

Title	County Councillor's Report
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Parish	Thame Town Council
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A Balanced budget was agreed on 20 February, with more money for social care, SEND and highways.

There is a ten per cent real terms increase for children's services aimed at helping children stay at home where possible and in Oxfordshire when they need residential support and to support improvements in special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

There is also extra money for highways, especially gulley maintenance.

Funding for new SEND school in Didcot:

Projected to open in 2026/7, it is intended that the school will have capacity to teach 120 children with SEN related to autism and/or social, emotional, and mental health. £14.4 million is to be invested.

Fix My Street improvements:

The number of categories has been streamlined but with more sub-categories to make it easier to find the right section. The changes are aimed at reducing the number of reports sent to the wrong department or council, which can delay the problem being resolved.

[Feedback survey](#)

Mobility Hubs:

Oxfordshire County Council has a budget of £1.5m over three years to develop 'mobility hubs' across the county. These could be major sites or as simple as bike racks by a bus shelter or a car club. The county is assessing where sites could benefit from this initiative (mobilityhubs@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Planned capital highway maintenance map:

A [map](#) of planned highway maintenance (e.g. surface inlay, surface dressing) shows future road maintenance projects. Proposed (draft) schemes for 2024-2025 can be viewed by pressing the blue button with three lines and selecting the year 2024-2025.

Household Waste and Recycling:

OCC will no longer charge for small amounts of DIY waste (requires booking, up to 5 chargeable items or 1 plasterboard piece). The change will cost £0.5 a year. A new recycling service for vapes has also been introduced at all Oxfordshire HWRCs.

Introducing the brand new podcast

A new podcast has been launched by Oxfordshire County Council, offering residents a chance to hear the latest news from the council and its partners.

[Your Oxfordshire podcast signals a new way to stay in touch with council news and information](#)

Vision Zero Draft Strategy Consultation

Road collisions and injuries are on the increase across Oxfordshire, and OCC want to improve road safety for all road users across the county. Have your say [here](#).

Oxfordshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy Survey

Tell us your ambitions, priorities, and actions for Oxfordshire's wildlife and nature [here](#).

*****GRANTS AND COST OF LIVING*****

Councillor Priority Fund

Applications to the Councillor Priority Fund are still open. This is a fund of £15,000 to be used over two years on projects in Thame, Chinnor, Tetsworth and surrounding villages

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/community-and-living/thriving-communities/councillor-priority-fund>

Hardship fund: OCC's hardship fund (Resident Support Scheme) was launched in June.
Phone: 01865 804171

Home Upgrade Grants: OCC & its partner AgilityEco is reaching out directly to households who will qualify to benefit from Home Upgrade Grants (to improve energy efficiency for 'off-grid' homes)