GENERAL OCC REPORT

GOVERNMENT MINISTER SIGNS £215M GROWTH DEAL FOR OXFORDSHIRE

Housing Minister Dominic Raab visited Heyford Park near Bicester last month to sign a deal to deliver a £215m investment in transport infrastructure and affordable housing in Oxfordshire. The Minister met Councillor Yvonne Constance, the county council's Cabinet Member for Environment and Economy. The deal was signed by all six members of the Oxfordshire Growth Board: Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford City Council, Cherwell District Council, West Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council and South Oxfordshire District Council. March also saw the Oxfordshire Growth Board announce the first year of projects to be funded by an initial release of £30m for infrastructure projects as part of the Deal agreement. Government road money is for major improvements and cannot be used for day-to-day maintenance, but the investment will help to improve the overall standard of the road network.

HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (HIF)

On 21 March the Government announced 44 bids which have made it through to stage 2 of its Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) to fund major infrastructure projects. Two of the three HIF bids submitted by OCC last autumn on behalf of Oxfordshire made it through and will now progress to a co-development stage:

Didcot Garden Town – £171m is sought for transport improvements including a Didcot Science Bridge and A4130 dual carriageway, a new river crossing at Culham and Clifton Hampden Bypass. This would support the delivery of over 22,000 homes in Didcot, Culham, Harwell and Berinsfield. Additionally, up to £70m of cycle and other sustainable transport improvements are proposed for inclusion in the bid plan.

West Oxfordshire Garden Village – £135m is sought for further upgrades to the A40, building on existing schemes and based on the approved A40 Long Term Strategy including development of the Rapid Transit network and additional highway capacity on the A40 transport corridor. This would support the delivery of over 10,000 homes in Witney & Carterton, and around Eynsham.

Detailed business plans will now be developed for the £300 million of transport infrastructure investment behind these two bids. The Growth Board partners expect to hear this autumn whether or not the two bids going through have ultimately succeeded.

COUNCILLOR PRIORITY FUND

As announced in last month's report, all Oxfordshire County Councillors now have a £15k budget to allocate to highways or community projects within their parishes.

LIVE WELL OXFORDSHIRE WEBSITE CAMPAIGN

The OCC Adult Social Care Team is running a campaign to raise awareness of its *Live Well Oxfordshire* website. *Live Well Oxfordshire* brings together over 2,000 services and activities in one easy-to-search online directory – from residential care homes and care services that help people stay living at home, to transport services to get them out and about and new hobbies to enjoy. Residents can find useful information and advice on a range of subjects – all aimed at giving them greater choice and control over the support and services they, or a loved one, need. Details here: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/livewell

POTHOLE FUND BOOSTED TO REPAIR ROADS AFTER WINTER DAMAGE

Central Government has announced that local roads badly affected by recent winter weather will benefit from a further £100 million to help repair any potholes and other storm damage, Transport Secretary Chris Grayling announced on 26 March. Nationally, this money will help repair almost 2 million potholes as well as help protect the roads from any future severe weather. This is on top of the £75 million in government funding already given to councils from the Pothole Action Fund this year, as well as the additional £46 million boost for highways authorities announced just before Christmas. Around 7 million potholes across the UK will be filled due to this money, announced in the 2016 Budget. Oxfordshire's share of these funds comes to nearly £3m.

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN

At South Oxfordshire District Council's full Council meeting on 27 March members voted (17 – 10) against the recommendation to submit their Local Plan. The full Council referred the Local Plan back to their Cabinet who now need to consider the alternative options that were outlined in the report i.e. Option 2 Remove Chalgrove and replace the site, or, Option 3 Retain Chalgrove but add an additional site. The County Council's position on Chalgrove is that we continue to want to support SODC to ensure they have a sound plan. The County Council has put in a huge amount of hard work to get us to this point, and the SODC's decision does not alter our position. We continue to work closely with South Oxfordshire officers.

FORMER COUNTY COUNCIL DEPUTY LEADER DIES

Statement from the leader of the county council, Councillor Ian Hudspeth:

"It was with great sadness that we have learned that Rodney Rose, the deputy leader of Oxfordshire County Council until last year, died last month. I will miss him greatly as a friend and colleague. I worked closely with Rodney for many years. He was a tireless and dedicated local councillor representing Charlbury and Wychwood. As a long-serving member of the

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Cabinet, he had wide-ranging responsibilities for council services. He was a tireless champion of Oxfordshire's fire and rescue service. He represented the county council on several major projects that will benefit Oxfordshire, including the east-west rail scheme and the planned flood alleviation scheme around west Oxford. These will be his legacy as a public servant. On behalf of everyone at Oxfordshire County Council who knew and worked with him, I send his family our deepest condolences

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

Kind regards

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