

SODC ward councillors' report

Shiplake – 9th June 2025

SODC New Cabinet Announced

The Liberal Democrat/Green joint administration partnership has come to an end as the prospect of changed arrangements under Local Government Re-organisation come to the fore. The partnership has been successful and delivered a lot of benefits. Going forwards the Liberal Democrats will run the administration with an overall majority.

At the annual council meeting on 15th May, Councillor David Rouane, was reconfirmed as Leader of South Oxfordshire District Council and announced details of the council's new cabinet. The new cabinet is:

- [Councillor David Rouane](#) – Leader, plus legal and democratic services and communications
- [Councillor Maggie Filipova-Rivers](#) – Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for Housing and Community Hub
- [Councillor Tony Worgan](#) – Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration
- [Councillor Pieter-Paul Barker](#) – Cabinet Member for Finance and Property Assets
- [Councillor Georgina Heritage](#) – Cabinet Member for Communities
- [Councillor Sam James-Lawrie](#) – Cabinet Member for Environment
- [Councillor Leigh Rawlins](#) – Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes
- [Councillor Anne-Marie Simpson](#) – Cabinet Member for Planning

Local Government Reorganisation – Public Engagement Launching

Public consultation is underway to consult the public on a bold proposal to reshape local government. This would see the creation of two new unitary councils:

- Ridgeway Council: Covering South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse, and West Berkshire.
- A second unitary: Oxford and (northern) Shires - encompassing Oxford City, Cherwell, and West Oxfordshire.

SODC is working closely with neighbouring councils and a six-week engagement phase has begun, featuring events and a public survey. Link:

https://ridgewaycouncil.org/home?utm_source=A6postcard&utm_medium=postcard&utm_campaign=Ready4Ridgeway&utm_id=Ready4Ridgeway

Joint Local Plan Hearings

As noted previously the public hearings for the South and Vale **Joint Local Plan** have begun (3rd-5th June.)

This stage of the examination involved our appointed Planning Inspectors (Inspectors R A Bust and C Mulloy) holding sessions to hear from the Councils and other participants about whether the local plan is sound and has been prepared in accordance with legal and procedural requirements.

For more information visit our [Joint Local Plan examination webpage](#)

Capital Grant Scheme is now open- Deadline 25th July

SODC's Capital Grant Scheme has opened for bids to support community projects that improve quality of life across our district. Local organisations can apply for **grants of up to £75,000** towards capital costs—this could include improvements to buildings, play areas, or other essential infrastructure.

To be eligible, projects should clearly demonstrate how they:

- Support healthy, inclusive and thriving communities
- Deliver infrastructure that meets local needs
- Take action on climate change and support nature recovery
- Improve participation, accessibility, and accountability

Eligible applicants include:

- Town and parish councils
- Community Interest Companies and non-profit businesses
- Local community-based organisations

Applications open on **2 June** and close on **25 July**. Full details and guidance will be available at: southoxon.gov.uk/grants

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy - Have Your Say

Minimising the use of temporary accommodation, which can be disruptive to people's lives, especially children – is a huge challenge. It's just one of five key objectives in our new draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.

The proposed strategy also lays out how we're increasing the provision of genuinely affordable, long-term homes, as well as continuing to prevent homelessness in the first place and support rough sleepers who have complex needs.

We've opened a public consultation for feedback. Please do share our social media messages and encourage people to join in the conversation on this important area of work for our communities. To take part, people can go to:

southandvale.gov.uk/homelessnessandroughsleepingstrategy

£1.2 million boost for local infrastructure

Over the last six months, we have invested over £1.2 million in vital infrastructure delivered by the council, town and parish councils and other community organisations. Investments have ranged from public art and flood defences to bus service improvements.

As the local planning authority, we collect financial contributions in the form of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 (S106). This is the funding from housing developers to support the growth of the district when new developments are created.

S106 funding approved towards community projects between 1 October 2024 to 31 March 2025 has totalled £251,580. During this six-month period we have also transferred £960,503 of CIL to town and parish councils that have experienced CIL liable development in their area.

Find out more about [CIL here](#) and [S106 here](#).

Tell us what you think of our waste services- Survey open until the 13th June

South Oxfordshire District Council is inviting residents to have their say on how rubbish and recycling are handled across the districts. A new waste services survey is now live, giving people the chance to share their experiences and opinions on everything from household waste and recycling collections to street cleaning and waste reduction initiatives.

By taking part, residents can help shape the future of local waste services, highlighting what's working well and where improvements can be made.

Take the survey now by visiting – southandvale.gov.uk/2025WasteSurvey Comments are open until 13 June 2025

[Mike Giles & Leigh Rawlins](#)

District Councillors