

Council

Monday 15 December 2025

Written Questions – responses from the Leader

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QUESTION ONE

Question From: Councillor Eddie Reeves

Question To: Leader of the Council, Councillor David Hingley

Topic: Illegal Fly-tipping at Kidlington

Question

“As to Cherwell District Council’s knowledge of the industrial fly-tipping near Kidlington,

- (i) when did the Council first become aware of the illegal activity,
- (ii) what actions were taken to monitor and/or remediate the site at each stage, and
- (iii) what is its understanding as to which authority is now liable for cleaning up the appalling mess?”

Response from the Leader

“CDC was contacted by a member of the public regarding a suspected traveller site in early June 2025. Site visit photographs and observations were reported to Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), as the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority, on 9 June 2025 and a number of attempts were made by CDC and OCC throughout June 2025 to gain access to the site.

On 2 July 2025, a CDC Enforcement Officer attended a site visit with OCC and the Environment Agency, whereby the latter confirmed responsibility for the case including the monitoring of the site.

On 23 October 2025, the Environment Agency obtained a Restriction Order from Oxford Magistrates Court prohibiting access to the site by all persons other than the Emergency Services and those authorised by the Environment Agency.

The Environment Agency is liable for the clearance of the site and is working with all partners involved to clear the site as soon as possible. On 11 December it

confirmed on an exceptional basis it would immediately progress works to entirely clear the site.”

QUESTION TWO

Question From: Councillor Eddie Reeves

Question To: Leader of the Council, Councillor David Hingley

Topic: Government Funding

Question

“On 21 July 2025, this Council approved a motion regretting the consequences of the Labour government’s plans to (i) end the Business Rates Retention scheme introduced under the Coalition government in 2013/14; and (ii) institute a ‘Fair Funding’ model that is, according to a Budget Planning Committee report dated 8 July 2025 *“expected to reduce the Council’s funding by up to 40%.”*”

What update, if any, is the Leader able to share with colleagues surrounding these existential cuts to local services?”

Response from the Leader

“The Government consultation on Fair Funding, which took place over the summer, proposed a more gradual impact on reductions in funding for authorities such as CDC. As part of the council’s response (of which an update was provided to the Executive in September 2025), I sent a letter to the Secretary of State requesting particular attention be given by the government to increase the floor from 93% (a 100% floor was requested) and to include pooling income in the baseline from which the floor is measured.

Subsequently, the Local Government Financial Policy Statement (LGFPS) published in November 2025 confirmed a floor of 95% with no further cash cuts, and that pooling income will be taken into account in the baseline. This is a positive response to the two key requests made in my letter. However, it should be noted that CDC is still waiting on final figures from the government, which are presently not expected until mid-December 2025.

Concurrently, the Executive working with officers have given extensive consideration to developing future budgets. As a result of this activity, the current CDC budget consultation (which remains open until 19 December 2025) proposes a balanced budget for 2026/27. The full implications of the LGFPS changes described above have not been included in the consultation proposals, so we will do further analysis to determine how they improve the position.

In looking towards future challenges facing local government finances and what we as an authority can do to mitigate these, CDC is well underway in undertaking its Cherwell Futures Programme, focussing initially on three primary areas (Planning Services improvements, improvements to Environmental Services, and establishing a customer-friendly “single front door”), initially aiming to save £3m - £4m. These schemes are not only about saving money but also having the aim of improving how we work and enhancing the experience of interacting with the council for our residents and partners. Importantly, identifying savings in this way

allows the council to avoid otherwise harmful reductions to frontline services. An update on this programme will be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in January 2026.”

QUESTION THREE

Question From: Councillor Eddie Reeves

Question To: Leader of the Council, Councillor David Hingley

Topic: CCTV Services Across Oxfordshire

Question

“According to an article of 1 December 2025 on local news service, *This is Oxfordshire*:

“Oxford City Council and South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse and Cherwell district councils have all reportedly refused to join a new partnership created by Thames Valley’s police and crime commissioner.”

The same article goes on to report that:

“Oxford City Council could have had £61,562, Vale of White Horse was offered £44,336, South Oxon was set for £52,051 and Cherwell could have had £72,764.

West Oxfordshire council has accepted £43,760.”

Has the Leader taken a decision not to join the Police and Crime Commissioner’s proposal to centralise and streamline CCTV services across Oxfordshire and, if so, why?”

Response from Leader

“I have not taken any decision to decline joining the Police and Crime Commissioner’s (PCC) proposal on the provision of CCTV services across Oxfordshire. The Executive approved CDC’s involvement in the scheme in September 2024, subject to agreement of terms, following which discussions have been ongoing, as has been the case with all councils involved. Most recently, I have confirmed to the PCC in a letter sent on 5 December 2025 that we remain committed to participating. At no point has CDC refused any offer of funding.

CDC’s officers have been working diligently with Thames Valley Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to review and respond to the draft agreement proposed, most recently on 2 December 2025 ahead of their deadline to respond on 5 December 2025. CDC’s Chief Executive is scheduled to meet with the PCC on 16 December 2025 to reinforce our commitment to finding a mutually acceptable way forward on behalf of our district and our residents.”

QUESTION FOUR

Question From: Councillor David Rogers

Question To: **Leader of the Council, Councillor David Hingley**

Topic: **Illegal Fly-tipping at Kidlington**

Question

“Does the Council hold an estimate of the nature and volume of the waste involved further to the illegal landfill site near Kidlington and does it therefore know what the potential cost of remediating the site is bearing in mind the terrible precedent at Hoads Wood in Kent?”

Response from Leader

“The Environment Agency is in the process of assessing the site to enable an informed estimation of costs associated with its remediation as well as to understand fully the nature of the waste ahead of its clearance.

Together the Leader of Oxfordshire County Council, I have written to the Prime Minister to request that he consider allowing landfill tax or any equivalent regulatory charges be waived in order to considerably reduce the costs associated with removal.”