

REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS FROM CLLR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE AUGUST 2015

CUTTESLOWE AND WOLVERCOTE ROUNDABOUTS

The works at these roundabouts in Oxford need to be done in one go as the junctions are so close together that any works to one impact on the other. Doing them together also significantly reduces the length of time that drivers will be impacted upon. The work will take more than a year; it could have been done more quickly, but that would have involved the unacceptable closure of key roads.

NATIONAL CITIZEN SERVICE OXFORDSHIRE

The National Citizen Service has a proven track record in Oxfordshire of providing an effective programme, meeting the needs of young people, and particularly vulnerable young people, at the important stage of transition from compulsory education. The programme uses a nationally agreed format with local interpretation. The framework is governed by the National Citizen Service Trust and allows for local delivery partners to utilise existing provisions, services and professional partnerships to best benefit young people and communities. Oxfordshire County Council National Citizen Service has been highlighted nationally for its ability to capitalise on internal services and professionals. It also supports vulnerable young people and delivers a high quality programme embedding programme delivery within its Early Intervention Service and utilising Oxfordshire County Council's outdoor education centres. At the July Cabinet the contract for the delivery of National Citizen Service was agreed for the period 2015-18 with the aim of assisting 5073 young people.

SUPPORTED TRANSPORT PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Council's budget for Supported Transport for 2015/16 is just over £30m and will be spent on a range of 'supported transport' services including:

- Home to school transport for children with special educational needs (SEN) and mainstream schooling
- Subsidised bus services
- Adult social care transport (older people, learning disabled, mental health)
- Children's social care transport
- Community transport support
- Concessionary fares
- Dial a ride

As part of the 2014/15 budget, the Council agreed to save around £3.6m by reviewing all of the above transport services, with a view to better integrating them. The Council proposes to deliver the remaining £2.56m by reducing subsidies to commercial bus operators, while prioritising services used by older people and people with disabilities. There is an on-going consultation that finishes on 14th September – please let us have your views.

REDUCING THE COST OF THE BACK OFFICE

Cabinet agreed to join the Hampshire partnership as an operational partner for the provision of back office support services through their Integrated Business Centre, with an expected saving of £805,000 pa. The existing Hampshire partnership is legally underpinned by an unincorporated public-to-public partnership. This enables each public body to jointly deliver and share the benefits of shared services between themselves. As a partnership rather than a commercial outsourcing, the expectation is that all partners (including OCC) will collaborate and work together for the good of the partnership. OCC will join the partnership through a joint working agreement, retaining influence on the partnership through an operational forum, which provides a basis for consultation and the exercise of influence in the management of the overall joint working arrangements.

HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE STRATEGY

A HWRC strategy will aim to create a sustainable network of sites across the county that are well located for areas of population. The network, together with district council kerbside collections, will aim to maximise the amount of waste reused and recycled in the county and minimise the amount of material sent for disposal. An agreed strategy will enable OCC to seek contributions from new development to maintain and improve the HWRC network. In order to achieve a financially sustainable network of sites, it is proposed that the strategy to be consulted on is based on the following key objectives:

- reduce number of sites;
- locate sites to limit as much as possible the drive times for residents;
- locate the sites as close as possible to the more populated centres.

A public consultation will be carried out for 8 weeks, from 10 August to 5 October 2015.

OXFORDSHIRE GROWTH BOARD

At the recent meeting of the Growth Board, the Post-SHMA Strategic Work Programme was agreed. Public bodies have a 'Duty to Co-operate' on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries. A key issue in Oxfordshire is the potential unmet housing need arising from Oxford City. The Programme has been developed to help the Oxfordshire Councils fulfil the duty on this issue. This meeting was webcast and can be found on Cherwell District Council website:

<http://modgov.cherwell.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeed=528>