

| This report is public                                  |                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Local Area Development Funds – Proposal for Allocation |                                                                          |
| Committee                                              | Executive                                                                |
| Date of Committee                                      | 13 July 2026                                                             |
| Portfolio Holder presenting the report                 | Leader - Strategic Leadership and Regeneration, Councillor Lesley McLean |
| Date Portfolio Holder agreed report                    | 30 June 2026                                                             |
| Report of                                              | Executive Director Place & Regeneration, Ian Boll                        |

## Purpose of report

This paper sets out the first tranche of projects – discussed and recommended by Area Oversight Groups (AOGs) – for Local Area Development Funding. This funding was agreed as part of the annual budget setting process by Council on 23 February 2026.

## 1. Recommendations

The Executive resolves:

- 1.1 To agree to allocate £21.5k of Local Area Development Funds to progress the following projects for the 2026/27 financial year as discussed and recommended at the respective Area Oversight Group:

Figure 1: Project Summary

| Project                                                                                       | Est. Cost (£)                   | AOG        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|
| Banbury Town Centre Revitalisation - Look & Feel                                              | 26/27: £21.5k<br>*27/28: £38.5k | Banbury    |
| -                                                                                             | -                               | Bicester   |
| -                                                                                             | -                               | Kidlington |
| <b>Total Funding Requested</b>                                                                | <b>£21,500</b>                  |            |
| <i>* Figures for 27/28 full year are shown but not proposed for allocation at this stage.</i> |                                 |            |

- 1.2 To delegate authority to the Executive Director Place and Regeneration, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership and Regeneration, to agree final cost plans for the above projects subject to the maximum cost envelope outlined in Figure 1.

## 2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 As part of the 2026/27 Budget, a number of new funds were agreed by Council in February 2026. This included the introduction of 3 Local Development Funds for each of the district's three main urban centres and their surrounding areas, meaning that the entire district would have access to local development funding.

- 2.2 The focus of this funding is on projects that are deliverable and will have a tangible impact on our communities. The following projects have been identified for funding:

Figure 2: Project Summary

| Project                                                                                       | Est. Cost (£)                   | AOG        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|
| Banbury Town Centre Revitalisation - Look & Feel                                              | 26/27: £21.5k<br>*27/28: £38.5k | Banbury    |
| -                                                                                             | -                               | Bicester   |
| -                                                                                             | -                               | Kidlington |
| <b>Total Funding Requested</b>                                                                | <b>£21,500</b>                  |            |
| <i>* Figures for 27/28 full year are shown but not proposed for allocation at this stage.</i> |                                 |            |

- 2.3 All projects proposed for funding have been discussed at the relevant AOG meeting and have been included in Area Priority Plans (APPs) with agreement from Ward Councillors in attendance at the respective AOG meetings.

## Implications & Impact Assessments

| Implications           | Commentary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Finance</b>         | <p>I can confirm that the figures within the Business Case have been reviewed by finance of which the £21.5k is available to be drawn down from the Local Area Development Funds upon review from the Executive, this will need to be closely monitored to ensure that this remains within the current budget envelope.</p> <p>Kimberley Digweed, Finance Business Partner, 30 June 2026</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Legal</b>           | <p>The proposed project described in this report and its appendices notes funding available for all three urban areas of the district. As noted in this report, the use of funding for any intended project will require the input of legal services to review and advise on the legal implications of the use of funding. This may include advice and support on a variety of issues including compliance with the Council's constitution, applicable legislation and other requirements. It is noted that there is a potentially wide scope of requests for use of funding. The early instruction of legal and procurement teams is recommended.</p> <p>On the current envisioned use of funds in this report, it is important that any changes to affected Council personnel should be agreed in writing, with appropriate consultation and certainty on what the increased provision will practically entail.</p> <p>Denzil-John Turbervill, Head of Legal Services, 24 June 2026</p> |
| <b>Risk Management</b> | <p>These projects have been identified and agreed by Ward Councillors as local area priorities. In part this proposal aims to mitigate a risk that our urban centres are not treated equally. Where projects identified in this paper are being delivered by the council, the internal PMO governance process will be followed,</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

|                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |         |          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                    | including a project risk register to manage and monitor this and any further identified risks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |         |          | Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance & Insight Team Leader, 24 June 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Impact Assessments</b>                                                                                                                          | Positive                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Neutral | Negative | Commentary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Equality Impact</b>                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | X       |          | <p>This report seeks to agree allocations of funding for specific projects. Any need for a full equality impact assessment will be subsequently undertaken as part of appropriate project governance processes, and in line with our Equalities, diversity and inclusion framework.</p> <p>Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance &amp; Insight Team Leader, 24 June 2026</p> |
| <b>A</b> Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | X       |          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>B</b> Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users? |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | X       |          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Climate &amp; Environmental Impact</b>                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |         |          | Not applicable                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>ICT &amp; Digital Impact</b>                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |         |          | Not applicable                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Data Impact</b>                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |         |          | Not applicable                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Procurement &amp; subsidy</b>                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |         |          | Not applicable                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Council Priorities</b>                                                                                                                          | <p><b>Economic Prosperity.</b> The proposals within this paper are designed to help create vibrant economic centres and thriving rural villages that support local businesses, attract investment and enhance community life.</p> <p><b>Community Leadership.</b> The proposals within this paper are a direct result of working closely with stakeholders and our communities to strengthen collaboration and resilience.</p> |         |          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

|                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Human Resources</b>               | If this proposal results in a permanent change to terms and conditions the Organisational change policy will apply. HR will support managers and staff with this process.<br><br>Susan Blunsden, HR Manager, 22 June 2026 |
| <b>Property</b>                      | Not applicable                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Consultation &amp; Engagement</b> | Engagement has been undertaken with the members of the respective AOG for each area. For Bicester, the most recent AOG meeting was 13 May; Kidlington 27 May; and Banbury 11 June.                                        |

## Supporting Information

### 3. Background

- 3.1 During 2025 the council embedded an area-based approach to growth through the creation of Area Oversight Groups (AOGs) for Bicester, Banbury and Kidlington (Five Parishes).
- 3.2 This area-based approach strives to take a holistic view of the development and infrastructure needs in each area and seek to ensure that local representatives can understand proposed growth and assist in shaping responses. Each area has a core AOG that meets three times per year, augmented by a further Area Priority Plan (APP) Review meeting that meets a further three times. This results in bi-monthly engagement with ward councillors.

#### ***Area Priority Plans (APPs)***

- 3.3 APPs were created to facilitate consistent service provision which sets clear ambitions for each of the three areas whilst reflecting their differing needs and circumstances.
- 3.4 The purpose of an APP was to build a medium to longer-term vision for each area, the areas of planned growth, critical infrastructure to be delivered / needed, as well as to better engage with local businesses and community stakeholders. Alongside this, immediate enhancements to localities would be considered.

#### ***Local Area Development Funds***

- 3.5 As part of the 2026/27 Budget, a number of new funds were agreed by Council in February 2026. This included the introduction of 3 Local Development Funds for each of the district's three main urban centres and their surrounding areas, meaning that the entire district would have access to local development funding.
- 3.6 Regeneration & Growth is seeking an allocation of £21.5k to support delivery of the following projects.

Figure 3: Project Summary

| Project                                                                                       | Est. Cost (£)                   | AOG        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|
| Banbury Town Centre Revitalisation - Look & Feel                                              | 26/27: £21.5k<br>*27/28: £38.5k | Banbury    |
| -                                                                                             | -                               | Bicester   |
| -                                                                                             | -                               | Kidlington |
| <b>Total Funding Requested</b>                                                                | <b>£21,500</b>                  |            |
| <i>* Figures for 27/28 full year are shown but not proposed for allocation at this stage.</i> |                                 |            |

- 3.7 Each of these projects sits on the respective APP for the relevant area and has been discussed and recommended at AOG meetings during May and June 2026.

## 4. Details

- 4.1 During 2025 the council embedded an area-based approach to growth through the creation of Area Oversight Groups (AOGs) for Bicester, Banbury and Kidlington (Five Parishes).
- 4.2 This area-based approach strives to take a holistic view of the development and infrastructure needs in each area and seek to ensure that local representatives can understand proposed growth and assist in shaping responses.
- 4.3 One of the core roles envisaged through the area-based approach was to engage with local communities and businesses through ward councillors, ensuring that community needs and aspirations are reflected in the delivery of both key infrastructure, but also in enhancements to the primary urban centres and surrounding areas.

### Local Area Development Funds

- 4.4 As part of the 2026/27 Budget, a number of new funds were agreed by Council in February 2026. This included the introduction of 3 Local Development Funds for each of the district's three main urban centres and their surrounding areas, meaning that the entire district would have access to local development funding.
- 4.5 Each of the three funds has £0.300m allocated for a period of two years, with the MTFS currently assuming that there will be a third year of £0.233m funding each.
- 4.6 Local Area Development Funds were set up to enable local ward councillors to have the opportunity to be involved in an area framework that allows them to recommend proposals to the Executive to be funded to the benefit of their areas. Examples of potential schemes that may be put forward include:
- Relieving deprivation and improving access and opportunity with projects similar to, or an enhancement of, 'Brighter Futures in Banbury'
  - Improving local public realm and the experience of the local area
  - Enhancing green and amenity spaces
  - Introducing growing spaces
  - Flood prevention.
- 4.7 There is no exclusive list to the possible requests for area funding, however each request will be subject to the Council's standard checks on legal and financial implications and the Council's standing orders.

## Area Oversight Groups (AOGs)

- 4.8 It is envisaged that AOGs will act as informal consultative bodies to recommend priority projects from their respective Area Priority Plans (APPs). All ward members for each area are invited to the relevant AOG and are voting members of the AOG for the purpose of agreeing to the funding recommendations contained within this report to Executive.
- 4.9 AOGs meet on a bi-monthly basis (ward councillors), with wider stakeholders attending three times per year to agree area priorities. The most recent round of meetings were the AOGs in Bicester (13 May), Kidlington (27 May) and Banbury (11 June).

### Funding Recommendations - Bicester

- 4.10 In accordance with the above, there are no projects that have come forward to seek funding from the Executive for Kidlington in this reporting cycle.

### Funding Recommendations - Kidlington

- 4.11 In accordance with the above, there are no projects that have come forward to seek funding from the Executive for Kidlington in this reporting cycle.

### Funding Recommendations - Banbury

- 4.12 In accordance with the above and with the Recommendation Paper (Appendix 1), the following projects have come forward to seek funding from the Executive for Bicester:

Figure 4: Banbury Project Summary

| Project                                                                                       | Est. Cost (£)                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Banbury Town Centre Revitalisation – Look & Feel                                              | 26/27: £21.5k<br>*27/28: £38.5k |
| <b>Total Funding Requested - Banbury</b>                                                      | <b>£21,500</b>                  |
| <i>* Figures for 27/28 full year are shown but not proposed for allocation at this stage.</i> |                                 |

- 4.13 At the March AOG meeting, a priority action was agreed and added to the APP to explore the potential for street cleaning enhancements in the town centre with a specific focus on times of significant footfall. This was in response to a discussion around the desire to enhance the appearance of the town centre to support attractiveness and deliver improvements to visitors' dwell time.
- 4.14 Officers have explored this request and identified an opportunity to trial an increased street cleaning provision – including additional hours for existing contracted staff – and quarterly deep clean events from September 2026 until March 2027. This will include the pre-Christmas trading period which typically sees higher levels of footfall in the town centre.
- 4.15 The project business case (see Appendix 2) sets out a detailed proposal of additional hours for members of the council's Street Scene team to deliver this project in a typical financial year. Costs are summarised as follows:

- Annual cost of additional street cleaning (52 weeks per year) £25k
- Annual cost of quarterly deep clean events (4 per year) £10k
- A contingency of c.10% has been applied to reflect potential additional costs as yet unknown £3.5k
- This totals a full annual cost of £38.5k.

4.16 This proposal is focused on the current financial year, which has already commenced. Accordingly, for the 2026/27 financial year, the full cost will not be required as this project will be implemented part-way through the year on a trial basis. To allow for mobilisation and any contractual amendments for affected staff, it is proposed that this project commences from 1 September 2026. On this basis, the costs for 26/27 are summarised as follows:

- Part-year cost of additional street cleaning (30 weeks) £14.5k
- Two quarterly deep clean events (2 in year) £5k
- A contingency of c.10% has been applied to reflect potential additional costs as yet unknown £2k
- **This totals a cost for 26/27 of £21.5k.**

4.17 It is envisaged that this work is the first phase of a package of measures to support town centre revitalisation – these measures will be developed more fully over the coming months and reported to Executive in the future with an appropriate business case for further funding.

### ***Summary of Funding Request***

4.18 The total funding ask within this paper is to allocate £21.5k of Local Area Development Funds to the identified projects. These allocations will lead to the following funding profile for each area:

Figure 5: Local Area Development Funds Summary

| <b>AOG</b> |                        | <b>Financial Year<br/>26/27</b> |
|------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bicester   | Original Allocation    | £0.300m                         |
|            | <b>Funding Request</b> | -                               |
|            | Total Remaining        | £0.300m                         |
| Kidlington | Original Allocation    | £0.300m                         |
|            | <b>Funding Request</b> | -                               |
|            | Total Remaining        | £0.300m                         |
| Banbury    | Original Allocation    | £0.300m                         |
|            | <b>Funding Request</b> | <b>£0.022m</b>                  |
|            | Total Remaining        | £0.278m                         |

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

5.1 The following alternative options have been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below.

Option 1: Do not proceed with projects proposed - Funds have already been allocated as set out in Section 4 and priorities have been agreed by Area Oversight

Groups. This report is intended to utilise some of this funding for enhancements identified by ward councillors as representatives of our communities. Doing nothing means that identified priorities will not be funded and commitments made to the district as part of the budget setting process will not be fulfilled.

## 6 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 6.1 This report seeks to agree an allocation of £21.5k of Local Area Development Funds for delivery of specific projects in Bicester, Banbury and Kidlington.
- 6.2 The proposed projects are supported by the respective AOG and support the council's priorities around delivering economic prosperity and community leadership.

## Decision Information

|                                           |                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Key Decision</b>                       | Yes. The decision will allocate funding for key projects across multiple council wards that is expected to have a significant positive impact on our communities. |
| <b>Subject to Call in</b>                 | Yes                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>If not, why not subject to call in</b> | N/A                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Ward(s) Affected</b>                   | All                                                                                                                                                               |

## Document Information

|                                                                                            |                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Appendices</b>                                                                          |                                                                                                    |
| <b>Appendix 1</b>                                                                          | Recommendations Paper – Banbury                                                                    |
| <b>Appendix 2</b>                                                                          | Business Case – Banbury Town Centre Look & Feel                                                    |
| <b>Background Papers</b>                                                                   | Banbury AOG – Minutes of Meeting held 11 June 2026                                                 |
| <b>Reference Papers</b>                                                                    | None                                                                                               |
| <b>Report Author</b>                                                                       | Peter Sharp, Head of Regeneration & Growth                                                         |
| <b>Report Author contact details</b>                                                       | <a href="mailto:Peter.sharp@cherwell-dc.gov.uk">Peter.sharp@cherwell-dc.gov.uk</a><br>01295 221990 |
| <b>Executive Director Approval (unless Executive Director or Statutory Officer report)</b> | Executive Director for Place & Regeneration, Ian Boll, 24 June 2026                                |