

<b>Title</b>	<b>District Councillors' Report</b>
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<b>Parish</b>	<b>Warborough Parish Council</b>
<b>Date<sup>3rd</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026</b>

## **Over £1.6m boost for South Oxfordshire infrastructure**

Over the last six months, the council has transferred over £1.6 million to invest in vital infrastructure delivered by the council, town and parish councils and other community organisations. These investments have helped many projects, such as public art, youth services, sports facilities and eco-friendly improvements.

S106 funding transferred between **1 October 2025 to 31 March 2026** has totalled £1,016,390. The council has also transferred £649,587 of CIL to town and parish councils that have experienced CIL liable development in their area that was collected during this six-month period. It is important to note that significant improvements in local infrastructure have been made possible in this way across the district.

[Follow this link for a breakdown of S106 funds have been approved and paid out and CIL monies transferred for South](#) (the document should download automatically).

## **Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution Update**

Taken from the Leader's Statement to the Council on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026:

Since the consultation period on the three proposals ended, officers across Oxfordshire and West Berkshire have been working collaboratively on activity appropriate to this pre-decision phase. That has mainly focused on:

- Baselining activity advised by Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), gathering data across the system in a number of workstreams such as Finance, HR, Property, Contracts, Customer and IT. This will be an important dataset as we move to the next phase of work following a decision from central government.
- Work has also been undertaken to establish the system programme management framework to progress local government reorganisation (LGR).
- Following decisions in other areas, officers have been analysing the processes MHCLG have required from those councils including the development of draft Structural Change Orders and what that might mean for us.
- Within South, officers are working hard to develop resourcing plans, a programme structure and work packages to deliver this work, alongside devolution/spatial development strategies (SDS) requirements.

It will take some time for these arrangements to bed in, but it will stand us in great stead to deliver on the ambitions of our council.

Since we last met, devolution meetings have continued to take place. However, the inclusion of Swindon has continued to be a thorny issue. It is safe to say that it is unlikely that the Thames Valley would reach the unanimity required by the now ex minister of devolution. I am of the view that in order to power ahead with a strategic authority, by far the easiest thing would be for Oxfordshire and Berkshire to go it alone for the time being.

## **Joint Local Plan Latest**

A third inspector has been appointed to examine the JLP, with the first sessions in public due to happen in July. An additional Full Council meeting has been scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> June to agree the next steps with the Joint Local Plans (the current Emerging JLP and the one which will have to follow immediately after its adoption using the new Standard Method ie more dwellings needed).

## **Consultation on community renewable energy projects**

Oxfordshire County Council is seeking views on plans for a countywide approach to securing local benefits from large-scale low-carbon energy projects such as solar farms. Councillors are invited to submit their individual feedback via the [County Council's online form](#), and are also encouraged to share with their local parish councils and community groups to help inform the final policy. The deadline is **15 June 2026**

## **National Heritage funds open for expressions of interest**

Announced by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and Historic England, the funding is aimed at supporting the country's 14,000 listed places of worship and other at-risk heritage sites. Beyond their historic value, many of these buildings play a vital role in community life — providing warm spaces, food banks, affordable housing, arts venues and workspaces for local businesses and entrepreneurs

For more information, please see [the Government website](#).

## **Chair's Charities for 2026/27**

Now that Andrea has formally been elected as Chair of SODC for the 2026/27 municipal year, fund-raising can begin in earnest for the Chair's charities, which are Cycling Without Age Oxfordshire and Style Acre. On 20<sup>th</sup> June Andrea will be cycling 66 miles across Dartmoor as part of the Dartmoor Classic event and she will circulate a link to a fund-raising page as soon as possible. She also plans to hold a Chair's Charity Quiz later this year in Crowmarsh Village Hall, so will be on the lookout for raffle prizes and teams of 6-8 players!