

Title	County Councillor's Report
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Parish	Thame Town Council
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OCC saves £5m with new NHS deal:

OCC has reached a new deal with the NHS that will save OCC nearly £5m a year. OCC pools resources with the NHS in order to deliver social care and mental health services in a coordinated way. However, a review of how costs are apportioned to each organisation has meant OCC will reduce its liabilities in the agreement. The agreement will OCC to focus funding on its responsibilities while also allowing OCC and the NHS to continue to cooperate into the future.

Suite of cost of living measures agreed for 23/24:

A range of measures, totalling £9.5m, to support residents with the cost of living was agreed by cabinet for 2023/2024. The measures are funded mostly through national grants, but with £2.3m contribution from OCC. National government funding does not cover the full range of measures that councils are encouraged to take. The measures include, council tax support, practical support for those leaving hospital, and significant funding for children in receipt of free school meals during schools holidays. A new Local Crisis Fund (administered by district councils) has also been established, which will support people during periods of financial crisis.

Boundary review:

OCC has submitted to the boundary commission its suggestions for new county division boundaries (passed unanimously at Full Council). The Commission's [consultation](#) will close 9 May. The Commission will then develop its recommendations and consult on draft proposals 1 Aug- 9 Oct

***** **NEWS IN BRIEF*******

- Gigahubs:** The project to install broadband to community hubs is 50% complete
- Councillor priority fund set to reopen:** Applications to the fund will reopen in April
- Future generations:** A motion was passed at full council, asking the council to include in its decision-making processes consideration of the impact for future generations

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

£6.4m to help low-income households tackle energy inefficiency:

OCC's climate team was [successful](#) in its application to the Home Upgrade Grant (HUG2). The money will be used for whole-house retrofit installations to at least 310 properties across Oxfordshire that are not heated by mains gas.

Sustainable Warmth Grants:

Funding for residents without mains gas, and household incomes of less than £30,000 (or in receipt of means-tested benefits) is still [available](#).

Grants for care workers:

Cost of living grants remain available for care workers, available from the [Care Workers' hardship grant](#)

Car Parking (Both)

Meeting in June with officers and Thame Town Council

Bledlow Ridge Recycling Centre

Bledlow Ridge Recycling Centre has reopened with costs for Oxfordshire residents ranging from £22.34 to £387.60 per visit depending what type of vehicle and waste you have.

Conversations with officers are still ongoing to try and find a solution.

Thame to Haddenham Greenway (Kate)

An options appraisal is in the plan as a joint project between Oxfordshire County Council and Bucks County Council

Nelson Street (Both)

This is ongoing and we have had a number of meetings with the residents and officers to find a solution.