

Oxfordshire County Council Parish Briefing

UNITARY UPDATE

Last week OCC launched 'A Fresh Start for Oxfordshire', a draft of OCC's intended proposal for DCLG on how and why a single unitary authority for Oxfordshire could work. The full proposal can be found online at www.oneoxfordshire.org. There will be meetings with key local stakeholders in the coming weeks and activities will take place across Oxfordshire's libraries. An online survey will enable OCC to engage with the wider public. The results of these actions will be incorporated into a revised version of the proposal document to be considered at the March 14th meeting of the Cabinet. Following advice from the DCLG at the end of last year, OCC has been reassured that there is nothing preventing the pursuing of reorganisation of local government in parallel to working with the District Councils on a potential devolution deal for Oxfordshire. OCC is keen to hear from as many councillors, community groups, businesses and residents as possible via the website.

PROPOSALS FOR £3.5 MILLION ADULT SOCIAL CARE TEMPORARY FUNDING

Proposals for how £3.5 million of temporary funding can be spent were discussed at Cabinet on 24th January. The money would come from OCC being allowed by Government to set a 5% council tax rise in 2017/18 and 2018/19 – with 3% intended to be spent on adult social care. If the council votes to levy the 5% council tax increase at its budget meeting in February, OCC proposes to spend the adult social care portion of the money investing in capacity building and resilience, to help respond to future demand. The proposals for the temporary funding to be spent in three key areas over the course of 2017/18 and 2018/19 are described in the accompanying Daytime Support Review Briefing Note.

RESPONSE TO CCG'S CONSULTATION ABOUT OXFORDSHIRE'S HEALTH SERVICES

The Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group has now launched the first phase of its consultation on proposed changes to health services in Oxfordshire. OCC is a consultee in the process, and Cabinet is due to make its view known at the cabinet meeting on 21st February. OCC officers are currently examining the detail of the proposals, and Cabinet will consider these alongside the emerging public view. The Cabinet's view will also be fed into the full debate on the consultation, which the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) is hosting on the 7th March. HOSC is an independent joint committee, which includes representatives from the four District Councils, the City Council and County Council. The issue is also scheduled to be debated at the full Council meeting on the 21st March to ensure that all County Councillors are given the opportunity to voice local concerns.

CARERS SET TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE PERSONAL BUDGETS

OCC currently provides personal budgets of between £200 and £600 a year to more than 1,800 people who provide care to relatives and others. A consultation was undertaken during 2016 about discontinuing these personal budgets to save the county council £690,000. However, after having listened to consultation responses, a new proposal has been made for annual personal budgets of £300 targeted at those carers with the highest needs. It is estimated that only one-third of those who received a personal budget in 2016/17 would not do so at all in 2017/18. The revised proposals will save OCC £588,000, with £400,000 of this to be directly reinvested in preserving the Dementia Service which supports 120 people in Oxfordshire.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Kind regards



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