

ABINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

Report to	Town council
Meeting date	17 January 2024
Report author	County Councillor Nathan Ley
Agenda item	7

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES TOWN COUNCIL

17 JANUARY 2024

REPORT TO ABINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

CLLR NATHAN LEY, ABINGDON NORTH DIVISION, OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY
COUNCIL

General

Budget: A funding gap of £9.1 million in Oxfordshire County Council's plans for 2024/5 has now grown to £11.2m following central government's annual allocation of funds to all councils in England for the next financial year. Proposals to save more than £9.8 million in 2024/25 were set out in November by the county council as it seeks to set a balanced budget in the face of continued inflationary pressures and growing demands. The detail revealed by central government to each individual council on local government settlement day (18 December) means that this gap has increased to £11.2m. Grant funding support was not as much as anticipated.

All local authorities are having to deal with the continued impact of slower than forecast falls in inflation in the UK during 2023 and the consequent continued high levels of costs and prices for energy, fuel, materials and staff costs. The council also continues to experience demand-led pressures and the effects of the growing nationwide costs of supporting children and young people; the rising cost of social care and care placements for both children and adults; and a national shortage of social care workers leading to a reliance on agency staff and higher costs. The overall projected budget for 2024/25 is more than £614m.

The draft budget is based on a 4.99 per cent council tax rise in 2024/25, with two per cent of this being ringfenced for adult social care. No final decision on council tax or any element of the budget will be taken until 20 February 2024 when all 63 county councillors meet at the annual budget setting meeting of the county council

Household waste recycling centres (HWRCs): Residents can now dispose of some DIY waste at HWRCs for free. Householders wanting to use their free DIY waste allocation will need to book in advance through an [OCC website](#)

Pothole innovation trials: Results from a new trial with an innovative pothole repair method reduces carbon by 50 per cent [and avoids thousands of tonnes of construction waste](#). OCC carried out the work using 'cold recycling' with its contractor Milestone Infrastructure and its supply chain partners Aggregate Industries, Drayton Construction, Hazell & Jeffries and OCL Regeneration in September and October. During this programme, over 4,000 tonnes of cold recycled material was laid, saving an estimated 75 tonnes of carbon – equivalent to 92 flights from London to New York. It also avoids the environmental impact of disposing of thousands of tonnes of waste planings – the top layer of road surfaces removed due to damage – and the need to extract virgin aggregates. Roads in Didcot, Cornwell, Ambrosden, Kingham and Ducklington were used as test sites.

Lodge Hill New south facing slip roads for A34 at Lodge Hill, North Abingdon:

Planning permission was granted in September 2023, with the project finally being 'fully funded' as of December 2023. Construction is anticipated to begin in the summer of 2024.

Northcourt Road Zebra Crossing: All approved. All fully funded. There will be a road closure in mid-February (to coincide with half term) for construction. Funding is also secured for a similar scheme on Faringdon Road between Larkmead School and St Helen and St Katharine School.

Highways works: Please check this OCC website showing [upcoming highways repairs](#) over the next two financial years currently scheduled and proposed. Check current road works [here](#).