

County Councillor report to Full Council 8 September 2026

Introduction

Work is continuing local government reorganization. This will take a great deal of officer time, and the major task will be keeping services running. My main areas of concern are social care and public health. Some progress has been made in sorting out contracts for road and bridge maintenance and this needs to be carried forward.

The government is very keen to move forward on devolution and mayoral authorities but still a lot of disagreement on what constitutes the Thames Valley.

Botley Road bridge still scheduled to open on September 20th.

Local Government Reorganisation

See previous report. The proposed divisions are based on the county division boundaries with two councillors per division.

Wantage Market Place

See previous report.

Councillor Priority Fund

This is now available. See details at: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/councillorpriorityfund.

Please contact me if you have any possible projects. I still have some money available. Deadline for applications is November.

Joint Health Overview Scrutiny Committee

Work on the report on GP services will be presented at meeting on 10th September. This is an important document and will be sent to the Secretary of State as well as the local health boards. Items on the agenda include urgent emergency care, patient voice to replace Healthwatch and the Horton hospital.

Still no update on the scrutiny committee for the Thames Valley ICB.

Ron Batstone

County Councillor
Grove