

<b>Title</b>	County Councillor's Report
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	Berinsfield & Garsington Division
<b>Date</b>	November 2022
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### **Household Support Fund update**

OxonCC has used the government funded Household Support Fund to support locally-based emergency welfare schemes, delivered in partnership with our district and city council partners.

Over the next two to three weeks, OxonCC is sending a one-off payment of £85 to 11,000 households to support energy costs this winter. This will go to households which include a pensioner in receipt of Council Tax reduction.

Eligible residents will receive an Oxfordshire-branded letter from the Post Office with a bar code, redeemable for cash at all Post Office branches. Residents can ask a relative or friend to redeem the voucher on their behalf.

We have chosen this low-administrative cost approach over alternative online options, with the intention being that residents who have not been able to access other schemes will be able to use this approach.

More info about other types of support can be found at [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/help-rising-living-costs](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/help-rising-living-costs)

Ahead of the recent half-term, we funded schools and colleges to provide children and young people entitled to free school meals with a £15 voucher to support with the costs of food. Equivalent support for early years children will be provided later in the term.

Funding for this scheme is provided through a time-limited government grant, which is scheduled to come to an end in March 2023.

### **Energy support scheme**

We are currently making arrangements to announce a community building energy support scheme. The fund is designed to provide grants to community and voluntary organisations to help with the cost of their rising energy bills, so they do not pass on additional costs to users of those venues. The scheme will be delivered through Oxfordshire Community Foundation.

## **Updated parking standards for new developments approved**

Earlier this month our Cabinet approved an updated guide for parking standards for new developments. It means developers will need to work collaboratively with us to help achieve the targets set in the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP), which was adopted earlier this year.

The LTCP aims to create a net zero transport system in Oxfordshire by 2040, improving health and wellbeing, tackling the climate emergency, reducing private vehicle use, and prioritising walking, cycling and public transport.

## **Hyperlocal care options continue to grow thanks to Oxfordshire business support**

People in Oxfordshire who receive adult social care support at home are now able to choose from a wider range of services thanks to the success of a free scheme that helps people to set up their own care micro-enterprise.

Social enterprise group Community Catalysts is being funded by us and offers mentoring advice alongside practical business support, helping people to work for themselves by offering care and support in their local area.

## **Homes for Ukraine update**

**As a direct response to feedback from hosts, we have committed to increasing the total amount they receive each month from £350 to £550.** We will be funding this using the government's £10,500 support payment it is providing us with per guest.

This payment increase will be from November 2022 until March 2023 and will be payable in arrears from the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022. It will be paid into bank accounts as a separate payment and will only apply when people host for more than half a full month. The increase will not be subject to tax and will not affect entitlement to any benefits.

This acknowledges and goes some way to address the increase in costs that existing hosts are facing. This increase will also apply to new hosts joining the scheme.

For those who have indicated that they want to stop hosting after the six-month mark, we are also getting back in touch with them to let them know about the payment increase in case that helps retain more hosts on the scheme.

Please do spread the word locally. Existing hosts or potential new hosts can get in touch as detailed below:

- **Website:** [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ukraine](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ukraine)

- **Oxfordshire Ukraine helpline:** +44 1865 966444 / 01865 966444  
(opening hours: 8.45am - 5pm, Monday to Friday. Closed weekends and bank holidays).
- **Email:** [ukraineresponse@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:ukraineresponse@oxfordshire.gov.uk)