**District Councillor Report- Cllr Robin Bennett, January 2023**

**Cost of Living**

A reminder that the Council has produced a useful guide to help residents struggling with the rising cost of living. Please could you circulate this among your residents and make it available in public places: <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/cost-of-living-crisis-advice-and-support/>

And as ever, please direct residents to our Community Hub where officers can guide residents to the support that’s available: 01235 422 600 or communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk

**Household Support Fund**

We’re opening a third round of the Household Support Fund in January to support households who can’t afford essentials over the winter months. Support will be tailored to individual needs but will focus on food and fuel vouchers. Details of eligibility will be published on our Cost-of-Living website pages. Please direct people to our South website for details, email our Community Hub (communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk) or call them on 01235 422600.

**Rough Sleeping and Housing Support**

We are receiving growing numbers of reports of people rough sleeping in the District and we can expect these numbers to increase further. Our Housing Team are expert at supporting people who are homeless or are at risk of homelessness and our Council follows the Housing First approach: first provide people with a roof over their heads and additional support follows. About Housing First | Housing First England (homeless.org.uk)

Please contact: housing@southandvale.gov.uk or call 01235 422 452 or let us know if you would like to discuss a housing issue or have concerns about a resident who is homeless or about to be.

**Land and Buildings Available for Change**

South Oxfordshire & Vale of the White Horse district councils have published the results of the Call for Land and Buildings Available for Change, part of the process in creating our Joint Local Plan. [**Here**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VaVAyYL-jyM) **is a short video** to explain what the Call for Land and Buildings Available for Change is and what happens. It’s important to note these are not proposals the Council is making for development. The Call for Land and Buildings Available for Change does not grant planning permission to any site submitted or confirm that the site will be suitable for development.  You can view the full results on our interactive Call for Land and Buildings Available for Change website:  <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/83c42d77f9104794a8cb49a815ff2352>

**Draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**

Just before Christmas the government published its long-awaited prospectus for revising the NPPF for consultation and the link is [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/levelling-up-and-regeneration-bill-reforms-to-national-planning-policy) .

The consultation ends on 2 March 2023. The government says it will respond to this consultation by Spring 2023, publishing the framework revisions as part of this, with a view to making policy changes take effect as soon as possible.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/levelling-up-and-regeneration-bill-reforms-to-national-planning-policy>

**CIL spending update**

Our [annual statement](https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/community-support/infrastructure-to-support-communities/community-infrastructure-levy-or-cil-header-page/community-infrastructure-levy-or-cil/) on how we spend infrastructure money raised from developers was published in December. This includes Section 106 funds as well as CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy). A share of CIL goes to Oxfordshire County Council and local health authorities to spend, and also to parishes where chargeable development has taken place place.

In line with the council’s CIL spending strategy, 50 per cent of the infrastructure proportion is allocated to OCC for use on transport, education, libraries and household recycling centres. **£6,485,821** of CIL funds have been released to OCC in 2022/23.

Although not a health care authority, South Oxfordshire District Council assign 20 per cent of the infrastructure proportion of CIL for health care projects supported by the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board. The balance of these funds at the end of the reported period stood at **£7,299,658.**

The table below shows how the district council has allocated its share of CIL in the 2021-2022 financial year. We will shortly be making a new allocation in time for the February budget.

