residents** (3,100 × 2.4) *Sources/calc: S2; M2.*
Baynards Green logistics cluster (Albion + Tritax: 21/03266/F, 21/03267/OUT, 21/03268/OUT, 22/01340/OUT)	**5.11–6.57m/yr** *Sources/calc: S3a-S3b; M3. Annual total is derived.*	**≈ 5,430 jobs** (2,430 Tritax + 3,000 Albion) (Cherwell District Council) *Sources/calc: S3a-S3b.*
Oxfordshire Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (OxSRFI) (DCO TR050008 / 22/01346/DCO)	**9.60m/yr** *Sources/calc: S4a-S4b.*	**≈ 9,600 jobs** (Oxfordshire Rail Freight Interchange) *Sources/calc: S4a; S4c.*
Puy du Fou UK (25/02232/OUT / 24/03217/SCOP)	**0.58m/yr** *Sources/calc: S5a-S5d; M4.*	**≈ 2,000 direct jobs (park)** (Puy du Fou park) *Sources/calc: S5c.*
SE Bicester / Wretchwick Way (16/01268/OUT) – up to 1,500 dwellings	**2.74–3.83m/yr** (5–7 trips/dw/day) *Sources/calc: S6; M1.*	**≈ 3,600 residents** *Sources/calc: S6; M2.*

Development (planning ref)	**Annual vehicle movements (two-way)**	**Additional people (headline)**
Howes Lane / Avonbury area (23/03365/OUT) – up to 1,000 dwellings	**1.83–2.56m/yr** (5–7 trips/dw/day) *Sources/calc: S7; M1.*	≈ **2,400 residents** *Sources/calc: S7; M2.*
A41–Blackthorn Road (26/00395/SCOP) – 1,000 homes + 80-bed care home + local centre	**1.83–2.56m/yr** *(housing only; care/local-centre trips not in this headline)* *Sources/calc: S8; M1 (housing only).*	≈ **2,480 people** (2,400 residents + 80 care beds) *Sources/calc: S8; M2.*
Richborough, Camp Road Caulcott (25/03343/OUT) – 475 dwellings	**0.87–1.21m/yr** (5–7 trips/dw/day) *Sources/calc: S9; M1.*	≈ **1,140 residents** *Sources/calc: S9; M2.*
Alchester Parklands (25/01820/HYBRID) – up to 600 dwellings	**1.10–1.53m/yr** (5–7 trips/dw/day) *Sources/calc: S10a; M1.*	**1,439 residents** (OCC estimate) *Sources/calc: S10b.*
Great Wolf Resort, Chesterton (19/02550/F)	**0.72–0.80m/yr** (TA weekday 1,977/day; Sat 2,761/day) *Sources/calc: S11a-S11b.*	**460 jobs (FTE)** *Sources/calc: S11b.*
Bicester Motion – Experience Quarter (21/01224/OUT)	**0.54m/yr** (TA: 1,111 weekday + 1,495 weekend visitor movements/day, plus staff movements *Sources/calc: S12a-S12b. Check caveat.*	**200 jobs (FTE)** + **~400,000 visitors/year** *Sources/calc: S12b.*
Bicester Village – Pingle Drive (22/03513/F) (car/cycle hub + guest services)	**~0 (not quantified as "additional")** – officers note the "overall nature" unlikely to change and parking is described as partly replacing lost spaces elsewhere) *Sources/calc: S13a-S13b.*	**No housing; jobs not stated** (Cherwell District Council) *Sources/calc: S13a-S13b.*

Other major schemes on the "watch list"

OCC's Bicester Transport Model uncertainty log/appendix shows several other strategic/major employment and mixed-use schemes around Bicester (some already built/under construction), e.g. Bicester Business Park, Bicester Catalyst, Innovation Quarter, etc. Sources and calculation notes

Note: The sources below are public planning-register, committee-report, applicant, local authority, official transport, or sector/public sources. The uploaded document itself and other user/resident-prepared documents have not been used as sources for the calculations.

Abbreviations: TA = Transport Assessment; OCC = Oxfordshire County Council; CDC = Cherwell District Council; DCO = Development Consent Order; NSIP = Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project; SRFI = Strategic Rail Freight Interchange; FTE = Full-Time Equivalent; B8 = storage or distribution use class; HGV = Heavy Goods Vehicle; GFA = Gross Floor Area; TRICS = Trip Rate Information Computer System.

Calculation methodology

- **M1 - Housing-led vehicle movements:** Annual two-way vehicle movements are calculated as: dwellings x 5-7 vehicle trips per dwelling per day x 365. This is an order-of-magnitude Transport Assessment assumption where an application does not publish a single annual vehicle-movement total. TRICS is the standard UK trip-rate database used in Transport Assessments; a public West Berkshire transport assessment summary gives an example of approximately six vehicle movements per day for a three-bedroom house, which sits within the 5-7 range used here.
    - TRICS Good Practice Guide 2025: Open source
    - West Berkshire Housing Site Allocations Transport Assessment Summary: Open source
- **M2 - Resident estimate:** Residents are estimated at 2.4 people per dwelling, calibrated from OCC's Alchester Parklands response: 1,439 average population for 600 dwellings (1,439 / 600 = 2.398).
    - OCC response: 25/01820/HYBRID: Open source
- **M3 - Baynards Green logistics vehicle movements:** The annual total is an estimate rather than a single published applicant annual total. It is based on B8 logistics trip-rate assumptions applied to the scale of the schemes and annualised on a 365-day basis. Jobs and scheme scale are sourced from CDC committee reports.
- **M4 - Puy du Fou vehicle movements:** The annual vehicle figure is an estimate: approximately 1.47m annual visitors at full development, April-October operation, target 50% daytime public transport mode share, c.2.6 people per visitor car, and coach movements, producing c.2,770 two-way vehicle movements per operating

day x c.210 days = c.0.58m/year. This excludes any out-of-season conference-centre traffic and should be checked against the applicant's latest TA.

Public sources by scheme

ID	Scheme/source	Use in calculation	Public link
S1	Heyford Park "new town" (25/02190/HYBRID)	CDC planning register page: proposal includes up to 9,000 dwellings.	Open source
S2	Hawkwell Village / NW Bicester (21/04275/OUT)	CDC planning register page: proposal includes up to 3,100 dwellings and mixed uses.	Open source
S3a	Baynards Green - Albion applications (21/03266/F, 21/03267/OUT, 21/03268/OUT)	CDC committee report: Albion-related applications and 3,000 permanent jobs across two Albion sites.	Open source
S3b	Baynards Green - Tritax / Symmetry Park (22/01340/OUT)	CDC committee report: 300,000 sq m B8 logistics floorspace and 2,430 permanent jobs.	Open source
S4a	Oxfordshire Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (OxSRFI)	Applicant proposal page: approx. 6.5m sq ft rail-served warehousing and approx. 9,600 jobs once operational.	Open source
S4b	OxSRFI trip generation	Applicant Technical Note 3: reports 20,650 two-way daily vehicle trips before Travel Plan reductions and 19,144 with Travel Plan reductions.	Open source
S4c	OxSRFI committee report	CDC committee report summarising expected generation of around 9,600 jobs once operational.	Open source
S5a	Puy du Fou UK (25/02232/OUT)	CDC planning register page: outline tourism development application.	Open source
S5b	Puy du Fou proposals	Applicant consultation page: April-October operation and 50% daytime public transport target.	Open source
S5c	Puy du Fou economy and jobs	Applicant consultation page: 700 jobs at opening, rising to 2,000 jobs in the park at full development; 6,000 indirect jobs estimated.	Open source
S5d	Puy du Fou visitor estimate	Public industry/media report: estimated 1.47m annual visitors at full development.	Open source
S6	SE Bicester / Wretchwick Way (16/01268/OUT)	CDC planning register page: outline residential development including up to 1,500 dwellings.	Open source
S7	Howes Lane / Avonbury area (23/03365/OUT)	CDC planning register page: up to 1,000 residential dwellings plus commercial/leisure/community/school uses.	Open source

S8	A41-Blackthorn Road (26/00395/SCOP)	CDC scoping response letter: currently up to 1,000 dwellings, up to 80-bed care home, local centre, commercial and community floorspace.	Open source
S9	Richborough, Camp Road Caulcott (25/03343/OUT)	CDC planning register page: up to 475 dwellings, including an element of extra care dwellings.	Open source
S10a	Alchester Parklands (25/01820/HYBRID)	CDC planning register page: up to 600 dwellings and public parkland/community woodland.	Open source
S10b	Alchester Parklands OCC population estimate	OCC response: 600-dwelling mix and average population estimate of 1,439.	Open source
S11a	Great Wolf Resort, Chesterton (19/02550/F)	CDC planning register page: leisure resort application and appeal allowed.	Open source
S11b	Great Wolf OCC transport response	OCC response: 1,977 weekday daily two-way movements and 2,761 Saturday daily two-way movements; 460 FTE staff in application material.	Open source
S12a	Bicester Motion - Experience Quarter (21/01224/OUT)	CDC planning register page: Automotive Experience Quarter application, permitted 31 March 2023.	Open source
S12b	Bicester Motion in Bicester Transport Model/OxSRFI technical note	Technical note summarising TA assumptions: circa 200 full-time employees and 625 visitor trips per weekday.	Open source
S13a	Bicester Village - Pingle Drive (22/03513/F)	CDC planning register page: public park, car and cycle hub, guest services, retail and food/beverage floorspace.	Open source
S13b	Bicester Village committee report	CDC committee report: car/cycle hub context including replacement of lost spaces and proposal details.	Open source

Verification caveats

- OxSRFI annual traffic: the public Technical Note 3 located for OxSRFI gives 20,650 two-way daily vehicle trips before Travel Plan reductions. Multiplied by 365 days, that is c.7.54m/year. The headline 9.60m/year has therefore been retained but flagged for checking against the latest DCO Transport Assessment, if/when available.
- Bicester Motion annual traffic and 400,000 annual visitors: the public source located verifies c.200 full-time employees and 625 visitor trips per weekday, but not the exact 0.54m/year annualisation or 400,000 visitor figure. These should be checked against the applicant's Transport Assessment / visitor forecast in the planning-register supporting documents.
- Baynards Green annual traffic: no single published annual total was located in the public committee reports reviewed. The annual range remains a derived B8 logistics estimate and should be treated as an order-of-magnitude figure.

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Council

Monday 20 July 2026

Written Questions

	Question From	Topic
1	Cllr Mark Cherry	Former Garage Site, Bretch Hill
2	Cllr Michael Wilson	Neurodiversity Awareness Training
3	Cllr Edward Reeves	Area Oversight Groups
4	Cllr Paul Jeffreys	Bins

QUESTION ONE

Question From: **Councillor Mark Cherry**

Question To: **Leader of the Council, Councillor Lesley McLean**

Topic: **Former Garage Site, Bretch Hill**

Question
"For over 2 years the former sanctuary housing garage site next to 230 Bretch hill is now on its third owner.

As a consequence, the old garage site has become unsafe dilapidated and prone to antisocial behaviour the Thames Valley neighbourhood police team and community wardens are doing all in their power to tackle this however the whole site needs redevelopment from the new owners and to be made secure.

As the leader of Cherwell District Council can you assure me as a Ruscote ward councillor that you will do all in your power as Cherwell leader to support the Cherwell environmental enforcement team who were trying to get the landowner to move forward with their legal responsibilities and improve the garage site for the local community of Bretch Hill.

QUESTION TWO

Question From: **Councillor Michael Wilson**

Question To: **Leader of the Council, Councillor Lesley McLean**

Topic: **Neurodiversity Awareness Training**

Question
"As a councillor with ADHD, I appreciate that the Council provides neurodiversity training through iHasco. Would the council consider offering in person

neurodiversity awareness training to further understanding and support for neurodivergent councillors, staff and residents.

Would the Leader agree to investigate the benefits of face-to-face neurodiversity training and report back to councillors on the options available?”

QUESTION THREE

Question From: **Councillor Eddie Reeves**

Question To: **Leader of the Council, Councillor Lesley McLean**

Topic: **Area Oversight Groups**

Question
“Earlier this year, Cherwell District Council agreed to allocate funding for Banbury and other parts of the district to support local development needs. Banbury will have £300,000 allocated through this Fund, for each of the financial years 2026/27 and 2027/28. These funds are to be welcomed.

Area Oversight Groups (AOGs) were set up as consultative, non-decision-making entities, and they are a forum in which to discuss local issues and opportunities and identify possible actions to address these through the development of an Area Priority Plan. Membership includes Cherwell District, Oxfordshire County and Banbury Town Councillors, officers and local stakeholders.

As Deddington ward members, Cllrs Rogers, McLernon and I appear to have been invited to attend meetings of the Banbury AOG. However, there appears to be no mention of the possibility of any rural expenditure at all in the Council's invitation to participate or its attendant funding criteria.

Is this an unfortunate case of miscommunication on the Council's part or has a political decision been taken by the administration to expressly exclude rural wards from receiving a fair share of these important funds?”

QUESTION FOUR

Question From: **Councillor Paul Jeffreys**

Question To: **Leader of the Council, Councillor Lesley McLean**

Topic: **Bins**

Question
“The Council's policy is that when an existing 240-litre Green Waste Bin becomes damaged or reaches the end of its serviceable life, it is replaced with a smaller 180-litre bin, representing a 25% reduction in capacity.
Whilst residents are encouraged to recycle as much as possible, many common household waste items cannot be placed in the blue recycling bin, including kitchen roll, tissues, bedding, textiles, carrier bags, cling film, sweet wrappers,

crisp packets, wet wipes and nappies. These items must therefore be disposed of in the Green Waste Bin.

For larger households, particularly those with young children generating nappy waste, a reduction of 25% in bin capacity can create significant difficulties.

At the same time, the annual charge for the Brown Bin garden waste service has increased from £49 to £59 over the last three years. Many residents may be concerned that increasing charges could discourage the proper disposal of garden waste and lead to more waste being placed in Green Waste Bins.

Can the Leader explain what assessment the Council has undertaken of the impact of replacing 240-litre Green Waste Bins with 180-litre bins on larger households and families with young children, whether there are any plans to reduce the size of the Brown Bin from 240 litres to 180 litres, and whether the Council will consider reducing or removing the Brown Bin charge in order to encourage greater use of the service?”

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This report is public	
Treasury Management Report – Outturn 2025/2026	
Committee	Council
Date of Committee	20 July 2026
Portfolio Holder presenting the report	Finance Portfolio Holder, Cllr David Hingley
Date Portfolio Holder agreed report	4 June 2026
Report of	Assistant Director of Finance (Section 151Officer), Michael Furness

Purpose of report

To provide information on treasury management performance and compliance with treasury management policy for 2025-26 as required by the Treasury Management Code of Practice.

To demonstrate that all treasury management activities undertaken during the reporting period complied with the CIPFA Code of Practice and the council's approved Treasury Management Strategy.

1. 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).

2. Executive Summary

2.1 The council complies with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice (the CIPFA Code) which requires the council to approve Treasury Management semi-annual and annual reports.

2.2 The council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2025-26 was approved by Council on 24 February 2025. The Treasury indicators have been included in this report as per the 2021 CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice requirements.

Implications & Impact Assessments

Implications	Commentary
Finance	The financial implications have been taken into account in the Budget Management reports considered by Executive. Joanne Kaye, Head of Finance and Deputy Section 151 Officer, 20 May 2026
Legal	The presentation of the report is required by regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 to review the treasury management activities, the actual prudential indicators and the treasury related indicators. Denzil Turbervill, Head of Legal, 19 May 2026
Risk Management	It is essential that this report is considered by the Audit Committee as it demonstrates that the risk of not complying with the council's Treasury Management Policy has been avoided. This and any other risks related to this report will be managed through the service operational risk and escalated to the leadership risk register as and when necessary. Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance and Insight Team Leader, 19 May 2026

Impact Assessments	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equality Impact		X		Not applicable
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		X		Not applicable
B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		X		Not applicable
Climate & Environmental Impact		X		Investments made in line with approved Treasury Strategy

ICT & Digital Impact				Not applicable
Data Impact				Not applicable
Procurement & subsidy				Not applicable
Council Priorities	Not applicable			
Human Resources	Not applicable			
Property	Not applicable			
Consultation & Engagement	Not applicable			

Supporting Information

3. Background

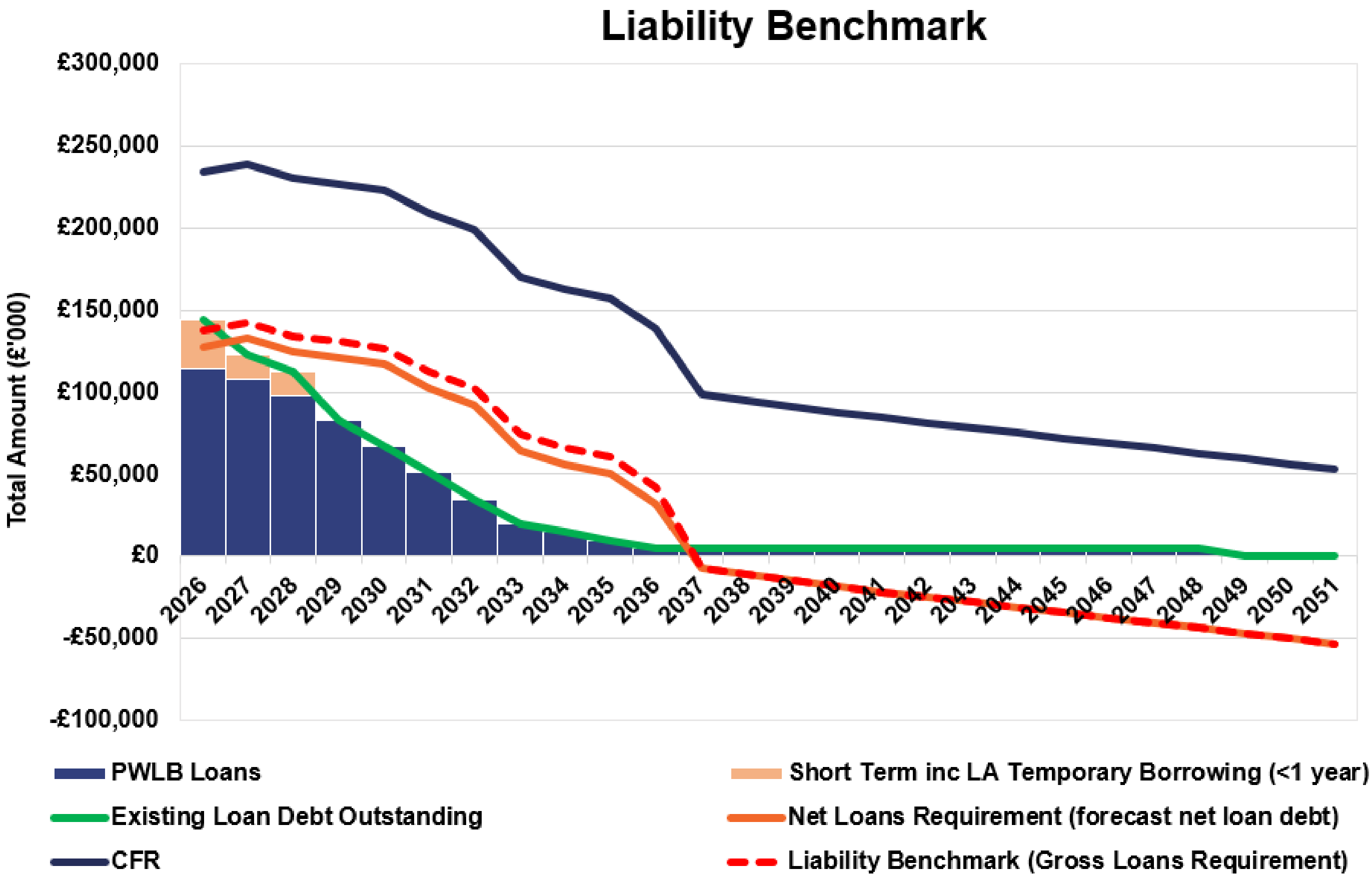
3.1 It is a statutory duty for the council to determine and keep under review its affordable borrowing limits. During 2025/26, the council has operated within the treasury and prudential indicators set out in the council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2025/26. The Assistant Director of Finance reports that no difficulties are envisaged for future years in complying with these indicators.

3.2 At 31 March 2026, the council had borrowing of £144m and investments of £16m, giving a net borrowing position of £128m. This is an increase from £115m on 31 December 2025 which was anticipated due to the annual precepting cycle.

3.3 The net borrowing position at the end of March 2025 was £160m. The year-on-year reduction is primarily attributable to a £14.6m discount received from the PWLB following the early repayment of a 50-year loan, combined with a £9.8m unanticipated growth in receipts from business rates and slippage in capital expenditure.

3.4 The Liability benchmark is a prudential indicator which shows the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), loan requirements and committed loans in a 25-year forecast. This graph reflects the council's position on the assumption that no additional capital expenditure is financed through borrowing beyond the current capital programme period.

Table 1: Liability benchmark



* The CFR figures have not yet been finalised. Subject to change pending draft Statement of Accounts.

3.5 The graph above demonstrates the following:

3.5.1 The council is expecting its loans to decrease in line with the forecast Liability benchmark (gross loan requirement) and that it will not be in an overborrowed position in the future.

3.5.2 Cash flow is being actively managed by utilising internal borrowing (comprising of reserves and working capital) to bridge the shortfall between the CFR and net loan requirement. The assumption has been made that the amount of internal borrowing will remain at the same levels in future years.

3.5.3 New loans will need to be secured to bridge the gap between the existing loan debt and the net loan requirement.

3.5.4 According to the current forecast, the requirement for borrowing ceases in the financial year 2037/38. The final £5 million PWLB loan, with a fixed interest rate of 2.5%, is scheduled to mature on 31 May 2048.

4. Details

Borrowing performance year ending 31 March 2026

4.1 The council continues to pursue its strategy of keeping borrowing below its Capital Financing requirements, this is referred to as internal borrowing, in order to reduce risk and borrowing costs.

4.2 The council's main objective when borrowing is to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving cost certainty over the period for which funds are required.

Table 2: Borrowing Position year ending 31 March 2026

	Borrowing Amount £m	Average Interest Rate	Interest Paid Budget £m	Interest Paid Actual £m	Variance to Date £m
April to March 2026	156 (average)	2.87%	4.913	4.480	(0.433)
As at 31/03/26	144	2.83%	-	-	-

* Interest payable relates to external loans only, excluding finance lease and other interest

4.3 As a comparison, the table below shows average borrowing rates.

Table 3: Average borrowing rates for the reporting period

HIGH/LOW/AVERAGE PWLB RATES FOR 2025/26

	1 Year	5 Year	10 Year	25 Year	50 Year
Low	4.25%	4.56%	5.13%	5.78%	5.46%
Date	27/02/2026	27/02/2026	02/03/2026	04/04/2025	04/04/2025
High	5.28%	5.47%	5.88%	6.43%	6.24%
Date	23/03/2026	23/03/2026	27/03/2026	27/03/2026	27/03/2026
Average	4.52%	4.82%	5.38%	6.06%	5.81%
Spread	1.03%	0.91%	0.75%	0.65%	0.78%

4.4 A full list of current borrowing is shown below:

Table 4: Borrowing

Lender	Principal Borrowed £m	Interest rate	Maturity Date
Middlesbrough Council	5	4.35%	13/04/2026
Lincolnshire County Council	5	4.30%	01/05/2026
Lincolnshire County Council	5	4.20%	29/05/2026
West Yorkshire Combined Authority	5	4.30%	30/06/2026
South Oxfordshire District Council	5	4.20%	17/07/2026
PWLB 7-year maturity	6	1.29%	19/09/2026
Portsmouth City Council	5	4.15%	28/09/2026
PWLB 5-year maturity	10	2.67%	26/07/2027
PWLB 10-year maturity	10	2.10%	31/05/2028
PWLB 6-year maturity	5	2.70%	26/07/2028
PWLB 7-year maturity	10	2.74%	26/07/2029
PWLB 10-year maturity	6	1.32%	25/09/2029
PWLB 8-year maturity	10	2.81%	26/07/2030

PWLB 11-year maturity	6	1.48%	19/09/2030
PWLB 9-year maturity	16	2.90%	26/07/2031
PWLB 10-year maturity	15	2.99%	26/07/2032
PWLB 15-year maturity	5	2.39%	31/05/2033
PWLB 15-year maturity	5	1.59%	25/09/2034
PWLB 16-year maturity	5	1.73%	19/09/2035
PWLB 30-year maturity	5	2.50%	31/05/2048
TOTAL	**144**		

4.5 The council monitors its exposure to refinancing risk with the maturity structure of borrowing indicator. While it is important to have flexibility to navigate changing market conditions it is critical that loan repayments are spread appropriately. The lower limit has been considered but kept at zero to ensure that the council is not forced into taking borrowing in a particular category that would lock it into an unfavourable borrowing situation.

Table 5: Maturity structure of borrowing

Refinancing rate risk indicator	Upper limit	Lower limit	Actual structure
Under 12 months	50%	0%	25%
12 months and within 24 months	50%	0%	7%
24 months and within 5 years	60%	0%	33%
5 years and within 10 years	70%	0%	32%
10 years and above	80%	0%	3%

Investment performance year ending 31 March 2026

4.6 Funds available for investment are on a temporary basis because the council prioritises keeping borrowing to a minimum and only invests surplus funds retained to meet its commitments. The availability of investable funds is primarily influenced by the timing of precept payments, receipt of grants and funding of the Capital Programme.

4.7 Table 6 below shows the investment position during and at the end of the reporting period. Treasury management interest income has exceeded budget expectations and the investment at year end exceed the £10m liquidity buffer.

Table 6: Investment Position

	Investment Amount £m	**Average Interest Rate**	**Interest Earned Budget £m**	**Interest Earned Actual £m**	**Variance to Date £m**
April to March 2026	31 (average)	4.19%	(1.067)	(1.314)	(0.247)
As at 31/03/26	16	4.51%	-	-	-

4.8 As a comparison, Table 7 below shows average money-market rates. The average investment period for fixed deposits for this quarter is 38 days.

Table 7: Average investment rates for the reporting period

FINANCIAL YEAR TO QUARTER ENDED 31/03/2026						
	Bank Rate	SONIA	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
High	4.50	4.46	4.47	4.36	4.28	4.47
High Date	01/04/2025	07/05/2025	03/04/2025	02/04/2025	02/04/2025	23/03/2026
Low	3.75	3.72	3.65	3.57	3.49	3.40
Low Date	18/12/2025	22/12/2025	27/02/2026	27/02/2026	27/02/2026	27/02/2026
Average	4.04	4.01	3.98	3.94	3.87	3.77
Spread	0.75	0.74	0.81	0.79	0.79	1.08

4.9 While the council is always looking for ways to invest sustainably (or green investments) this must be done within the criteria laid out in the approved Treasury Management Strategy with counterparties that meet the council's investment criteria. Security, liquidity and yield remain the primary investment considerations as required by the Treasury Management Code.

4.10 The council continues to invest in three Money Market funds that meet the criteria pursuant to Article 8 of the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (Regulation EU/2019/2088). These are highlighted in green in the full list of current investments in Table 8 below.

Table 8: Investments

Counterparty	Principal Deposited £m	Interest Rate	Maturity Date / Notice period
Fixed Term Deposits			
Surrey Heath Borough Council	5.00	5.50%	14/04/2026
Bedford Borough Council	4.00	6.42%	30/04/2026
Money Market Funds			
Royal London Asset Management	1.00	3.84%	1-day notice
Legal & General Investment Management	1.32	3.83%	Same day
Federated Investors UK	5.00	3.82%	Same day
Northern Trust Asset Managements	0.02	3.78%	Same day
CCLA Investment Management Limited	0.02	3.74%	Same day
Goldman Sachs Asset Management	0.02	3.71%	Same day
TOTAL	**16.38**		

4.11 Compliance with investment limits are detailed in Table 9 below:

Table 9: Investment Limits

Counterparty	2025/26 Limit £m	Complied?

UK Central Government	Unlimited	Yes
Other Local Authorities	5 each	Yes
Any group of organisations under the same ownership	5 per group	Yes
Approved counterparties – Banks/Building Societies	3 each	Yes
Any group of pooled funds under the same management	5 per manager	Yes
Money Market Funds total	20 in total	Yes

4.12 The council sets limits on long-term treasury investments to control liquidity risk and avoid early withdrawal to recover funds. This indicator applies only to treasury management investments.

Table 10: Limits for Long Term Treasury Management Investments

	2025/26 Limit set £m	**Complied?**
Limit on principal invested beyond year end	5	Yes

Non-treasury investment activity

4.13 The definition of investments in CIPFA's revised Treasury Management Code covers all the financial assets of the council. This is replicated in the government's Statutory Guidance on Local Government Investments, in which the definition of investments is further broadened to also include all such assets that provide a financial return.

4.14 As of 31 March 2026, the council holds £102.9m of investments that qualify under the code in the form of shares (£45.1m) and loans (£57.8m) to subsidiary companies and other organisations, primarily Graven Hill and Crown House.

4.15 In accordance with IFRS9 the fair value of the loan provided to Crown House has been revised. The loan is at a non-market rate of interest and has therefore been discounted using an effective interest rate of 5%, which the directors consider to be an appropriate market rate. The difference between the cash advanced and the present value of the loan has been treated as an investment in the Company.

4.16 The loan elements of these non-treasury investments generate a higher rate of return than that earned on treasury investments due to the commercial nature of the loans issued. Table 10 below shows the investment position for this reporting period.

Table 11: Non-treasury Investment Position

	Investment Amount £m	**Average Interest Rate**	**Interest Earned Budget £m**	**Interest Earned Actual £m**	**Variance to Date £m**
April to March 2026	57.8 (average)	6.76%	(3.943)	(4.069)	(0.126)

As at 31/03/26	57.8	6.76%	-	-	-

Overall performance

4.17 The overall performance for the 2025/26 financial year is:

Table 12: Overall Treasury Position for the Period

	Budget 25/26 £m	Actual 25/26 £m	Variance 25/26 £m
Borrowing costs	4.913	4.480	(0.433)
Other interest payable	0.769	(0.001)	(0.770)
Other interest receivable	0.000	(1.459)	(1.459)
Treasury income	(1.067)	(1.314)	(0.247)
Non-treasury income	(3.943)	(4.069)	(0.126)
Transfer to Reserves	0.000	1.957	1.957
Total cost / (income)	**0.672**	**(0.406)**	**(1.078)**

4.18 Borrowing costs were (£0.433m) below budget due to careful management and the strategic decision to maintain a reduced £10m liquidity buffer. This achieved savings without affecting the council's ability to meet cashflow obligations.

4.19 The (£0.770m) saving recorded as 'Other interest payable' resulted from a change in the council's policy of ringfencing interest on funding treated as receipts in advance.

4.20 Following the early repayment of a 50-year PWLB loan, a discount was received. The discount is to be amortised over 10 years, resulting in a (£1.459m) non-cash windfall, reflected as a surplus in 'Other interest receivable' in table 12 above.

4.21 Treasury income exceeded budget by (£0.247m) driven by proactive management and interest rates remaining higher than forecast.

4.22 Non treasury income exceed budget by (£0.126m) due to the IFRS 9 accounting treatment resulting in a revision to the fair value of the loan to Crown House.

4.23 Transfers to Reserves represents 2025/26's £1.459m share of the amortised PWLB early redemption premium and £0.498m of treasury management surpluses arising from improvements in the cost of borrowing and investment returns declared in the first quarter of 2025/26.

4.24 Overall the strong Treasury performance has increased the Interest Rate Equalisation reserve by (£1.957m), while the (£1.078m) surplus is being used to offset service overspends.

Interest rate forecast

4.25 Before the conflict in Iran, the market expected the Bank of England (BoE) to cut rates multiple times in 2026 due to easing inflation. Currently the market is now forecasting that the BoE's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will raise the base rate at least once this calendar year, with some experts anticipating multiple increases.

4.26 MUFG Corporate Markets are the council's treasury advisors, and part of their service is to assist the council to formulate a view on interest rates. They released their revised forecast on the 25 March 2026 which has a more optimistic view that the interest rates will remain unchanged for the 2026/27 financial year.

Table 13: Forecast Rates

MUFG Corporate Markets Interest Rate View 25.03.26												
	Jun-26	Sep-26	Dec-26	Mar-27	Jun-27	Sep-27	Dec-27	Mar-28	Jun-28	Sep-28	Dec-28	Mar-29
BANK RATE	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.50	3.50	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25
3 month ave earnings	4.00	3.90	3.80	3.80	3.70	3.50	3.50	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30
6 month ave earnings	4.20	4.10	4.00	3.90	3.90	3.70	3.70	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
12 month ave earnings	4.60	4.50	4.40	4.20	4.20	4.00	4.00	3.80	3.80	3.80	3.80	3.80
5 yr PWLB	5.00	5.00	4.90	4.80	4.60	4.40	4.20	4.20	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10
10 yr PWLB	5.50	5.50	5.40	5.30	5.10	4.90	4.70	4.70	4.60	4.60	4.60	4.60
25 yr PWLB	6.00	6.00	5.90	5.80	5.60	5.40	5.20	5.20	5.20	5.20	5.10	5.10
50 yr PWLB	5.80	5.80	5.70	5.50	5.40	5.20	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.90	4.90

5. Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

5.1 The nature of this report is such that alternative options are not appropriate. It is an option to request further information on the performance reported.

6 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

6.1 This report presents the council's Treasury Performance for the 2025/26 financial year. It is submitted to the Council for information in line with the Treasury Management Code of Practice

Decision Information

Key Decision	N/A
Subject to Call in	N/A
If not, why not subject to call in	N/A
Ward(s) Affected	All

Document Information

Appendices	
Appendix 1	Capital Prudential Indicators

Background Papers	None
Reference Papers	Treasury Management Report – Q3 2025/26 (Dec 25) https://modgov.cherwell.gov.uk/documents/s62835/Treasury%20Management%20Report%20-%20Q3%2020202526%20Dec%202025.pdf Treasury Management Strategy 2025-26 https://modgov.cherwell.gov.uk/documents/s58192/Appendix%202%20-%20Treasury%20Management%20Strategy%202025-26.pdf
Report Author	Janet du Preez Finance Business Partner – Treasury and Insurance
Contact details	janet.du-preez@cherwell-dc.gov.uk 01295 221606
Executive Director Approval (unless Executive Director or Statutory Officer report)	Report of statutory officer, Section 151 Officer

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Appendix 1 – Capital Prudential Indicators 2025/26 Outturn report

The figures in this appendix have been updated since the Audit and Governance Committee recommended this report to Council on the 17th of June 2026 with data from the Draft Statement of Accounts, published on the 30th of June 2026. This is to provide the Council with the most accurate and up to date figures available.

1. Introduction

This appendix is structured to update members on:

- The council's capital expenditure plans;
- How these plans are being financed;
- The impact of the changes in the capital expenditure plans on the prudential indicators and the underlying need to borrow; and
- Compliance with the limits in place for borrowing activity.

Please note that all balances for 2025/26 are subject to change pending the publication of the final Statement of Accounts.

2. Capital Expenditure

This provides a summary of the council's capital expenditure plans. It reflects the revised budget for 25/26 from the Capital Prudential Indicators Q3 report, the actual spend for 25/26 as well as the forecast for 26/27 and 27/28 as per the Capital and Investment Strategy for 26/27 which was approved on the 23rd of February 2026.

Table A1: Capital Expenditure

	Revised Budget 25/26 £m	Actual 25/26 £m	Forecast as per Strategy 26/27 £m	Forecast as per Strategy 27/28 £m
Service Loans				
Capital Projects	7.6	5.8	17.9	6.5
New Finance Lease and PFI				
Total Capital Expenditure	7.6	5.8	17.9	6.5
Financed by:				
Capital Receipts		(0.3)	(1.8)	(5.1)
Grants and other contributions	(5.0)	(4.2)	(4.2)	(5.0)
S106 Grants		(0.5)	(2.3)	
Revenue Contributions				
Donated Assets				
Total financing	(5.0)	(4.9)	(8.3)	(10.1)
Net financing need for year*	**2.6**	**0.9**	**9.6**	**(3.6)**

* Subject to change pending final Statement of Accounts

This indicator shows that the council's capital expenditure is supported by capital receipts or grants and that the amounts that require financing from the revenue budget are proportionate and affordable.

3. Capital Financing Requirement

The Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) shows the difference between the Authority's capital expenditure and the revenue or capital resources set aside to finance that spend.

The CFR will increase where capital expenditure takes place and will reduce as the Authority makes Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) or otherwise sets aside revenue or capital resources to finance expenditure.

Table A2: Capital Financing Requirement

	Revised Budget 25/26 £m	Actual 25/26 £m	Forecast as per Strategy 26/27 £m	Forecast as per Strategy 27/28 £m
Opening CFR	235.5	236.2	233.9	238.8
Capital Spend	7.6	5.8	17.9	6.5
Resources used	(5.0)	(4.9)	(8.3)	(10.1)
MRP	(4.2)	(4.3)	(4.7)	(4.6)
Closing CFR	**233.9**	**232.8**	**238.8**	**230.6**

* Subject to change pending final Statement of Accounts

Each year the council sets a prudent MRP policy that will set aside revenue resources to finance capital expenditure over the life of the assets. This indicator details how capital spend, resources used and the MRP adjust the CFR closing balance.

4. Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement

An authority should only borrow to support a capital purpose, and borrowing should not be undertaken for revenue or speculative purposes.

The Authority should ensure that gross debt does not, except in the short-term, exceed the total of the CFR in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional CFR for the current and the next two financial years. If the level of gross borrowing is below the Authority's capital borrowing need – the CFR – it demonstrates compliance with the requirement of this Indicator.

Table A3: Gross Debt & Capital Financing Requirement

	Revised Budget 25/26 £m	Actual 25/26 £m	Forecast as per Strategy 26/27 £m	Forecast as per Strategy 27/28 £m
CFR	233.9	232.8	238.8	230.6
Gross borrowing	149.0	144.0	155.4	155.8
Under / (over) borrowing	**84.9**	**88.8**	**83.4**	**74.8**

* Subject to change pending final Statement of Accounts

This indicator shows that the council is under borrowed, and so that debt is only being used to support capital expenditure. Under borrowing indicates that the council has been prudent and used internal borrowing to reduce the interest cost that is associated with external borrowing.

5. Operational Boundary and Authorised Limit

The Operational Boundary is the limit beyond which external debt is not normally expected to exceed.

Unlike the Authorised Limit, the Operational Boundary is not an absolute limit, but it reflects the Council's expectations of the level at which external debt would not ordinarily be expected to exceed.

Table A4: Estimated Debt, Operational Boundary and Authorised Limit

	Revised Budget 25/26 £m	Actual 25/26 £m	Forecast as per Strategy 26/27 £m	Forecast as per Strategy 27/28 £m
External Borrowings	149.0	144.0	155.4	155.8
Operational Boundary	**200.0**	**200.0**	**199.0**	**198.0**
Authorised Limit	**310.0**	**310.0**	**270.0**	**265.0**

* Subject to change pending final Statement of Accounts

The council continues to have debt below its operational boundary, indicating that the council is effectively managing its debt and cashflows.

6. Financing cost to Net Revenue Stream

This Indicator shows the trend in the cost of capital (borrowing and other long-term obligation costs) against the net revenue stream. Funding includes income such as Council tax, Business Rates as well as New Homes Bonus and Revenue Support Grant but excludes income from investments.

Table A5: Ratio of Financing costs to Net Revenue stream

	Revised Budget 25/26 £m	Actual 25/26 £m	Forecast as per Strategy 26/27 £m	Forecast as per Strategy 27/28 £m
Interest payable	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.6
MRP	4.2	4.3	4.7	4.6
Total Financing Costs	8.7	8.8	9.1	9.2
Funding	26.2	25.7	32.3	29.9
Non-specific grant income	3.7	3.7	0.0	0.0
Net Revenue Stream	29.9	29.4	32.3	29.9
Ratio of Financing costs	**29.1%**	**29.9%**	**28.3%**	**30.9%**

* Subject to change pending final Statement of Accounts

This indicator shows that the ratio of financing costs to net revenue streams is high, however what this doesn't consider is that a large proportion of the council's financing costs are offset by the interest from on-lending to the Council's subsidiaries, and income generated by the commercial assets acquired as part of the regeneration programme. See item 7 below for detail on this.

7. Net Income from Service Investment Income to Net Revenue Stream

The next indicator is the Net income from Commercial and Service investments Income to Net Revenue Stream. This Indicator shows the financial exposure of the Authority to the loss of its non-treasury investment income.

The Council does not hold any commercial investments. All investments that are not treasury-related are service investments, the majority of which relate to housing and regeneration.

Table A6: Ratio of Investment Income to Net Revenue stream

	Revised Budget 25/26 £m	Actual 25/26 £m	Forecast as per Strategy 26/27 £m	Forecast as per Strategy 27/28 £m
Income from long term investments	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.1
Income from assets	4.6	4.8	5.5	5.5
Total Investment income	8.6	8.9	9.6	9.6
Funding	26.2	25.7	32.3	29.9
Non-specific grant income	3.7	3.7	0.0	0.0
Net Revenue Stream	29.9	29.4	32.3	29.9
Ratio of investment income	**28.9%**	**30.3%**	**29.7%**	**32.1%**

* Subject to change pending final Statement of Accounts

The last two ratios dovetail, as much of the debt was incurred with the expectation of non-treasury investment income that would in part offset the financing costs. Deducting the Ratio of net income from Service Investments from the Ratio of Financing costs reveals the affordability ratio.

Table A7: Affordability Ratio

	Revised Budget 25/26	Actual 25/26	Forecast as per Strategy 26/27	Forecast as per Strategy 27/28
Ratio of Financing costs	29.1%	29.9%	28.3%	30.9%
Ratio of Investment income	28.9%	30.3%	29.7%	32.1%
Affordability ratio	**0.2%**	**(0.3%)**	**(1.4%)**	**(1.2%)**
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Affordability ratio in £	**0.10**	**(0.07)**	**(0.50)**	**(0.29)**

* Subject to change pending final Statement of Accounts

The affordability ratio shows that there was a small surplus in 2025/26, a trend which is forecast to continue for the next two financial years.

The Section 151 Officer is satisfied that the proposed capital programme is prudent, affordable, and sustainable.

The council will continue to monitor this ratio and report to senior management and members. Should the affordability ratio move adversely, the council will need to review whether this is sustainable and what actions may be required to mitigate the impact to the taxpayer as part of its budget management and Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

Council

Monday 20 July 2026

Motions

	Topic	Proposer	Seconder
1	Thames Valley Devolution Withdrawal	Cllr Kieron Mallon	Cllr David Rogers
2	The Implications of Designation	Cllr Ian Harwood	Cllr Eddie Reeves
3	Pavement Blocking	Cllr Rebecca Biegel	TBC
4	Councillor Transparency with Public over AI Use	Cllr Kerrie Thornhill	TBC
5	Two Hours Free Parking at Claremont Car Park - Bicester	Cllr Les Sibley	TBC
6	Community Wardens	Cllr Paul Jeffreys	TBC

The Monitoring Officer has confirmed that motions 1 and 2 will be debated by Council due to the district wide significance of the motion topic. Amendments are permitted on these motions. The deadline for Members to submit amendments to motions is noon on Thursday 16 July. No amendments will be permitted after this deadline.

Any amendments submitted will be published as a supplement to the agenda on the afternoon of Friday 17 July. Amendments for motions will be dealt with in the order submitted.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 4.18, as the detail of motions 3, 4, 5, and 6 falls within the remit of Executive, no amendments are permitted and there will 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.

<u> Please note that motions are on individual pages to assist viewing **</u>**

<u>MOTION ONE</u> (Council debate due to district wide significance)

Motion Proposer: Councillor Kieron Mallon

Motion Seconder: Councillor David Rogers

Topic: Thames Valley Devolution Withdrawal

Motion

"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 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."

<u>MOTION TWO</u> (Council debate due to district wide significance)

Motion Proposer: Councillor Ian Harwood

Motion Seconder: Councillor Eddie Reeves

Topic: The Implications of Designation

Motion

“This Council notes with 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 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.”

<u>MOTION THREE</u> (referral to Executive)

Motion Proposer: Councillor Rebecca Biegel

Motion Seconder: TBC

Topic: Pavement Blocking

Motion

"Vehicles parking inconsiderately on pavements is a growing problem across Cherwell. Blocked pavements create significant difficulties for pedestrians and especially wheelchair users, people with pushchairs and those with visual impairments, who are forced to go into the road to pass. This unacceptable situation reduces accessibility for vulnerable residents and creates safety issues for all.

The Government has announced plans to give local highway authorities more powers to prevent unnecessary pavement parking and intervene more quickly wherever pavement obstruction creates safety or accessibility risks. Oxfordshire County Council will be able to introduce wider pavement parking restrictions in problem areas while still allowing exemptions where pavement parking is genuinely necessary or unavoidable.

Although Cherwell District Council does not have legal responsibility for highways, it has an important role to play in identifying areas where pavement blocking is a significant issue. Such information can be used to work with other agencies to tackle this problem, increase public awareness of the safety and accessibility issues caused by pavement blocking and finally to feed into any proposals for new pavement parking restrictions which may be considered by the county council.

This council therefore resolves to

1. identify areas where pavement blocking is a significant issue by collating evidence submitted by local members, residents, affected groups and others
2. use this local evidence-based information to
    - liaise with other agencies to tackle this issue and
    - provide feedback to Oxfordshire County Council
3. support and promote publicity and education campaigns to discourage inconsiderate pavement blocking"

MOTION FOUR (referral to Executive)

Motion Proposer: Councillor Kerrie Thornhill

Motion Seconder: TBC

Topic: Councillor Transparency with Public over AI Use

Motion
"The use of AI (Artificial Intelligence) programmes for generating written and visual communications is increasingly common. Some elected representatives, including Councillors at Cherwell District Council, have chosen to use AI-generated written updates, AI visual materials, and even AI-generated videos, to communicate with the public.

Some AI authored content can undermine transparency. Visual materials imitating public works, or official news sources, have the potential to be misleading. Furthermore, there are serious issues of transparency if AI content is published without clear information on authorship.

Members of the public have a right to know at first glance if a text, image, or video made by their elected Councillors is machine-generated or not.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Require that Councillors clearly label material has been wholly or substantially generated using artificial intelligence, in any content published in the public domain, which relates to Council business, campaigning, or their role as a Councillor.

2. Ask the relevant committee to consider whether a policy, written guideline, or training on the transparent use of AI in public communications would be appropriate and report back."

<u>MOTION FIVE</u> (referral to Executive)

Motion Proposer: **Councillor Les Sibley**

Motion Seconder: **TBC**

Topic: **Two Hours Free Parking at Claremont Car Park - Bicester**

Motion
"That the Executive investigates the introduction of up to two hours of free parking in the Council owned Claremont Car Park in Bicester.

Provide for motorists to purchase an additional one hour of parking after the initial two-hour free period, subject to the applicable parking fee and time restrictions.

Prepare a report outlining the financial, operational and economic impacts of implementing the proposed parking arrangement, including any required changes to parking infrastructure, payment systems, signage and enforcement.

Consider the initiative as a means of supporting local businesses, increasing footfall to the town centre, improving accessibility for residents and visitors, while maintaining parking turnover and generating appropriate revenue from extended stays.

As part of the investigation, assess the feasibility of managing the Claremont Car Park through its single entry and exit points using CCTV with Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology, reducing the need for physical enforcement while maintaining compliance with parking limits and payment requirements.

Receive the report at the Executive for consideration and determination."

<u>MOTION SIX</u> (referral to Executive)

Motion Proposer: Councillor Paul Jeffreys

Motion Seconder: TBC

Topic: Community Wardens

Motion
“Anti-social behaviour (ABS) has a significant impact on residents' quality of life, mental health, community cohesion, and perceptions of safety, with the Home Office recognising that ASB can lead to anxiety, depression, avoidance behaviours, and a loss of trust in public institutions.

Vulnerable adults, older residents, and those living alone are often disproportionately affected by persistent ASB and benefit from a visible uniformed presence providing reassurance and early intervention.

Investment in prevention is more cost-effective than dealing with the downstream consequences of ASB, crime, environmental damage, and community decline.
Financial Case

A full-time Community Warden typically costs £45,000 to £48,000 per year including salary, pension, equipment, and training.

An additional team of 4 wardens would cost around £200,000 annually, while a volunteer Special Community Warden scheme could operate for £8000- £20,000 per year for training, uniforms, and supervision. This modest investment would deliver visible deterrence, reassurance, intelligence gathering and earlier intervention, helping to reduce the far greater social and financial costs of anti-social behaviour on residents, businesses, and public services.

We ask that that the Executive.

- Develop a business case for increasing the number of Community Wardens across Cherwell. Report back within six months with costs, funding options, and implementation plans.
- Explore external funding opportunities, including the Police and Crime Commissioner, government community safety grants, and local partnerships.
- Establish a pilot Special Community Warden Scheme, recruiting and training volunteers in a model similar to Special Constables, working alongside existing wardens, Police and community safety partners.”

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