

Council - Monday 19 October 2026

Motions

	Topic	Proposer	Seconder
1	MOD – Site A	Cllr Edward Fraser Reeves	Cllr Ian Harwood
2	Car Parking Charges	Cllr Edward Fraser Reeves	Cllr Rebecca Biegel
3	Managing House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Concentrations in Cherwell	Cllr Ian Harwood	Cllr Kieron Mallon
4	Local Government Reorganisation – Cost to Local Taxpayers and Government Reimbursement	Cllr David Rogers	Cllr Edward Fraser Reeves
5	Henry Cornish Care Centre (Chipping Norton)	Cllr Edward Fraser Reeves	Cllr David Rogers
6	Apprenticeship Scheme	Cllr Paul Jeffreys	Cllr Edward Fraser Reeves
7	Tackling Racism, Antisemitism and Anti-Muslim Hatred	Cllr Dom Vaitkus	TBC
8	Taking steps to improve countryside walks in Cherwell	Cllr Dr Kerrie Thornhill	Cllr Dr Isabel Creed
9	Developing a Youth Action Plan for Cherwell	Cllr Dr Isabel Creed	Cllr Dr Kerrie Thornhill

The Monitoring Officer has confirmed that in accordance with Constitution that motions 1, 4 and 7 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 15 October. 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 16 October. Amendments for motions will be dealt with in the order submitted.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 4.16, as the detail of motions 2, 3, 5, 6, 8 and 9 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. Following Executive consideration, a report on the outcome will be included for noting at the next appropriate Full Council meeting.

**** Please note that motions are on individual pages to assist viewing ****

MOTION ONE (Full Council debate)

Motion Proposer: Councillor Edward Fraser Reeves

Motion Seconder: Councillor Ian Harwood

Topic: MOD Bicester - Site A

Motion

“This Council notes that:

1. The Home Office has proposed repurposing MOD Bicester (Site A) as asylum accommodation for 1,256 single men, which could have a profound impact on community safety and other matters outlined herein.
2. Site A sits beside Piddington, a village of around 350 residents, meaning the proposal would almost quadruple the village’s population. Furthermore, the ratio of asylum seekers to local women would be unacceptably high at approximately 10:1.
3. A community-led campaign, *Wrong Plan. Wrong Site*, is pursuing a Judicial Review of the Secretary of State’s decision to accept the application under the Urgent Crown Development procedure.

This Council recognises that:

1. The Planning Committee has already considered the matter and informed this Council’s consultation response. Full Council also has a democratic role in expressing its view on a proposal of this exceptional scale.
2. Planning Committee’s response identified major evidential gaps on transport, drainage, wastewater, environmental impact, pedestrian and highway safety, emergency access, the relationship with nearby rural communities, and notes that significant information was withheld under Section 293B.
3. On the evidence available, Site A is therefore the wrong plan on the wrong site.

This Council resolves to:

1. Formally declare its objection in the strongest possible terms to the Home Office, highlighting the aforementioned detail, which is of direct relevance to residents of this district.
2. Send a copy of this objection to the district’s Members of Parliament, Oxfordshire County Council, Bicester Town Council, Piddington Parish Council and other key stakeholders.”

MOTION TWO (Referral to Executive, No Full Council debate)

Motion Proposer: Councillor Edward Faser Reeves

Motion Seconder: Councillor Rebecca Biegel

Topic: Car Parking Charges

Motion

“This Council considers that car parking charges have been a vexed issue over many years in local government. This Council is not unique in this regard.

Car parks and on-street parking spaces provided in Banbury and Bicester, operate on different bases according principally to land ownership. Therefore, private operators, Cherwell District Council and Oxfordshire County Council collectively operate a patchwork of car parking provision.

This Council has operated and owned its own car parks for many years consistent with other local authorities. These require maintenance that would otherwise need to be funded from the Council’s revenue budget were their charges to be reduced to zero.

However, small and independent businesses and voluntary organisations are struggling in the current economic climate. Their customers, employees and volunteers are also feeling the pinch. This Council must do all that it reasonably can, mindful of its own financial constraints, to ensure that more people are able to come into our town centres, whether to shop, work, visit pubs and restaurants, enjoy activities and events or simply meet and come together, at any time, day or night.

Accordingly, this Council resolves to convene a cross-party group of Councillors and a representative group of town centre business leaders and key stakeholders to work up a viable medium-term car parking strategy for Banbury and Bicester. This group will aim to report to the Portfolio Holder for Finance within six months, with the Portfolio Holder producing a report to Full Council and/or the Budget Planning Committee, as appropriate.”

MOTION THREE (Referral to Executive, No Full Council debate)

Motion Proposer: Councillor Ian Harwood

Motion Seconder: Councillor Kieron Mallon

**Topic: Managing House in Multiple Occupation (HMO)
Concentrations in Cherwell**

Motion

“This Council notes that:

- Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) provide an important source of accommodation for many residents.
- Excessive concentrations of HMOs can, in some areas, affect the housing mix, residential amenity, parking, waste management, community cohesion and neighbourhood character.
- Under current planning laws, converting a dwellinghouse (Class C3) to a small HMO (Class C4) does not require planning permission unless a permitted development right is withdrawn by an Article 4 Direction.
- Article 4 Directions are an established planning tool used by local authorities, including North Northamptonshire, Milton Keynes and Medway, to manage HMO concentrations where supported by robust local evidence.

This Council believes that:

- Cherwell should seek to maintain balanced and sustainable communities.
- Where there is clear evidence of harm arising from high concentrations of HMOs, additional planning controls should be considered.

This Council therefore requests that the Executive:

1. Undertake an evidence-based assessment of HMO concentrations across the district and of their impact on local communities.
2. Consider whether targeted Article 4 Directions are justified in areas where evidence demonstrates significant planning harm from HMO concentrations.
3. Where appropriate, commission the preparation of the evidence base, consultation materials and draft Article 4 Directions required by legislation.
4. Engage with ward members, town and parish councils, residents and other stakeholders throughout this process.”

MOTION FOUR (Full Council debate)

Motion Proposer: Councillor David Rogers

Motion Seconder: Councillor Edward Fraser Reeves

Topic: Local Government Reorganisation – Cost to Local Taxpayers and Government Reimbursement

Motion

“This Council believes that local residents should not be left to pick up the bill for Local Government Reorganisation which the Government has now chosen to pause.

Council notes that significant public money has already been committed by Oxfordshire’s councils to the development of proposals for local government reorganisation, including officer time, external advice, consultancy, legal costs and other associated expenditure.

Council further notes that, following the Government’s decision to pause the reorganisation process, there remains uncertainty over whether, when and in what form reorganisation may proceed, and what further costs may consequently fall upon local taxpayers.

Council therefore believes that residents are entitled to a clear and transparent account of the costs incurred to date, the commitments already made, and any potential future costs arising from the reorganisation process.

Council asks the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider:

1. the total cost incurred by Cherwell District Council in relation to local government reorganisation to date;
2. any further expenditure to which the Council is already committed;
3. the anticipated future costs under the current pause and under any potential resumption of the process and
4. how these costs are being, or are proposed to be, funded.”

MOTION FIVE (Referral to Executive, No Full Council debate)

Motion Proposer: Councillor Edward Fraser Reeves

Motion Seconder: Councillor David Rogers

Topic: Henry Cornish Care Home (HCCH)

Motion

“This Council notes with concern that Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) is undertaking a public consultation on whether to close the Henry Cornish Care Centre (HCCC) in Chipping Norton by way of a Cabinet decision, which is scheduled to take place in December 2026.

The HCCC is a well-regarded facility by residents of this district and has been especially well used in the past by residents of villages in this district such as Hook Norton, Swerford, Wigginton and South Newington.

This Council further notes that OCC was instrumental in ensuring that the HCCC would provide modernised residential care to replace the former Castle View home, alongside vital intermediate healthcare facilities following the relocation and closure of the old Chipping Norton War Memorial Hospital in 2011.

More particularly, the intermediate care beds at the HCCC were designed to act as a step-down facility so that patients could receive physiotherapy, occupational therapy and other complementary healthcare for up to 28 days before returning home from hospital.

Notwithstanding current budgetary challenges, this Council requests that the Executive urgently reviews the potential effect of the proposed HCCC closure on residents of this district and make appropriate representations to senior OCC officers, together with the Leader of OCC, the Cabinet member for Adult Social Care and the Chair of the Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC), to ensure that there is robust governance surrounding this vital decision.”

MOTION SIX (Referral to Executive, no Full Council debate)

Motion Proposer: Councillor Paul Jeffreys

Motion Seconder: Councillor Edward Fraser Reeves

Topic: Apprenticeship Scheme

Motion

“Executive is asked to consider the urgent workforce challenges within Environmental Services. The service is increasingly dependent on an aging workforce, with a significant proportion of staff eligible for voluntary retirement at 55. This presents a predictable and imminent gap in operational capacity. Alongside this, Environmental Services continues to experience high levels of musculoskeletal-related sickness, driven by the physical demands of waste collection and the statutory requirement that bins must be emptied without interruption.

To maintain service resilience, the council currently relies on 168 agency staff, a level of temporary labour that is financially unsustainable and operationally inefficient. This reliance highlights a structural workforce deficit that cannot be resolved through short-term measures.

Executive is therefore asked to support the creation of a dedicated Environmental Services Apprenticeship Programme. Apprenticeships would provide a stable pipeline of younger, well-trained staff who can progressively replace retiring workers, reducing agency dependency and strengthening long-term service continuity. Apprentices would receive enhanced training in safe handling, vehicle operation, and modern waste-management practices, helping to reduce future musculoskeletal injuries and sickness absence.

Executive is requested to instruct officers to develop a costed implementation plan demonstrating how apprenticeships will reduce agency expenditure, improve workforce stability, and support succession planning. The plan will include collaboration with local training providers to ensure apprenticeships meet industry standards and deliver clear progression routes into permanent roles.

This approach offers a sustainable, cost-effective solution that secures Environmental Services for the future.”

MOTION SEVEN (Full Council debate)

Motion Proposer: Councillor Dom Vaitkus

Motion Secunder: TBC

Topic: Tackling Racism, Antisemitism and Anti-Muslim Hatred

Motion

“This Council recognises its previous commitments to tackling racism, Islamophobia and antisemitism, including its adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of antisemitism.

This Council rejects the premise that Zionism is racism. This Council also recognises that opposition to antisemitism must not be used to stifle legitimate political debate about the actions of the Israeli Government. Furthermore, this Council recognises that the two-state solution is necessary to achieve a lasting and peaceful resolution to the conflict in the Middle East.

This Council regrets that there’s been a 40% and 6.5% rise in recorded religious and racist hate crime respectively in our County over the last year. This Council is also concerned by documented incidents of Cherwell residents experiencing harassment, threats and other forms of hatred, and by the prevalence of Islamophobia, antisemitism and racism in public and political debate.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. Confirm its commitment to identifying and challenging discrimination, racism, antisemitism, Islamophobia and other forms of hatred and prejudice affecting residents and communities in Cherwell.
2. Affirm the value of meaningful engagement with Jewish, Muslim, Black and other minority communities in Cherwell, recognising the importance of their experiences and perspectives in strengthening community cohesion.
3. Encourage Members to continue promoting respectful and inclusive participation in civic life and to challenge discrimination and hatred whenever it occurs.”

MOTION EIGHT (Referral to Executive, no Full Council debate)

Motion Proposer: Councillor Dr Kerrie Thornhill

Motion Seconder: Councillor Dr Isabel Creed

Topic: Taking steps to improve countryside walks in Cherwell

Motion

“Cherwell's footpaths, bridleways and towpaths serve as critical infrastructure as well as spaces of beauty, heritage, and health. Existing pathways, historic informal walking paths and even well-established Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) are in poor repair throughout the district. Sadly, the recent OCC Greenways plan does not include anything further north than Thrupp, excluding Banbury, Bicester, and surrounding villages.

This Council resolves to:

1. Advocate for Cherwell residents and community groups to ensure their ideas are given adequate attention by Oxfordshire County Council-run PRoWs. With emphasis on access, reporting faults, timely enforcement, minimizing hazards, and other local needs not met on the current PRoWs.
2. Liaise with stakeholders to rapidly assess and implement improvements to the current system of countryside path management, within the CDC's role. Propose and incentivise, if possible, new permissive path agreements with landowners. Enforce path creation and access promised by developers.
3. Identify missing footpath links between towns and villages, and take action on 'Lost Paths' which must be added to the Definitive Map before 2031.

To achieve this without increasing expenditure, the Council will:

1. Target Section 106 and, if relevant, Community Infrastructure Levy funds, especially for areas that have lost outdoor spaces to new builds.
2. Explore and avidly pursue external funding, including from national funds, trusts, and charities; sports and commercial agencies with a common interest; and opportunities within existing Countryside Stewardship schemes.”

MOTION NINE (Referral to Executive, no Full Council debate)

Motion Proposer: Councillor Dr Isabel Creed

Motion Seconder: Councillor Dr Kerrie Thornhill

Topic: Developing a Youth Action Plan for Cherwell

Motion

“At the end of 2025, the government published the National Youth Strategy and “Youth Matters” report that was co-produced with more than 14,000 young people across England through a landmark survey. This report represented “a fundamental shift in how the government will support young people over the next decade - turning the tide from isolation online, to real life connections”.

This motion acknowledges that local government spending on youth services has fallen by 73% from 2010-2022/23, with more than 1,000 youth centres closing and over 4,500 youth worker roles lost.

In addition to reduced funding, many of these organizations face challenges just finding suitable locations at suitable times to host their activities. This council welcomes the administration’s commissioning of feasibility studies to investigate the repurposing of vacant premises in Cherwell and notes the potential for some vacant and underused premises to support youth provision, building on the recent approval of a vacant Castle Quay unit for a cultural arts space.

This Council calls on the Executive to go further by asking:

- they assess the current availability of accessible youth spaces and youth services and activities across the district and in our town centres.
- explicitly consider opportunities to provide youth spaces, activities and community facilities as part of its work on vacant spaces.
- develop a youth action plan for Cherwell to work with voluntary organisations and OCC to increase services, support, opportunities and activities for young people across the district.”