

Title	County Councillor's Report
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Parish	Thame Parish Council
Date	March 2025

Budget

The budget was approved at Oxfordshire County Council last week and the highlights are as follows:

- An additional £58.8 million fixing potholes
- An additional £17.2 million for children's services
- An additional £1.14 million for SEND
- An additional £10.8 million for Adult Social Care
- An additional £11.8 million for greener schools and public buildings
- Unlocking £22.5 million of developer contributions
- An additional £1.8 million for rural active travel including **£200k for the Haddenham and Thame Greenway**
- £3.6 million to increase the frequency of gully clearing from every 4 years to annually
- £1 million for better rail stations and greener travel
- Park & Ride prices frozen for 2025/26

Devolution and Government Reorganisation

On 16 December 2024, the government [published a white paper](#) on a national programme of devolution and reform to local government. The [county council's cabinet responded](#) by requesting that the county is fast-tracked for local government reorganisation while continuing to work with partners on a future mayoral strategic authority.

The government has now asked councils in Oxfordshire to submit an interim plan for local government reorganisation by 21 March 2025, with a full proposal by 28 November 2025.

Local Elections

Elections will go ahead as normal on 1 May but the boundaries will change – from May you will have 1 County Councillor for Thame and another for Thame West.

Oxfordshire pharmaceutical needs assessment 2025.

OCC want to hear how residents access and use local community pharmacy (local chemists) services in Oxfordshire. The purpose of the pharmaceutical needs assessment (PNA) is to assess and set out how the provision of pharmaceutical services can meet the health needs of the population of Oxfordshire. The need for pharmaceutical services is under continual review and the PNA is repeated every three years, or sooner if required. What residents tell us will help to develop future pharmacy services.

The [survey will be open until 9 March 2025](#).

Councillor Priority Fund

The Councillor Priority Fund is now closed and work is being done to process the applications but below is an outline of what we have funded in Thame

Project	Total
Cricket Club Solar panels	£1,000.00
New Seat at Cattle Market	£481.11
Players Theatre	£2,000.00
Bowls Club	£1,000.00
Youth memorial	£2,000.00
Water Fountain	£1,000.00
Rocker/Seesaw	£1,000.00
Youth Project Tag Laser	£1,400.00
Rackets First Aid Training	£1,275.00
Red kites Phone	£1,212.00
Thame Senior Friendship Centre	£1,200.00
	£13,568.11

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

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)

Community Capacity Grants: The Community Capacity Fund will open for grant applications from 6th September. Grants of between £5.000 and £20.000 are funded by OCC and applications processed by Oxfordshire Community Foundation. Grants are given to projects that "support people to live well in their community, remaining fit and healthy for as long as possible"